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Changing Longevity After Age 65

STATUS: Proposed

LEAD RESEARCHERS: ISI Staff; University Collaboration (to be determined)

ISI OVERSIGHT: Paul Siegert, ISI President and CEO

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Gather data to examine the factors that impact the optimization of healthy aging and longevity. Use the data to study: a. how changing longevity patterns might alter seniors' needs for certain insurance products (life insurance, long-term care insurance, disability insurance, etc...); b. how changing longevity may impact future life settlement transactions; and c. characteristics of seniors who are prone to undertake living practices that tend to extend life expectancy versus those who are prone to maintain living practices that tend to shorten life expectancies.

SCOPE OF RESEARCH AND METHODOLOGY: Since 1992, The University of Michigan, with support from the National Institute on Aging, has continued to track 20,000 men and women over age 50 in terms of health, work, retirement, income, and family characteristics. Statistics from this landmark study will in part serve as a basis for ISI's research, which will analyze the factors that influence longevity and healthy aging. In addition, firms and professionals that promote life extension living practices will be resourced for data and relevant research. Because this project is not intended to track seniors to their deaths, data findings will be validated by testing against other data bases of seniors for which life expectancies exist. Changes in medical advancements and treatments will be excluded, however, as it is recognized that such advancements and treatments will affect seniors concurrent with life extension living practices and may not be scientifically differentiable.

RESOURCES:

- Insurance & Life Settlement Industry Research: ISI Published Works
- Senior Citizen Advocacy Groups: AARP; International Longevity Center
- Statistics & Research: "Growing Older in America – The Health and Retirement Study," a reference guide published in 2007 by the National Institute on Aging (NIA)
- University Research Collaboration: Center for Retirement Research at Boston College; Center on Aging at Colorado State University; M.I.T. Age Lab; Institute of Social Research at the University of Michigan

TARGET RESULTS AND BENEFITS: This research will directly address how changing environments and living practices can affect longevity patterns. Research findings are expected to benefit seniors, life settlement investors and others influenced by changing patterns of longevity among seniors.

TIMELINE: 2010-2011

BUDGET: TBD