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Editorial Board Members

Valerie Nelson, *Editor-in-Chief*
valerie_nelson@bcbsil.com

J. Patrick Kinney
ph: 585.238.4379
Patrick.Kinney@excellus.com

Jeff Miller
ph: 913.707.0067
jeff@jdmfsa.com

SOA Staff

Karen Perry, *Publications Manager*
ph: 847-706-3527 f: 847-273-8527
kperry@soa.org

Joe Wurzbarger, *Staff Partner*
jwurzbarger@soa.org

Leslie Smith, *Staff Specialist*
lsmith@soa.org

Julissa Sweeney, *Graphic Designer*
ph: 847.706.3548 f: 847.273.8548
jsweeney@soa.org

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Letter from the Editor

By Valerie Nelson

Happy 2015! And as new year's go, this edition of *Health Watch* features content on new topics as well as a new ongoing installment.

This issue's cover article features Basic Health Programs and is written by Steven Armstrong, Michael Cook and Lindsay Kotecki. This informative article provides an overview of these types of programs, the federal payment methodology, and the issues remaining at the state level that need to be considered.

We also feature two articles on less-common but growing product markets. The first is written by David Dillon and Josh Hammerquist and covers supplemental benefit products for the commercial population. The second is written by Mark Peterson and covers Medicare Medical Savings Accounts.

As a follow-up to his October 2014 article, Kurt Wrobel writes about the differences in risk adjustment programs associated with Medicare Advantage and exchange products.

In October 2014, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Annual Meeting was held in Orlando, Florida. A recap of the Health Section Breakfast is covered as well as some candid feedback received from attendees at the health sessions.

Reprinted from the SOA Reinsurance Section's newsletter is an article written by Ross Campbell titled "Ebola—Not the Next Pandemic?" We believe this will interest many *Health Watch* readers too!

Health Watch will now feature the abstracts for relevant articles published in the *North American Actuarial Journal* and in international publications. This will allow for the *Health Watch* readership to see, and hopefully read, all the meaningful health-related content that is being published.

Finally, an exciting installment coming to *Health Watch* is a series titled "Examining the Evidence" written by Tia Goss Sawhney and Bruce Pyenson. This series will provide both evidence and the authors' opinions on a different topic for each publication and is meant to create lively discussion. This issue's topic covers enhanced primary care savings models, and we look forward to readers' feedback. ■



Valerie Nelson, FSA, MAAA, is an executive director and actuary at Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois. She can be reached at valerie_nelson@bcbsil.com.