



**SOCIETY OF
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Subgroups of the Health Section

By Marilyn McGaffin

Subgroups have existed as part of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Health Section Council for at least a decade. The purpose of subgroups is to allow those who have a similar interest to come together and to delve deeper into that subject matter. The subgroup leaders are the first contacts for continuing education plans, which can include webcasts as well as the sessions for the spring Health Meeting, the Valuation Actuaries Symposium and the SOA Annual Meeting & Exhibit.

There are currently 13 subgroups of the Health Section Council:

- Behavioral Finance
- Dental
- Disability Income
- Employee Benefits
- Medicare
- Medicaid
- Supplemental Health
- Technology
- Value-Based Care
- Individual/Small Group
- Public Health
- Pharmacy
- Financial Reporting

A subgroup lead is responsible for maintaining expertise in subject matter, representing the subgroup in council meetings when needed, agreeing to a one-year minimum commitment and engaging in session planning. The subgroup lead needs to provide regular communication to its members, which can be through monthly networking calls and *Health Watch* articles, for example. The Society of Actuaries provides each subgroup with its own Listserv. Public Listservs are open for members, nonmembers, students and others to join at no cost. To join a subgroup, go to <https://www.soa.org/News-and-Publications/Listservs/list-public-listservs.aspx>. From there, one can select to join the Listserv.



Although continuing education is one of the main purposes of the subgroups, the groups offer research and strategic initiative opportunities too. Subgroups that generate and communicate research ideas or act as part of the research committee are highly valued. Some of the current research areas are Affordable Care Act costs, health care systems, risk assessments and experience studies.

The subgroup lead should also be aware of the council's ongoing Strategic Initiatives, especially any initiatives that may affect the subgroup. The lead is to communicate to the strategic planning committee ideas for focus and to relay the results of the initiatives to its members. Subgroup leads can also help identify external organizations for potential partnership. One notable ongoing development is the Public Health subgroup partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

If you are interested in becoming a subgroup lead, please contact me (marilyn.mcgaffin@cambiahealth.com) or Joe Wurzbarger (jwurzbarger@soa.org) at the SOA. ■



Marilyn McGaffin, ASA, MAAA, is actuarial manager, Cambia Health Solutions in Portland, Oregon. She is also on the Health Section Council of the SOA. She can be reached at marilyn.mcgaffin@cambiahealth.com.