Dear members, welcome to the Nov-Dec 2020 edition of ASTIN Newsletter. It provides a general update regarding the ASTIN activities over the last two months as well as its future planned activities.

Our Activities — Update

Although we are still in the grips of a global pandemic, these months brought some reason to hope. Several pharmaceutical companies have announced the development of effective vaccines which are in various stages of approval by the world’s governments. At the time this is being written, vaccines are already being deployed in the United Kingdom.

A long road to recovery remains however and our planned activities for 2021 will reflect this. Discussions about the specifics for the next colloquium continue and details will be released soon.

As we reach the end of the year, some members may be turning their attention to continuing education requirements. Below, we review some of the recent ASTIN webinars. These are free of charge to members.

2021 will bring other changes. In this issue, ASTIN chair Frank Cuypers says farewell to Yuriy Krvavych as ASTIN Secretary. We are grateful for all that Yuriy has done and look forward to Axel Wolfstein carrying on Yuriy’s great work.

We hope that circumstances will change sufficiently that we are able to see each other in person in 2021. On behalf of the ASTIN Board, we wish you all a Happy New Year, and a Merry Christmas.
ASTIN Webinars

ASTIN regularly organises its topical webinars with the assistance of the IAA Secretariat. They are used to share knowledge and expertise among ASTIN members and the wider non-actuarial community.

ASTIN webinars are accessible to all ASTIN members, free of charge. Not a member? You can participate by simply joining the ASTIN Section (membership fee is CAD 50.00).

Our recent webinars

Over the last two months we have organised the following webinars:

- 18 November 2020 – "Joint model prediction and application to individual-level loss reserving" by Peng Shi (USA)
- 1 December 2020 – "Revisiting the Methodology of Actuarial Science" by Craig Turnbull (Ireland). Panel discussion moderated by Dimitri Semenovich (Australia), featuring Andrew Smith (UK) and Jim Guszcza (USA). (This webinar was hosted by the CAS, but recordings are free. To access, please visit this link.)

A recording of each webinar, along with a PDF copy of the presentation, can be found on the ASTIN website and are freely accessible to ASTIN members. (NB: as noted above, the Turnbull webinar is hosted by the CAS and may be found at the link above.)

Our upcoming webinars

We continue this trend with the following scheduled webinars to date:

- 9 February 2021 – AI in Actuarial Science by Ronald Richman (South Africa)

For more details about ASTIN webinars please refer to ‘Our Activities’ web page on the ASTIN website.

ASTIN Academy

The ASTIN Academy seeks to provide high quality free educational materials in non-life insurance to actuarial students across the world. We are committed to open course development under a Creative Commons license and are looking for innovation in teaching methodologies and application of technology.

The project is led by Prof. Edward Frees, late of the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Australian National University. Professor Frees has many years of experience in teaching actuarial science in multiple countries and his work is likely familiar to many of our members. The proposal and plan to date is based on a book called “Loss Data Analytics” as well as a template for a comparable online tutorial on regression. As we gain access to more creative and dedicated volunteers, we are hopeful to improve our design for short course offerings.

We use R as a tool for interactive books and short courses. The use of R is well known to the actuarial and statistical communities. We hope that promoting its application for authoring our books and short courses will help in recruiting a broad and sustainable group of authors and other volunteers from the actuarial community.

In order to promote discussion among users of the course, we are recruiting volunteers to help implement proper design and functionality. Volunteers serving as content mentors would respond to reader questions
and use the questions to improve/transform the content structure, including examples presented to next level or as supplement sections.

This is a global call, open to people who are eager to support the development of actuaries, especially in emerging markets. Volunteers eager to join this next generation challenge of ASTIN are very welcome to send a short CV to Prof. Edward Frees and Miyuki Ebisaki, Chairs of the ASTIN Academy.

Let’s build the future of actuarial education together!

Call for volunteers: ASTIN publications

Brian Fannin is stepping into the role of chair of ASTIN publications. This encompasses our newsletter, which is published six times per year, as well as the annual report which appears once per year. Volunteer support is always welcome and appreciated. This could be anything from article suggestions, news items, help with copy editing, or review. Interested parties may contact Brian Fannin directly at bfannin@casact.org.

ASTIN Books Donation

Luciano Molinari, a former student of Prof. Hans Bühlmann, who worked for many years as a health statistician and has now retired, wishes to donate his scientific library (consisting of about 80 books on actuarial mathematics and statistics, mostly in English, some in German).

For this purpose, he has asked ASTIN to identify an actuarial association (preferably from a developing economy), which would be interested in receiving this donation to amplify or initiate a library.

ASTIN will assume the shipping costs.

Anybody interested, please contact the ASTIN Chairman at frank.cuypers@prs-zug.com.

Farewell Yuriy

ASTIN Board Chair Frank Cuypers writes:

"After having served ASTIN as its Secretary for more than 3 years, Yuriy Krvavych will hand over this demanding task to Axel Wolfstein by the 1st of January 2021.

As the Chairman of ASTIN, but also as a friend who greatly benefited from Yuriy’s kind but assertive discipline, I want to thank him with heartfelt sincerity for his help and his unconditional dedication to ASTIN throughout these intense years.

Without him our annual reports would not even look half as good, our monthly Board meetings would be chaos, our internal guidelines would still be work in progress, this newsletter would not even exist, and I’m skipping a lot ...

Although I perfectly understand that Yuriy cannot carry this burden forever, and I know that Axel is as motivated and will do an excellent job too, I still deeply regret Yuriy’s decision: this marks the end of an era, which has marked ASTIN and its activities like few before; I will miss his vision and leadership!

But Yuriy, I know that ASTIN and I can still count on you for advice in the future, and I thank you for that!”
Forthcoming Events

IAA Meetings
Sydney, Australia 28 May - 1 June 2023

ASTIN Colloquia
May 2022 - Orlando, FL, USA
Postponed from 2021

2023 — 28 May - 1 June, Sydney, Australia (postponed from 2022)
ASTIN Colloquium will be held as part of 32\textsuperscript{nd} ICA.

2026 - Tokyo, Japan
ASTIN Colloquium will be held as part of 33\textsuperscript{rd} ICA.

Resources
Don't forget the following resources which have a lot of information about ASTIN, and its research:

- ASTIN Annual Report
- ASTIN Bulletin
- ASTIN Video
- ASTIN Newsletters
- ASTIN website

Also, please follow us on social media: LinkedIn, Twitter and Facebook.

Contacts
Key contacts on the ASTIN Board

- Frank Cuypers [Chairman]
- Yuriy Krvavych [Secretary]