



ASTIN SECTION REPORT FOR THE PERIOD NOVEMBER 2005 – APRIL 2006

1. Colloquia

ASTIN will not hold a Colloquium in 2006 in order to encourage its members to participate in the International Congress of Actuaries in Paris. The latest count is that there will be 29 ASTIN papers presented at the Congress, plus four panel presentations organized by the Casualty Actuarial Society, in the first half of the week.

The 37th ASTIN Colloquium will be held in Orlando, Florida, USA at Disney's Contemporary Resort in June, 2007 in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASTIN. **Chris Carlson** is the chair of the Organizing Committee and **Gary Venter** is chair of the Scientific Committee.

The 38th ASTIN Colloquium is currently scheduled to be held in Oxford, England, in September, 2008. However, investigations are being made to hold it in July of 2008 possibly somewhere else in the U.K. **Chris Daykin** is chair of the Organizing Committee. **Andrew Cairns** is chair of the Scientific Committee.

2. ASTIN Bulletin

Since the IAA meetings in Rio, volume 35.2 of the Bulletin appeared dated November 2005. It was 162 pages long and contained six articles, two workshop contributions, an obituary and one miscellaneous item (a review of the Zurich colloquia).

Volume 36.1 is close to completion and will have an editorial by **Mike Sherris**, 7 to 10 articles and 3 miscellaneous items. Volume 36.1 will therefore be around 300 pages.

The collaboration with our publishers Peeters in Belgium continues to work well. Peeters have been very helpful in our efforts to get a listing on the ISI Thomson citations index. A listing on this index is important for the ongoing success of the journal, since academic appraisals in many countries place high value on journals that are listed. ISI Thomson is reviewing again our request for a listing and we are hoping to get a decision from them this summer.

Professor **Sam Cox** (of Georgia State University) has recently agreed to be an active co-editor from volume 36.1. We hope to appoint two further active co-editors in the near future. **Yair Babad** has

joined the Editorial Board. **Mike Cohen** (also of Georgia State University) has been of great assistance to the editors.

The editors propose a further change to the editorial structure to reflect the growing involvement of the new sections of the IAA. Specifically it is proposed that the journal be headed up by a single "editor-in-chief" supported by perhaps four "editors". The precise titles to be used are under discussion. The rules of the individual sections of the IAA would need to be amended to reflect such a change.

Thanks are extended to all the referees and authors for securing the high quality standard of the ASTIN Bulletin.

3. **Seminars**

ASTIN is contributing to the enhancement of actuarial professionalism worldwide by offering seminars on non-life topics in countries with developing non-life practice.

In September 2005, a seminar on Insurance Market Behavior and Health Insurance was presented to the Actuarial Society of Malaysia by **Howard Bolnick**.

In November 2005, a seminar on Non-life claims reserving was presented to the Association of Romanian Actuaries by **Richard Verrall**.

In March 2006, a seminar on Insurance and Financial Applications of Markov Chains was presented in collaboration among the Brazilian Institute of Actuaries and two Rio universities in Rio de Janeiro, March 2006, by **Jean Lemaire**.

Two seminars in preparation include a Health Insurance course in Budapest, June 2006, led by **Howard Bolnick** and another on Solvency Issues in Bucharest.

4. **Financial**

ASTIN has completed conversion of its fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 to a calendar year basis and is financially sound.

5. **Possible Merger Is Off**

Since the Council meeting in Rio, consideration was given to a possible merger of the AFIR and ASTIN sections. Most members of both of the section committees expressed themselves on this issue. While the general consensus is that the proposal for a merger of AFIR and ASTIN not be pursued, many excellent comments and observations came out of the responses. It is recognized that there are overlaps in the topics of these two sections and probably always will be. Perhaps joint colloquia could be planned for the future which specifically targets the areas of overlap. There is room for many sections in the IAA – even more than currently exist. The IAA is a great place to bring together both academics and practitioners on the same international platform.

David G. Hartman, Chairman

May 2006