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SOA Section Research

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As you likely already know, the various sections of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) initiate research that is either conducted by working groups of the SOA or is bid out to external researchers. The sponsoring SOA sections provide funding as needed for the research and also provide oversight for the research through Project Oversight Groups (POGs).

Personally, I believe that such research is an important function of the SOA and the sections. Participating in such research projects is a way for actuaries to broaden their experience, meet other actuaries interested in similar topics, and to help give back to our profession.

Participating in research can take many forms:

1. You can suggest topics for research. That is a very simple way of being involved, but it is important. Your suggestion can turn into the next great piece of research that is produced by the SOA.
2. You can volunteer to be on a POG for research that is about to be initiated by the SOA.
3. Your company can bid on a research project where your team could be compensated for conducting the research.

For the last few years, Donna Megregian and I have had the opportunity to be the co-leads for research for the Product Development Section. It has been a pleasure working with a section that has such engaged members. During that time, we have promulgated research which started with ideas that now have become research reports with relevant and actionable information. Those research projects include topics such as Term Conversions, 2014VBT/2017CSO Impact Study, Impact of VM-20 on Life Insurance Product Development, Survey of Waiver of Premium Riders, and Understanding the Product Development Process, as well as many others. All of these reports are accessible under the research tab on the Product Development Section webpage (soa.org/productdevelopment).



I'd like to ask you to help us create the next great research report for our Product Development Section constituents. To do that, we want to hear your ideas, including issues and challenges that you face in your actuarial work, where research could help to provide useful insights.

Please email Donna Megregian (DMegregian@RGARe.com) and myself (JFilmore@MunichRe.com) with your ideas for research. You are also welcome to let us know if you are available to serve on a POG for future research projects. A list of those current opportunities can be found at engage.soa.org/volunteeropportunities. The commitment to participate on most POGs is fairly light and typically involves a one-hour conference call each month along with review of the initial project scope and final draft report created by the researcher. Some projects last only a few months while more in depth research projects (such as experience studies) may last 18 months. I've never regretted volunteering to be on a POG and I anticipate that you will have a similar experience. Being part of a POG gives you the ability to shape the project and be informed early as to the results.

Thank you! ■



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