



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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## SOA starts health claims database project

by John Bertko

**T**he Health Section, working with Society of Actuaries' staff, has announced the selection of a research team for a new catastrophic claims database project. Kyle Grazier, Ph.D., of Cornell University, working with health actuary Dennis Daugherty of Coopers & Lybrand, won a competitive bid to collect and analyze large claims (greater than \$25,000) data from contributing health carriers. Grazier has a great deal of experience with analysis of employer claims data and has completed related studies using private carrier data to study the differences between pre- and post-retirement claims experience of employees and retirees. The SOA proposal evaluation task force regarded the combination of actuarial experience with academic rigor as a unique opportunity to contribute to the actuarial profession's resources.

The project will consist of several phases, including collecting data from the contributing companies, merging the data into a single uniform database, and analyzing results. Results may include an inter-company continuance table and resources to answer questions on health care reform reinsurance issues.

Mark Doherty, SOA director of research, reports that more than 30 companies have responded positively to a preliminary request to supply data for this project. These companies originally were solicited through the efforts of the Health Section Council and meeting announcements. Additional companies (insurance companies, Blue Cross/Blue Shield organizations, HMOs, and self-insureds) are encouraged to join the project. Those interested should contact Mark Doherty at the Society office for more information.

John Bertko is principal with Coopers & Lybrand, San Francisco.

## The complete actuary

### Anyone ready for a full-day seminar?

**S**ociety members consistently have attended management topics offered at spring and annual meetings. Many of the comments the Committee on Management and Personal Development receive indicate that topics may not have been given enough time in the normal meeting format to do them justice. We agree and are planning to take the big

step into the world of full-day seminars.

The committee needs to know what topics are of enough interest to attract attendees. This little survey is easy, non-binding and, best of all, if you return it completed, you will be entered in the drawing for a fee waiver for the seminar.

#### Survey of Management Topics for a One-Day Seminar

- Team Building
- Effective Writing Skills
- Re-engineering
- Management 101 for New FSAs
- Effective Presentations
- Project Management
- Performance Assessment, Feedback, and Coaching
- Planning and Goal Setting
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

Would you be interested in attending a one-day seminar? Yes/No

Should a seminar be in conjunction with a spring or annual meeting? Yes/No

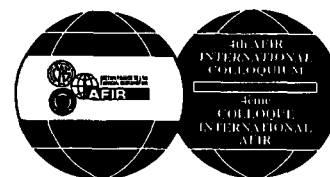
Would you be more likely to attend if one of the above topics were held in conjunction with a three- to four-day technical seminar? Yes/No

**Please mail to:** Richard Geisler, Thomson Management Solutions, RD 2 Box 465, Plainfield, VT 05667 or **Fax to:** Dale Tuttle, SOA office, 708/706-3599

## AFIR to conduct colloquium

The 4th AFIR International Colloquium is scheduled from April 20-22, 1994, at Buena Vista Palace in Orlando, Florida. The colloquium will be held in conjunction with the SOA spring meeting and cosponsored by the Casualty Actuarial Society.

AFIR, Actuarial Approach for Financial Risks, is the financial section of the International Actuarial Association (IAA). AFIR addresses financial issues and risks that concern actuaries, and it promotes the exchange of ideas between the actuarial profession and other financial experts.



The 4th AFIR Colloquium seeks papers emphasizing scientific contributions from academicians, both actuaries and non-actuaries, and from other professionals employed in the financial services industry.

For more information about the colloquium or the submission of papers, please call Colleen Fiore at the Society office, 708/706-3547.