



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Health Section News

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## Chairperson's Corner

by Karl G. Volkmar

As I am writing this, we are more than halfway through the section-year, and this year of unprecedented change in Health Section Council (HSC) responsibilities is going more smoothly than anyone could have imagined!

I would like to extend a big THANK YOU to all who are serving in the new "Council +" structure — HSC members, advisors and friends. These individuals are serving the Health Section membership in a great way, working to combine the strengths of the former Health Benefit Systems Practice Advancement Committee (HBSPAC) with those of the HSC, and to ensure that nothing is lost in the process. I would also like to give a special THANK YOU to my partners during this challenging transition year—Jan Carstens (Board of Governors' partner and chair of the former HBSPAC), Kara Clark (SOA staff partner) and Lori Weyuker (vice chair of the HSC). I can attest that we have all served the membership to the best of our ability (read "availability"), and that my partners are extremely patient people.

As I described in my last Chairperson's Corner, HSC members are serving as coordinators for the Health Section's role in the following areas of activity:

- Secretary/Treasurer - Bill Lane
- Communications and Publications - Lisa Tourville
- Basic Education - Damian Birnstihl
- Continuing Education - John Lloyd, Craig Kalman, Lori Weyuker
- Research - Bryan Miller
- Professional Community - Mark Billingsley

I am happy to report that each one of these individuals has taken the responsibility to coordinate the activities of his/her respective area to heart—both the effort and the results have been outstanding. Please be assured that your elected HSC members are doing a great job for you!

As part of coordinating their particular area of activity (when applicable), HSC members have recruited team chairpersons—those who actually lead and facilitate the day-to-day activities within each area. The HSC is pleased to announce that the following

individuals have agreed to serve as team chairs:

- Communications and Publications Team - Gail Lawrence
- Continuing Education Team - Stu Rachlin
- Research - John Cookson
- Professional Community - Ian Duncan

At this point, our plan is that area coordinators will rotate every year to ensure that new perspectives are introduced on a regular basis. Team chairs will serve on a longer-term basis to ensure that the necessary continuity will be in place. Please note that leadership continuity will also result as those currently serving decide to serve in their roles on a longer-term basis or to transition to other roles within the "Council +" structure.

In a joint HSC/HBSPAC meeting held last December, we agreed upon the following key issues for 2005:

- Healthcare affordability and financing
- Defining, collecting and getting value from data
- Outcomes and cost /benefit studies—actuarial methods to quantify results
- Professional visibility in the health industry

While we always have operational/business items to address, our goal is that many of the activities of the HSC will support the health actuarial profession's efforts in these areas.

Two things I would like to continue to ask of the Health Section membership:

- Please continue to be patient with us as we work through this transition. We are committed to providing higher levels of service, but we are still learning. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions/comments/suggestions/etc. or if you think we are missing or overlooking anything of importance or significance.
- Please volunteer! If you are interested in information regarding opportunities for service, contact me or Kara Clark of the SOA at [kclark@soa.org](mailto:kclark@soa.org).

Feel free to call or e-mail me with question or comments at (317) 575-7672 or [kvolkmar@uhasinc.com](mailto:kvolkmar@uhasinc.com). 📧



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