

# Decentralization or Recentralization: What works best in health systems?

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# The Logic of Decentralization:

“smaller organizations, properly structured and steered, are inherently more agile and accountable than are larger organizations.”

## Decentralization in Health Care,

Saltman/Bankausakaite/Vrangbaek, eds.,  
McGraw-Hill, 2007

# The Challenge of Recentralization:

- Inequity of access (social, geographical)
- Inequity of outcomes
- Duplication of specialist capacities
- The “blame factor”: national politicians want levers to fix system problems

# The Way Forward

What mix of centralized and decentralized functions:

- political/policy
- administrative/managerial
- fiscal

# Panelists:

- Jon Magnussen, Norway
- Greg Marchildon, Canada
- Karsten Vrangbaek, Denmark
- Ken Thorpe, Emory University