



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Small Talk

Key Health Issues for 2003

by Kara Clark, SOA Staff Fellow



The SOA's health leadership, consisting of the Health Benefit Systems Practice Advancement Committee (HBSPAC) and the Health Section Council (HSC), met for an all day meeting in Chicago on February 5. A significant portion of that meeting was spent discussing current challenges facing global health care systems, and how the SOA can best serve its

members by addressing top-priority issues. Based on those discussions, the HBSPAC and the HSC have agreed to the following issues as their top priorities for 2003:

- Healthcare Reform (including healthcare affordability and the uninsured);
- Demonstration and Measurement of Medical Treatment Variability (including cost and quality);
- Issues for the Profession (including promotion of the actuarial profession to the health services and policy communities)
- Identifying and Monitoring Short- and Long-Term Trends (including the aging population and changes in medical technology).

ect designed to shed some light on the current pressures within the U.S. healthcare system. The objective of the first phase of the Healthcare System in Crisis project is to develop a descriptive model that articulates the dynamics of the healthcare system and the interrelationships of the system stakeholders. The primary goal is to provide the public with an actuarial perspective on competing interests in the healthcare system. A secondary goal is to increase the actuarial community's knowledge base of healthcare system dynamics in order to promote increased involvement by actuaries in health policy discussions and research in the future. The ultimate goal of these projects is to develop increasingly valuable contributions to the health policy arena each year.

Workgroup recruiting for this particular project is now underway. An initial conference call of the group is scheduled for late March.

For more information on the above project, to provide feedback on health related activities or services you'd like to see from the SOA, or for a copy of the minutes from the February 5 meeting of the HBSPAC and HSC, please contact Kara Clark, SOA health staff Fellow, at kclark@soa.org ●

These issues will drive the future work of the SOA's health committees. SOA members can expect to see continuing education opportunities, research and special projects targeted on these issues in 2003.

To that end, both the HBSPAC and the HSC have pledged their support for a new SOA proj-

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