SOA Announces New Report: Uncertainty in Risk Adjustment
The Health Section is pleased to announce a new report examining methodology to quantify uncertainty in risk assessment. The report was authored by Syed Mehmud of Wakely Consulting Group, Inc. and Rong Yi of Milliman, Inc.

SOA Releases New Report on Credit Risk Modeling Techniques for Life Insurers
The Financial Reporting Section and Committees on Finance Research and on Life Insurance Research recently posted a report on credit risk modeling techniques for life insurers. The report includes findings from analysis performed on what characteristics about a firm appear to coincide with the robustness and complexity of its approach to credit risk.

New Research Monograph -- Volatility Management
The SOA Pension Section Research Committee is pleased to make available a monograph of papers received in response to a call for papers on volatility management and actuarial smoothing techniques.

Volatility Management Monograph (Complete papers provided on SOA website)
Analyzing the Impact of Pension Plan Management on Corporate Profitability
Doug Andrews

TIPS, the Triple Duration, and the OPEB Liability: Hedging Medical Care Inflation in OPEB Plans
Michael Ashton

Plan Design Approaches to Volatility Management in Retirement Plans
Dick Joss

Modeling Defined-Benefit Pension Plans: Basic Dynamics
Robert T. McCrory

Modeling Defined-Benefit Pension Plans: Basic Metrics
Robert T. McCrory

Volatility Management in Defined-Benefit Pension Plans: Basic Optimization
Robert T. McCrory

Mitigating Volatility of Retiree Health Valuation Results
Jeff Petertil & Justin Petertil

New Actuarial Analysis of the Health Reform Law
The Society of Actuaries’ strategy Health Actuarial Research Initiative (HARI) has released its first report, examining the potential implications of the risk mitigation programs -- risk adjustment, reinsurance, and risk corridors -- established under The
Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA). The report was authored by Jim O'Connor and Adrian Clark of Milliman, Inc.

**Proposed Pension Funding Stabilization: How Does it Affect the Single-Employer Defined Benefit System?**

Read the just-released research report from the SOA Rapid Retirement Research Initiative, analyzing how pension funding provisions contained in the Senate-passed MAP-21 bill would affect the pattern and volatility of contribution requirements for the U.S. single-employer defined benefit pension system. Joseph Silvestri, Retirement Research actuary, blogs about the report.

**New Report on Health Care Cost Trends**

The Health Care Cost Institute (HCCI) recently released its first Cost & Utilization Report. The SOA has been instrumental in the development and writing of this report. HCCI is a new organization whose mission is to promote independent research and analysis on the causes of rising U.S. health spending, to provide policy makers, consumers, and researchers with better, more transparent information on what is driving health care costs, and to help ensure that, over time, the nation is able to get greater value from its health spending. At the core of HCCI is a database containing book-of-business claims data from major health insurers.

**Scale BB Questions and Answers**

The SOA’s Retirement Plans Experience Committee has just released its first set of questions and answers (Q&As) on the newly developed mortality improvement scale, Scale BB. The Q&As contain additional background information on the development, application and impact of Scale BB. Scale BB was introduced in March 2012 as an interim mortality improvement scale which may be used by pension actuaries until work on a formal successor to the widely used improvement scale, Scale AA, is complete.

**SEGMENTS IDENTIFIED IN NEW MIDDLE MARKET STUDY**

The Marketing & Distribution Section launched a multi-phase study to better understand the middle market for life insurance and to identify segments that would allow the industry to better target customer needs. Supported by the Committee on Life Insurance Research, Product Development and Reinsurance Sections, the phase one research examined young families between the ages of 25 and 40 with household income of $35K-$125K and have life insurance or financial dependents. Performed by Dr. Walter Zultowski of WZ Research + Consulting and Dr. Brian Perlman of Mathew Greenwald & Associates, this study found three compelling segments in the data that can help the industry better understand and target the middle market:

- **Planners**--characterized by those who purchase life insurance as part of a broader lifetime plan
- **Protectors**--characterized by those who buy life insurance to handle a life event, more often than not, the birth of a child
- Opportunistic buyers--characterized by those who buy life insurance because it becomes available, often through work

Read about these segments and other findings from the phase one study in a new report now available on the SOA website.

**SOA Annual Meeting in National Harbor, MD (Washington D.C.)**
A broad range of presentations were made at the three day conference. Session slides are available on the SOA website. The link to the presentations is [http://www.soa.org/Professional-Development/Presentations-Archive/2012/2012-Presentations.aspx](http://www.soa.org/Professional-Development/Presentations-Archive/2012/2012-Presentations.aspx).

*Note: In many cases, links are provided in the descriptions above. These are the underlined and italicized phrases. The specific reports can be accessed directly by Ctrl – (mouse click) on the link.*

**Coming soon**
- Individual life experience study report 2007-09 - SOA
- Individual life experience study report – Milliman (for purchase)
- Simplified issue mortality study – Milliman (for purchase)
- Individual life older age experience study report 2006-10 – Towers Watson (for purchase)