

### **About The Speaker:**

**Dr Ashish K. Jha, M.D., M.P.H.** is a practicing Internal Medicine physician at the VA Boston Healthcare System and Professor of Health Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health. Over the past five years, he has served as Special Advisor for Quality and Safety to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the largest integrated healthcare delivery system in the U.S.

Dr. Jha received his M.D. from Harvard Medical School and trained in Internal Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco, where he also served as Chief Medical Resident. He completed his General Medicine fellowship from Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School and received his M.P.H. from Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Jha's major research interests lie in improving the quality and costs of healthcare with a specific focus on the impact of current state and federal policy efforts. His work has focused on four primary areas: transparency, financial incentives, health information technology, and leadership, and the roles they play in fixing the U.S. healthcare delivery system.

### **About the Topic:**

The tenth lecture in this series (June 2013) is on **“Obamacare: Goals, Controversies, and the Lessons for Universal Health Coverage”** and our guest speaker is Dr Ashish K Jha, Professor of Health Policy at the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH).

In India, the goals of NRHM are “attainment of universal access to equitable, affordable and quality health care, which is accountable and responsive to the needs of the people”. The Twelfth Five-year Plan seeks to strengthen initiatives taken in the Eleventh Plan to expand the reach of health care and work towards the long term objective of establishing a system of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) in the country.

All over the world, the provision of some form of universal health coverage is regarded as a basic component of social security. There are different ways of achieving this objective and country experiences vary. We need to do it through a system which is appropriate to our needs and within our financial capability.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), also commonly known as **Obamacare** or the Affordable Care Act, is a United States federal statute became a law on March 23, 2010. Together with the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, it represents the most significant government expansion and regulatory overhaul of the U.S. healthcare system since the passage of Medicare and Medicaid in 1965.

The PPACA is aimed at increasing the rate of health insurance coverage for Americans and reducing the overall costs of health care. It provides a number of mechanisms, such as mandates, subsidies, and tax credits to employers and individuals to increase the insurance coverage rate.