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Health news

In addition to its print and disk version, the "1991-92 Group Medical Insurance Large Claims Database" is now available free of charge on the SOA Web site (www.soa.org). This database contains the experience of 26 carriers on claims over \$25,000 in 1991 and 1992; the experience was analyzed in the monograph "Group Medical Insurance Large Claims Database Collection and Analysis." The disk version is available through the SOA Books Department for \$35; the print version is part of the monograph, also sold through the Books Department for \$35 (phone: 847/706-3599; e-mail: bhaynes@soa.org).

The results of the SOA research project studying the relationship between HEDIS measures and health plan choice have been published in *Medical Care Research and Review*, vol. 56, supplement 2, 1999. The article, written by Michael Chernew and Dennis Scanlon, is entitled "HEDIS Measures and Managed Care Enrollment."

AERF grants announced

The Actuarial Education and Research Fund (AERF), affiliated

with The Actuarial Foundation, recently awarded four grants in conjunction with its 1999 Individual Grants Competition.

- "Actuarial and Financial Applications of Integral Functions of Levy Processes" — Daniel Dufresne, University of Melbourne, will focus his research on recent theoretical advances in the study of integral exponential functionals in probability theory which make it possible to improve the techniques used to deal with these functionals in actuarial science and finance.
- "Sequential Quasi-Linear Credibility" — Zinovi Landsman, University of Haifa, plans to extend a new sequential approach to credibility and to construct new quasi-credibility formulas for the estimation of the "fair premium" in cases where the traditional credibility formula fails.
- "Measurement of Relative Equity and Yaari's Dual Theory of Risk" — S. David Promislow, York University, and Virginia Young,

University of Wisconsin, will use Yaari's dual theory of risk to measure the relative inequity that arises when insurers use imperfect information to estimate the net premium of insureds.

- "An Investigation of Earnings Management Via Pension Actuarial and Pension Accountant Changes" — David Ziebart, University of Illinois-Champaign/Urbana, will investigate how pension actuaries communicate actuarial information to others. The study will focus on the communication links among actuaries, auditors, and users of the financial statements through which actuarial information is summarized and presented. The AERF and the SOA Committee on Finance Research are jointly funding this project.

AERF has received signed letters of agreement for the above projects. Reports on the completed projects are expected to be submitted to publications such as the *North American Actuarial Journal* and the *CAS Proceedings*.

Gerber, Pafumi win SOA's 1998 Annual Prize

Hans U. Gerber, A.S.A., Ph.D., and Gerard Pafumi, Ph.D., were recently announced as winners of the Society of Actuaries' 1998 Annual Prize, given for the best paper published in the *North American Actuarial Journal* (NAAJ). Their paper, "Utility Functions: From Risk Theory to Finance," was published in the fall 1998 issue (vol. 2, no. 3). The prize, first given in 1982, is awarded in each calendar year only if the NAAJ editorial board deems one is merited.

Exam prep seminars at U.S. locations

Austin 150 seminar announced

An eight-day intensive seminar for the Course 150 exam will be held Oct. 2-9 in Austin, Texas. Questions can be directed to the instructor, James W. Daniel, at 512/343-8788. Information is posted on the Internet at http://lonestar.texas.net/adaniel/sem/austin_actuarial_seminars.html.

4 sites for Course 220 seminar

An intensive seminar for the Course 220 exam will be held Sept. 16-18 in Chicago; Sept. 23-25 in Omaha, Neb.;

Sept. 30-Oct. 2 in Hartford, Conn.; and Oct. 7-9 in Nashville, Tenn.

Details are available from Michael Carmody, Just Actuarial Materials (phone: 615/333-7438; fax: 615/333-1712; Web site: <http://members.home.net/mikecarmody/jam.html>).

Seminars at Georgia State

Georgia State University, Atlanta, will sponsor exam prep seminars in September and October for Courses 120, 130, 135, 140, 150, 151, 160, 210, 220, EA2, and several CAS

courses. More information is available from Vicki Abrams at Georgia State (phone: 404/651-2734).

Course 210 seminar in 3 sites

A seminar for the Course 210 exam will be held Sept. 18-20 in Somerset, N.J., October 2-9 in Hartford, Conn., and Oct. 18-24 in Chicago by Sharp Waterloo Seminars. Details are available from Keith Sharp (phone: 519/746-2939; e-mail: SharpWaterloo@compuserve.com).