

Cognitive Corner

By Sharon Reed and Siusanne Nichols



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Education and awareness of long-term care (LTC) clinical research is a significant factor that can impact SOA LTC Section members. For example, sophisticated researchers are enrolling at-risk clients and working with academics on interpreting comorbidities and practical studies. They are using age-banded cohorts and readily available neuropsychiatric testing to increase cohort size and research breadth. The volume of research and results of numerous cognitive studies can be overwhelming to our actuaries and other section members.

To increase awareness of current research, cognitive treatments, brain exercise programs and overall long-term care, we will be adding a regular feature to the LTC Section newsletter, tentatively called the “Cognitive Corner.” This feature will provide a place to share existing academic research and health-related outcomes related to cognitive factors. It is the hope that this information will spur thought-provoking discussions and debates that impact your work regarding these hypotheses.

In addition, a specific section of the SOA LTC Section’s website will be designated to increase awareness of cognitive activities in research, treatments and brain exercise programs. We will focus on understanding the risks, health, exercises, social interactions and clinical presentations that are distinct to long-term care.

In conjunction with these initiatives, section members can begin to critique research to focus on variables such as insured population, age, genetics, control groups, etc., that impact LTC products. We want to increase dialogue, improve understanding and provide some education for our members on this important topic.

The success of these initiatives will require adequate volunteer support from those that are passionate about this topic. Are you a subject matter expert? Do you read articles or otherwise look for this type of information? We are seeking volunteers to submit articles or provide research links to cog-

nitive topics for the council to distribute. If you are interested or would like more information on this volunteer activity, please contact Sharon Reed at sreed@penn treaty.com or Leslie Smith at lsmith@soa.org. ■