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# Profiles of Partner Organizations: National Academy of Social Insurance

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This article begins a series of profiles of organizations that are not actuarial organizations but which, nonetheless, have significant impact on actuarial work. The intent of the series is to introduce actuaries to organizational partners for potential joint efforts in actuarial modeling, research and practice.

The National Academy of Social Insurance (NASI) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. Their mission statement is “to advance solutions to challenges facing the nation by increasing public understanding of how social insurance contributes to economic security.” NASI’s membership is broad-based, bringing together considerable expertise from many different disciplines. The organization sponsors research on topics that are currently influencing social insurance, as well as addressing how social insurance might best adapt to future challenges.

NASI’s primary focal points include Social Security, Medicare & Health Policy, Long-Term Care, Workers’ Compensation, Disability, Unemployment Insurance, Workforce Issues & Employee Benefits, International Activities, and Poverty & Income Assistance. NASI publishes reports regularly and many of these are available free of charge on their website [www.nasi.org](http://www.nasi.org), although hard copies must be purchased.

The organization has staff members who specialize in topics such as health (Alexandra Bradley, who helped with this article) or income security. The staff members are a great resource for information about programs and articles on topics relevant to social insurance.

Actuaries may be able to find experts and data through NASI that would be dispersed on [www.nasi.org](http://www.nasi.org) or throughout many constituent sites. The staff is very helpful about connecting callers to people who can answer their questions, whether those questions are about personal or social concerns, about access to social insurance, about policy issues at many levels, or about research and data resources.

Every year NASI hosts an annual conference in January which focuses on a particular sphere of social insurance, but always features big, tough issues. Social Security, Retirement Financial Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Worker’s Compensation, Unemployment Insurance, Long-Term Care, Challenges of Aging in the Workforce, Health Reform, all vast topics, have been given thorough scrutiny in various years of this conference. The speakers, usually nationally known and widely published professionals, are carefully selected to represent varied opinions and constituencies; the audience is knowledgeable and outspoken. This year the topic is Social Insurance: Opportunities and Challenges Facing the New Administration.

NASI also hosts web events and seminars. The two most recent will show how varied and interesting this content can be.

In October 2016 the organization co-sponsored a webinar on the Affordable Care Act (ACA) with the Solomon Center for Health Law and Policy at the Yale Law School—*Shoring Up the Exchanges: Insurer Withdrawals, the Public Option and the Path Forward*. The speakers were Jacob Hacker, Timothy Jost, Len Nichols and Judith Solomon, and they did a great job of summarizing the policy questions in a way that was both substantive and accessible. The speakers are highly regarded in policy circles; actuaries who wish to examine potential policy changes to the ACA, but want a neutral source may find these briefings useful. (<https://yalelaw.hosted.panopto.com/Panopto/Pages/Viewer.aspx?id=49f295fd-46ed-40d9-a1a4-c9c92f1e38f5>)

NASI also cosponsored a state worker’s compensation forum in October and published a report, “Workers’ Compensation: Benefits, Coverage and Costs,” describing the estimates of cash and medical payments for all of the states, D.C. and federal workers’ compensation programs. (<https://www.nasi.org/research/2016/workers-compensation-benefits-coverage-costs>). The report notes that Workers’ Compensation Programs have made changes in an effort to manage costs, half of which are for medical care. For health actuaries, this poses an interesting question. Where are the health costs being absorbed when Workers’ Compensation programs are cut?

NASI does have more than 30 actuarial members, including Cori Ucello at the American Academy of Actuaries and several staff actuaries at the SOA, but not as many as the subject matter warrants. Including more of the actuarial perspective in some of the discussions would be valuable—this is an organization actuaries want to follow and partner with.



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