

Preface and Acknowledgments

Reflecting the nature of the Walras-Pareto lecture series, this book is directed to the general economist without much background in health economics, as well as to noneconomists interested in health policy who have some economics background. Much of the book will be familiar ground for specialists in health economics. Nonetheless, the lectures contain material that has not appeared before in the general literature, so I hope specialists in health economics can also profit from reading the book. Because I wanted the book to be accessible to those with an interest in health policy whose economics or mathematics may be rusty, I have sometimes added explanations or shown more detail in derivations than would be necessary for many professional economists. I hope the latter will read right through these without feeling that I am talking down to them.

I am indebted to many people who have helped me with the preparation of this manuscript, especially to Tom McGuire whose close reading found several errors and stimulated my thinking on many points. I know, however, that he does not agree with all of the views I put forth here. The contributions of several other colleagues are clear in the citations, especially those of John Chapman, David Cutler, Karen Eggleston, Richard Frank, and Emmett Keeler. Victor Fuchs suggested the main title. Tony Culyer, Alan Garber, and Alberto Holly provided me with space and support at York, Stanford, and Lausanne, respectively, during a sabbatical leave from Harvard that allowed me to finish a first draft of the book, albeit much later than I had hoped. The audience at the University of Lausanne asked many helpful questions when the lectures upon which this book is based were delivered. David Newhouse helped me puzzle through a few points. Jack Ashby, Tim Greene, Scott Harrison, Kevin Hayes, Sally Kaplan, Jesse Kerns, Julian Pettengill,

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