

HEALTH

(Vote for up to four candidates)

Ali Zaker-Shahrak

Karan Rustagi

Joshua Axene

Sudha Shenoy

Doug Norris

Alex Zaid

Craig S. Kalman

Shuaiqing Liu

Wendy Kwan

Ali A. Zaker-Shahrak, FSA, MAAA, CFA, Ph.D. (Econ)
Senior Life Actuary
California Department of Insurance
Los Angeles, CA

Professional Background

Senior Life (Health) Actuary. Over the last fourteen years I have reviewed more than a thousand premium rate (increase) filings submitted by Life and Health Insurance companies licensed to write health insurance policies in California. The filings have included Medicare supplement policies, Individual and Small Group Major Medical Expense policies, Individual Special Disease policies, Disability Income, and Long Term Care Insurance policies.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

- For many years I have served as a volunteer in Society of Actuaries' Education and Examination Committee – preparing exam questions and acting as a grader for a number of Fellowship exams.
- Council Member of Social Insurance and Public Finance Section

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Member of American Academy of Actuaries' "Social Security Committee," – 2010 – 16.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I am passionate about increasing the number of people who have comprehensive health insurance. With more than twenty years of experience in different areas of health insurance, I hope, as a member of Health Section Council, to work with other Section members and volunteers to come up with practical policies that are acceptable to a broad spectrum of population of all political persuasions and if implemented will reduce the number of uninsured in the Country.

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Karan Rustagi, FSA, MAAA
Senior Consulting Actuary II
Wakely Consulting Group
Denver, CO

Professional Background

Karan has over 12 years of broad experience in health actuarial and strategic consulting. He has helped a number of regional integrated delivery systems as well as the national carriers develop their pricing and product strategies. He has successfully re-negotiated provider contracts for integrated delivery systems. He has helped state governments and AHIP understand the impact of emerging regulations. He has advised the state of Massachusetts on the financial implications of establishing a Basic Health Program, the state of Vermont on financial implications of establishing a single-payer system, and the kingdom of Saudi Arabia on implications of establishing a US-style fee-for-service healthcare system. He has reviewed ACA rate filings for the state of Nevada. He has also helped risk-taking provider systems understand drivers of profitability and negotiate with health plans. He also certified Medicare Advantage bids. He has extensive experience with risk adjustment programs. He has helped administer Arizona's state Medicaid risk adjustment program. He has also designed and helped build Wakely's ACA pricing model. He is currently serving as an advisor to a number of health tech start-ups. He has served as the VP of products, pricing, and underwriting for Oscar Health.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Member the following sections: Health, Entrepreneurial & Innovation
Authored several articles on ACA strategies for the Health Watch
Speaking annually at the SOA health meeting and/or annual meeting.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

The Bridge Project: Providing educational support in Mathematics and a safe environment for high-risk kids in low-income housing to increase their chances of staying in school and landing jobs.

Food waste: worked with the Denver chapter of a NY start-up to reduce food waste by moving excess food from restaurants to homeless shelter.

The gathering place: buying and preparing food annually as part of a Wakely team for women, their children, and transgender individuals who are experiencing poverty, many of whom are also experiencing homelessness.

Human Right Campaign and The Denver LGBTQ Center: volunteer for HRC gala, and various activities at The Center to create a safe place for LGBTQ teens.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

My involvement with a variety of health tech companies has offered me a unique perspective on the evolving role that actuaries might play in the future of healthcare. I would like to bring that perspective to the SOA so that the SOA's services to its members can continue to be relevant and stay abreast of the emerging needs of its members and the businesses that rely on those members. Additionally, after several conversations over the years with section members, I believe now is the right time for me to take this next step in my journey to make meaningful contributions to the SOA's mission. I believe I have some unique skills and perspectives that may be complimentary to an already-impressive SOA section leadership. I intend to be flexible and contribute to the section wherever there is an overlap between need and my skillset.

