



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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Chairperson's Corner

By J. Patrick Kinney



J. Patrick Kinney, FSA, MAAA, is VP Enterprise Financial Planning at Excellus BlueCross BlueShield in Rochester, N.Y. He can be reached at Patrick.Kinney@excellus.com.

Welcome to the 71st issue of *Health Watch*, the first under our new editor-in-chief, Kurt Wrobel. Many thanks to Kurt for taking on this responsibility. I would also like to thank Mary van der Heijde for her outstanding performance in the editor's role these past three years. As can be judged by the quality and variety of the newsletter content, Mary has been extraordinarily successful in generating valuable contributions from our health actuarial colleagues and others. Mary will be applying her volunteer energy to her new role as chair of the Health Research Committee for the SOA. The Health Section Council, the SOA, and, I am sure, the section membership join me in wishing both Kurt and Mary continued success in their new roles.

Section Council

I am excited to welcome our five recently elected Health Section Council members:

Andie Christopherson	OptumInsight
Kara Clark	Walgreens
Eric Goetsch	Milliman
Tom Handley	Lewis & Ellis
Olga Jacobs	UnitedHealth Group

Tom will serve a one-year term, filling Kristi Bohn's position which was vacant since her appointment to the SOA staff. Tom will be eligible for re-election next year. The other new council members will serve three-year terms, through October 2015. All have already taken active roles on the council.

At this point I would like to say a special thank you to my predecessor as chairperson, Kevin Law. Kevin's dedicated leadership of the council through the past year was instrumental to our successes. He also provided me with helpful advice and guidance as I stepped unexpectedly into the role of vice chairperson last year, and in the leadership transition this past October. We welcome Kevin's continued participation as a "friend" of the Health Section Council.

Special Interest Groups

In addition to our elected council members, the Health Section has a number of active volunteers,

who are among the "friends" of the HSC. I would like to highlight several of these volunteers as well. As part of the services we provide to our section member community, the HSC has authorized six Special Interest Groups. Some have existed for years, others are relatively recent. These groups are supported by the HSC and the SOA, and are open to all interested members. Each group has an email listserv for communication and distribution of items of shared interest, as well as a monthly conference call to discuss activities and spread knowledge within their specialties. These groups allow for more frequent communication and professional discussion than do our large meetings and our newsletter. The groups and their volunteer leaders are listed below. If you wish to join one or more of these groups, contact their leaders or look for information in our monthly *Health e-news* email newsletter.

Disability Income	Daniel Skwire
Medicare	Ivy Dong
Medicaid	Rebecca Owen
Payment Reform	Greger Vigen
Behavioral Finance	John Stark
Employee Benefits	Todd Dore and Geoff Kuhn

LinkedIn

Another means of communication and engagement for Health Section members is our new LinkedIn subgroup. About half of the respondents in our most recent section member survey indicated they would participate in such a group if it were set up. Last fall the council authorized the establishment of this communication method, which is open only to Health Section members. Many other SOA sections have been using LinkedIn this way with success. I invite our members to participate in online discussions and to connect with each other via this business-oriented social media tool.

Strategic and Tactical Plans

Over the past year and a half, an energetic group of Health Section Council members, led by Sudha Shenoy (now a member of the SOA Board) and Val Nelson, has coordinated our effort to update the HSC's strategic plan. Along with this document, the team developed a tactical plan for HSC activities

in the coming year. From the tactical plan we have developed a list of action items, with accountability assigned to individual council members. We are using these documents to guide and measure the progress of the council as we continue to deliver value to our members. One of my goals for this year is to demonstrate how the activities of the section council align with and support the SOA's new strategic plan and associated strategy map for 2013-2016. You can read more about the SOA's strategic plan on SOA.org; you will hear more about the Health Section's plans in my upcoming "Chairperson's Corner" columns.

Finally, I am writing this column at the SOA's annual Council of Section Chairs meeting. Vice-Chair Donna Kalin and I are participating in this active meeting of representatives from the nineteen Sections, along with many SOA staff. We have

been very impressed with the thoughtfulness and dedication of the volunteer section leadership and SOA staff in providing valuable services to you, our members. The Health Section, in particular, has always been fortunate to have so many of our members step up to contribute to our efforts at continuing education, research, and building member and professional community. Thank you to all of our volunteers—past, present and future. You should be proud of what we have built; many comments and contacts at this event have made me even more aware of the high regard our colleagues have for the Health Section. We are the oldest section and have accomplished much. Kudos to all! As always, if you have ideas for our future success, and/or would like to help as a volunteer, please contact me or any member of the Health Section Council. ■

THE SOA 2012 HEALTH MEETING held in New Orleans was a success! With over 850 people in attendance and 73 unique sessions, there was much time for attendees to earn continuing education credits, as well as have networking opportunities. The sessions covered a wide variety of topics—including continued dialog on health care reform issues, emerging topics such as accountable care organizations, and reviews of actuarial core competencies such as reserving.

And it's no better time to set our sights on the **SOA 2013 Health Meeting** that will be held in Baltimore, June 10–12. The SOA Health Meeting Program Committee is currently seeking presenters, moderators and ideas for the 2013 Health Meeting. Topics to be addressed include (but definitely won't be limited to):

- Health care reform
- Innovation
- Consumerism
- Trends
- Medicare.

If you'd like to volunteer to be a presenter or moderator, please complete the speaker interest form.¹ This is a great opportunity to share your expertise with your colleagues and increase your visibility within the profession. Help make 2013 another terrific SOA health meeting!

¹ <https://soa.wufoo.com/forms/2013-health-meeting-speaker-recruitment/>