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Financing retirement -- Were they prepared for retirement? : financial status at advanced ages in the HRS and AHEAD cohorts / James M. Poterba, Steven F. Venti, and David A. Wise; comment, David Laibson -- Economic preparation for retirement / Michael D. Hurd and Susann Rohwedder; comment, Robert J. Willis -- How well are Social Security recipients protected from inflation? / Gopi Shah Goda, John B. Shoven, and Sita Nataraj Slavov; comment, Michael D. Hurd -- The availability and utilization of 401(k) loans / John Beshears, James J. Choi, David Laibson, and Brigitte C. Madrian; comment: Gopi Shah Goda -- Health and health care -- Dimensons of health in the elderly population / David M. Cutler and Mary Beth Landrum; comment, David R. Weir --The value of progress against cancer in the elderly / Jay Bhattacharya. Alan M. Garber, Matthew Miller, and Daniella Perlroth; comment, Amitabh Chandra -- Self reported disability and reference groups / Arthur van Soest, Tatiana Andreyeva, Arie Kapteyn, and James P. Smith; comment, David M. Cutler -- "Healthy, wealthy and wise?" revisited : an analysis of the causal pathways from socioeconomic status to health / Till Stowasser, Florian Heiss, Daniel McFadden, and Joachim Winter; comment, Robert J. Willis -- Childhood health and differences in latelife health outcomes between England and the United States / James Banks, Zoe Oldfield, and James P. Smith; comment, Amitabh Chandra -- The financial crisis and the well-being of America / Angus Deaton; comment, Daniel McFadden.

Sommario/riassunto

One of the most well-established relationships in the economics of aging is that between health and wealth. Yet this relationship is also changing in conjunction with a rapidly aging population as well as a broad evolution in how people live later in life. Building on findings from earlier editions in this National Bureau of Economic Research series, Investigations in the Economics of Aging focuses on the changing financial circumstances of the elderly and the relationship of these circumstances to health and health care. Among the topics addressed are the significance of out-of-pocket health care costs, the effects of inflation on social security, and the impact of the recent financial crisis on Americans' well-being. Encompassing new data and advances in research methodology, the developments presented in this volume will have important implications for economies worldwide.