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Joshua Axene, FSA, MAAA, FCA
Senior Consulting Actuary
Axene Health Partners
Temecula, CA

Professional Background

Joshua is a Partner and Consulting Actuary at Axene Health Partners with 16+ years of experience working with clients from all parts of the healthcare system including health plans, providers, government systems, technology companies and self-funded groups. Joshua helps lead a team of consultants that provides strategic consulting related to ACA, Value Based Reimbursement, Contracting and Claim Liability Estimation. Joshua is passionate about lowering the cost of healthcare and spends much of his time helping clients look at actuarial findings through a clinical lens, so they not only understand the numbers, but also the impact on the delivery of care. Joshua is a frequent writer and speaker on all things healthcare.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Has been a member of the health section since his membership began with the SOA. Joshua helped lead a research project for the SOA related to end of life care and has been a speaker at SOA meetings. Joshua is currently part of a POG (project oversight group) for the health section.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Joshua sits on the board of multiple non-profits. He is the treasurer of a religious organization, the president of another non-profit and also a board member for a national non-profit. Joshua regularly volunteers in his community by coaching, mentoring and tutoring local youth.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I am interested in helping lead the health section because I want to help give back to a section that has given so much to me. The health section and its members have taught me a lot of what I know today, and I want to help other actuaries be able to learn more. I want to help lead the health section into new and exciting areas while not forgetting the rich past and the legacy that we must carry forward. Healthcare is important to all Americans and by helping strengthen the health section of the SOA we may be able to help drive change across the healthcare system as a whole.

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Sudha Shenoy, FSA, MAAA, CERA
Consultant
Johns Creek, GA

Professional Background

I am a consulting health actuary with extensive experience in rate-setting, pricing, product development, provider reimbursement modeling, and creation of global capitation models for the commercial, Medicaid, and Medicare lines of business. My clients have included provider groups, state governments and the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Medicare work includes rate-setting, bid review, and audit work for CMS.

My recent focus includes assisting providers, multiple states with managed Medicaid rate-setting, benchmarking Medicaid plan experiences, forecasting expenses for Medicaid programs, and providing accountable care program support for Medicaid and commercial programs. I currently also contribute to various SOA and industry work groups. Both my education and work experience have helped me develop actuarial skills to help my State clients solve complex health care issues including program, policy and budgeting challenges. Much of my work revolves around health care coverage for vulnerable populations, improving quality of care and value-based purchasing.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

- Past Member of the Society of Actuaries (SOA) Board
- Past Member of the SOA Inclusion & Diversity Committee
- Member of the Project Oversight Group (POG) SOA study: Medicaid Managed Care Organizations: Considerations in Calculating Margin in Medicaid Rate Setting
- Active Member of the SOA Medicaid Workgroup & Medicaid Trend Project
- Chair – Actuary of the Future (2003) & Management & Personal Development Section (2006) Councils
- Past editorial board of 'The Actuary'
- Participated in Preliminary and Fellowship Education Steering Committees
- Served on the SOA Health Risk Management Group
- President of The Hartford Actuaries Club (2004-2005)
- Invited to participate in SOA's actuarial campaign -Dynamic Leader of the Actuarial Profession--Video and Poster Campaign (Part of the broadcast at the 2006 SOA Annual Meeting)

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Connecticut Food Bank, Past Treasurer and Executive Board Member

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I have been an SOA volunteer for almost 20 years and served in various voluntary capacities including SOA work groups, Section Council Member, Section Council Chair as well as the SOA Board. I believe that this provides me with a good understanding of the various issues and challenges faced by the practicing health actuary. If elected to the Section Council, I hope to contribute to council activities to better position health actuaries to contribute meaningfully as we search for health care cost solutions. Thank you for considering my candidacy for the SOA Health Section Council.

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Doug Norris, FSA, MAAA, PhD
Principal and Consulting Actuary
Milliman
Denver, CO

Professional Background

I am a principal with the Denver Health practice of Milliman. My current focus is in assisting commercial and Medicaid carriers with strategy and tactics, legislation impact modeling, contract negotiations, ACO and payment reform, plan pricing, and medical underwriting. Other recent large projects include ROI calculation development and support, predictive modeling and risk adjustment, CMS Innovation program payment and delivery modeling, IBNR, TRICARE and USFHP plan support, behavioral health integration and value opportunity analyses, and modeling the efficacy of drug and therapy treatment courses.

My passion is for solving complicated problems, and Milliman affords me that opportunity on a daily basis. Prior to Milliman, I was an assistant professor of mathematics at Westminster College (Salt Lake City), a research assistant at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (Boulder) and a graduate instructor at the University of Colorado (Boulder).



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Member of Forecasting and Futurism / Predictive Analytics and Futurism section, October 2012 through October 2015. During this time, I served as Vice-Chair of the section from 2013 to 2014, and Chair of the section from 2014 to 2015. In the summer of 2015, we changed our section name to Predictive Analytics and Futurism in order to better reflect our section's goals and to better serve the actuarial profession.

Presenter in seventeen sessions at SOA Health Meetings, ten sessions at SOA Annual Meetings, two Society of Actuaries' webcasts, and once at the Iowa Actuaries Club.

