

For Immediate Release

Contact:

Melissa Danforth

Director, Communications & Membership

The Leapfrog Group

mdanforth@leapfroggroup.org

202 292 6707

Modern Healthcare ranks Leapfrog's CEO Number 28 among the "100 Most Powerful People in Healthcare"

August 25, 2009-- The Leapfrog Group CEO Leah Binder was ranked #28 in a list that included President Obama, Peter Orzag, Senator Max Baucus, Drew Altman, and many more health care leaders.

This is Binder's first year on the annual ranking, which *Modern Healthcare* has issued for eight years. (<http://www.modernhealthcare.com/apps/pbcs.dll/gallery?Site=CH&Date=20090824&Category=FREE&ArtNo=811009998&Ref=PH>) Binder's predecessor, former Leapfrog CEO Suzanne Delbanco, appeared on the list from 2002-2007. This year, Modern Healthcare reported more than 25,700 nominations, up 76% from 14,600 last year. Binder was ranked #28 after nearly a half million votes were cast resulting in this year's top 100.

Since taking over as Chief Executive Officer in early 2008, Ms. Binder has been instrumental in communicating Leapfrog's vision for health care reform, building on the perspective of Leapfrog's members and supporters-- the nation's largest purchasers of healthcare benefits for employees as well as local business coalitions on health across the country. She has led the Leapfrog team to outline specific strategies for policy makers to improve the quality, safety, and cost-effectiveness of American hospitals, based on Leapfrog's influential annual hospital survey. She has confronted hospitals on improving their performance, pointing out that in 2008, only 7% of Leapfrog-reporting hospitals fully met medication error prevention standards, over 64% of hospitals didn't have all recommended policies in place to prevent hospital-acquired infections, and 75% of hospitals did not fully meet the standards for 13 evidence-based patient safety practices. The vast majority of hospitals did not meet standards for efficiency or mortality rates.

Binder has also become a crucial voice in the national dialogue on payment reform, efficiency, and waste in the healthcare system. Leapfrog is a vocal proponent of innovative pay for performance and gainsharing programs that would appropriately incentivize hospitals and providers who perform at the highest levels on quality and patient safety standards.

"Appearing on this list is not about me personally, of course, but really a testament to the influence of The Leapfrog Group and its purchaser members," said Binder, "In only 9 short years of existence, Leapfrog has changed the way Americans think about public reporting of hospital performance. Leapfrog has been willing to tell the stories others have hidden--about medical errors, lives lost, waste and inefficiency, and the need for our nation to dramatically improve the quality of care Americans get in their hospitals."

Prior to joining Leapfrog, Ms. Binder was Vice President of the Franklin Community Health Network (FCHN) based in Farmington, Maine, where she oversaw operations for the system involving marketing, planning and public health outreach. She also served there as Executive Director of the Healthy Community Coalition (HCC) and Franklin Health Access. Before arriving

in Farmington, Leah served as senior policy advisor to New York City Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani where she developed programs to improve care of the uninsured, among others.

The Leapfrog Group (www.leapfroggroup.org). On behalf of the millions of Americans for whom many of the nation's largest corporations and public agencies buy health benefits, The Leapfrog Group aims to use its members' collective leverage to initiate breakthrough improvements in the safety, quality, and affordability of health care for Americans. The Leapfrog Group was founded in November 2000 by the Business Roundtable and is supported by its members, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Commonwealth Fund, the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality and other sources.