



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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HARI Caray, HARI Krishna, the Mata HARI—What's up with HARI?

By Jeff Allen

Hopefully that question “What’s up with HARI?” will be answered during the course of the next two years, as the Society of Actuaries (SOA) takes on the Health Actuarial Research Initiative (HARI). This operational initiative has dedicated significant resources to health research, targeted at wide audiences, which could include the public, policymakers, the media and actuaries.

The HARI mission is to develop actuarial research, in partnership with the SOA’s research function, that uses the Affordable Care Act (ACA) as a launch point for studying changes in health care systems in the United States and in other countries. The research will serve to inform the public and policymakers, and achieve the short time frames necessitated by the rapidly approaching implementation dates of the ACA.

The first research project will focus on health risk adjustment, a key area in which health actuarial expertise can add value to the mechanics of any country’s health system, through elements such as health insurance exchanges, high risk pools and provider payment systems.

Topics for subsequent projects are still under discussion, but may include accountable care organizations (ACOs) or other provider payment reforms; or consumer-oriented benefit evaluations, such as plan designs, disease management or wellness programs. Areas of focus will be reevaluated as dictated by the needs and priorities of the ACA and other international areas of interest, in order to ensure optimal actuarial involvement.

Research timelines will necessarily be more aggressive than traditional SOA research projects, and the intent is to implement performance guarantees for Request for Proposal (RFP) recip-



ients for on-time milestone delivery. RFPs will clearly reflect this intent.

I am chairing a first-class team of actuaries and other health-related professionals, to support and oversee the HARI. Each project that we decide to sponsor will have its own project oversight group. If you have background in a related area, and are interested in possibly becoming involved, contact me or Sara Teppema, staff fellow at the SOA, at steppema@soa.org. ■



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