



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Letter from the Editor

By Mary van der Heijde



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We would like to wish the Health Section a happy 30th birthday!

While a lot has changed over the last 30 years, one thing which has remained constant has been the energy and focus of this council, and the support it provides to all of us members. We are better off from having the community provided by the Health Section, particularly during health care reform now, but also during many other times of challenge in the past.

As actuaries, part of our shared history is our individual paths through the exam process. I am pleased that we can include an article by Kristi Bohn and Andie Christopherson about how to improve your chances of passing the CSP and DP exams. Kristi and Andie are members of the exam writing and grading committees for Group Health, and I encourage you to read and pass along these tips to colleagues who are working to pass these challenging exams.

I think by now we have realized that health care reform is a marathon, not a sprint. As part of this reality, and with Medicare bid season now complete, I know many actuaries are taking time to regroup and take a step back to make sure we have a full command of the big picture of the challenges and opportunities we are facing between now and 2014.

This issue's "Chairperson's Corner" shares more with us about the section council's revised vision and mission statements, some of the research and communications projects planned for 2011 and the Health Actuarial Research Initiative (HARI). Jeff Allen provides more details about the upcoming HARI activities later in this issue. In "Soundbites from the Academy," Heather Jerbi and Tim Mahony share more information about the wide variety of activities the Academy's

Health Practice Council has had relating to health care reform.

For this issue's "Navigating New Horizons" feature we have included an interview with Julia Philips, an actuary with the Minnesota Department of Commerce, who has also served with the Actuarial Board for Counseling and Discipline (ABCD). Philips shares more with us about her legislative experience, her time with the ABCD and other volunteer activities.

Mark Whitford has shared with us information about investment strategies for health plans, and Sarah Legatt and Kristi Bohn have written an article about the differences in retiree versus active employee costs. Gerry Smedinghoff discusses the possibility of a no-fault insurance system as an alternative to current professional liability insurance. Michael Cook gives us tips about how to survive (and maybe even benefit from) the Medicare Advantage audit process.

We hope you find this issue interesting and relevant, and encourage you to contact us with your thoughts and opinions. ■