Two-time faculty at SOA's Advanced Commercial Pricing for Health Actuaries boot camp, a multi-day deep dive into strategy, tactics, and mechanics of pricing.

Author (or co-author) on one article for The Actuary, thirteen articles for SOA Health Watch, and eight articles for SOA Predictive Analytics and Futurism (Forecasting & Futurism) publications.

Current member of SOA Initiative 18|11 Managed Care 3.0 task force. Past member of SOA task forces on "ACA & Individual Market future", and "Commercial Healthcare: What's Next?". Served on SOA Project Oversight Groups for Hidden Markov Models and for Predictive Analytics.

Multiple-time grader for FSA-level health exams, and worked on content updates to "Group Insurance" text. Reviewer for North American Actuarial Journal.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Significant volunteer presence within Milliman, mostly focused on professional development and mentorship, also subject matter groups within health care and predictive modeling. Volunteer collegiate hockey coach (ACHA Division 2 men's, ACHA Division 1 women's).

Why are you interested in leading this section?

The healthcare industry is at an exciting point of change and confusion, with various stakeholders competing for attention – even with the "Triple Aim (patient health, patient satisfaction, lower costs) goals in mind, we have an immediate challenge of how to proceed. U.S. healthcare costs as a percentage of GDP continue to grow at an unsustainable (?) rate, and potential alternatives to the fee for service model abound.

As actuaries, we have a professional duty to replace impressions with facts, work with existing data sources and develop new ones, and communicate the truth (with appropriate caveats) in a world where objective truth is hard to come by.

I had a tremendous experience on the Predictive Analytics and Futurism section council, and the enthusiasm and passion is infectious. I'm very much looking forward to tapping into that energy once more to see what we can create as a team. The members on the Health Section Council whom I already know are great fun to collaborate with, and I'd like to be a part of the Section's continued growth as a trusted and useful resource.

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Alex Zaid, FSA, CERA, MAAA
Senior Actuarial Consultant
UnitedHealthcare
Deerfield, IL

Professional Background

Alex is a health actuary with work experience in both Commercial and Medicare roles at UnitedHealthcare. Commercial experience includes pricing functions for small and large group markets on the South East Regional team. Alex's Medicare experience includes pricing functions for EGWP Part D, and Medicare Supplement. Most recently Alex has taken a role focused on pricing for UnitedHealthcare on the Aon Private Exchange.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Society of Actuaries experience includes serving as Vice Chair on the ERM Exam Syllabus committee and exam grading for the ERM, and GH Advance exams.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

NA

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I am running for Health Section Council because I would like to contribute my expertise in healthcare insurance and ERM to the SOA. I hope to be of assistance in growing the profession.



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Craig S. Kalman, FSA, MAAA
Executive Director & Actuary – Network Modeling
Health Care Service Corporation
Chicago, IL

Professional Background

Craig has over 30 years of experience as a health actuary. In his current role at Health Care Service Corporation as Executive Director & Actuary – Network Modeling, Craig is responsible for overseeing the team responsible for determining unit cost trends, impact of various provider networks, and development of cost factors by provider network and area. Craig has prior experience working at other insurers, consulting firms, and also as a regulatory actuary.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Society of Actuaries Committees

- Health Section Council Member, 2003-2006
- Liaison to Health Continuing Education Team, 2005-2006
- Liaison to Health Communications and Publications Team, 2005-2006
- Web Site Coordinator, 2003-2006
- Computer Science Section Council Member, 2001-2002
- Associate Editor, The Actuary (Society of Actuaries' newsletter), 2000-2003
- Assistant Editor, The Actuary (Society of Actuaries' newsletter), 1996-2000

Society of Actuaries Presentations

- Moderator, "Provider Contracting Seminar" (Three Sessions), June 2006
- Facilitator, "Presentation of Analysis-Based Strategic Financial Information", June 2006
- Panelist, "Medicare Supplement Filings from a Regulator's Perspective", May 2004

Society of Actuaries Publications

- "An Actuarial Response to the Health-Care Crisis", (Part of expert panel that was interviewed),
- Health Section News, April 2004 and October 2004
- "Welcome to the World of Regulation", The Actuary, November 2002
- "Risky Business", The Actuary, October 2001
- "Looking Back ... and Ahead", The Actuary, February 2001
- "Turn of the Century", The Actuary, October 1998
- "Individual Insurance After HIPAA: Where the States Stand", The Actuary, November 1997
- "Medicare Supplement Rate Filings: A Regulator's Point of View", Health Section News, July 1997
- "Understanding the Regulatory Actuary", The Actuary, October 1996

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- Fellow of the Healthcare Financial Management Association, 2013
- Greater Heartland Chapter Healthcare Financial Management Association (Missouri combined statewide chapter) (starting 6/2018)
- Greater St. Louis Chapter Healthcare Financial Management Association (thru 5/2018)
 - Director, 2018-19
 - Program Chair, 2017-18
 - Program Co-Chair, 2016-17
 - Treasurer, 2013-14, 2014-15, 2015-16
 - Networking Committee Member, 2012-13
 - Website Committee Member, 2012-13
 - Chapter President's Award, 2013-14
- Healthcare Financial Management Association (National)
 - Board of Examiners, 2016-19
 - Healthcare Economics Professional Affinity Group Steering Committee, 2015-18

Why are you interested in leading this section?

Being a Fellow of both the SOA and the Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA), I have seen firsthand how the two organizations have been working together on a number of fronts. This also gives me a unique perspective while serving on the Health Section Council, if elected. There is a need for payers and providers to work together in solving a number of issues, including equating access to healthcare to only those who have health insurance, surprise billing, and social detriments. The ultimate goal is to move toward the "Triple Aim"--reducing per capita cost, increasing population health, and increasing patient satisfaction. The only constant in healthcare finance is change, and as I write this bio, I wonder to myself what will change between today and the time you read this bio.

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Shuaiqing Liu, FSA
Full-time MBA candidate at Wharton Business School

Professional Background

Shuaiqing took a non-traditional route as an actuary. Shuaiqing started her actuarial career at Aon advising employers designing and pricing benefits offerings to promote access to affordable care for millions of families in the US. Apart from client work, she also had tremendous efforts leading firm-wide innovation initiatives, including managing the first cost-effectiveness study using pair-wise method, launching Aon Health's technology industry vertical, and setting up Aon China desk to support Chinese companies branching out in the US. After five years at Aon, she chose to further her studies at Wharton as a full-time MBA candidate. During school, Shuaiqing was elected as the VP of business development of the digital health club and co-charing the 26th Wharton Health Care Business Conference (WHCBC), bringing together health leaders from big tech, startups, and investing spaces. Longer term, Shuaiqing's interests lie in bringing technology into health insurance and financing to help the population in need. During her 1st year in MBA, Shuaiqing and her entrepreneurial classmates co-founded a startup providing digital primary care to 1.4B Chinese patients. Within a few months, the idea has gained many interests from Chinese and US investors and have won \$10k by winning 1st place in the Wharton startup challenge.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Shuaiqing is highly active in volunteering in the actuarial community, serving on the Public Health Task Force at the Society of Actuary and on the Care Delivery Committee at the American Academy of Actuaries.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

Currently, Shuaiqing serves as a committee member to Sino-American Population Health Management Association, a nonprofit organization. She also volunteers at Habitat for Humanity. During her time at Wharton, she volunteered for the Lipman Family Prize to help select, reward, and grow nonprofit organization around the world.

Healthcare delivery committee at American Academy of Actuaries
Wharton Healthcare Business Conference, conference co-chair
Wharton Digital Health Club, EVP of business development

Why are you interested in leading this section?

Shuaiqing aims to bridge the gap between the business world and the actuarial societies. She hopes to integrate more business perspectives into Society events, and at the same time showcases actuaries' knowledge and expertise in influencing strategic decision making.

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Wendy Kwan, FSA, MAAA
Actuary
TriNet
New York, NY

Professional Background

Wendy is a Health Actuary at TriNet in New York City. TriNet is a cloud-based professional organization for small and medium-sized businesses. As one of the TriNet's first actuaries, Wendy wears many hats on her team and is involved in pricing, forecasting, and reserving. Tasked with building TriNet's Actuarial Team in 2016, Wendy was required to innovative several foundational tools, models, and processes to accommodate TriNet's unique business needs in addition to building the actuarial career path for students.

Prior to her role at TriNet, Wendy was an Actuarial Consultant at Mercer in NYC and Toronto, where she was able to hone her soft-skills in communication. She is experienced in both US and Canadian healthcare industries.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

- SOA Health Economics Chair, 2019
- Group Health Curriculum Committee Member, 2019
- Vice Chair, International Section Council, 2018
 - Spear-headed several successful networking events in various cities
- GH Core Exam Grader, 2016-2017
- International Section Council Member, 2016-2017

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

NA

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I would love to lead this section to bring new and innovative ideas to help all health actuaries stay connected and engaged.

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