

ASTIN NEWSLETTER

Jan–Feb 2021 | ASTIN, the Non-Life Section of the International Actuarial Association

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Dear members, welcome to the Jan-Feb 2021 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.

Online Colloquium - Call for Abstracts

Because of the ongoing COVID pandemic, ASTIN had to postpone the planned Colloquium in Orlando until next year, 2022. In its place, this year will feature an online colloquium during the week of 17 May. It will be split into several 3-4 hours sessions, each hosted by a different ASTIN Chapter.

The online colloquium will comprise the usual multiple track scientific program and plenary keynote presentations, plus a series of demonstrations and other remote social activities.

A call for abstracts has gone out to the international general insurance actuarial community. Note that due to the extraordinary circumstances all the authors of accepted papers will also be eligible to present in person in Orlando should they so wish.

To assist the Scientific Committee in planning the program, authors are kindly requested to complete the [online Abstract Submission form](#) by 26th March 2021. More information about submission requirements may be found at [this link](#).

Actuarial pricing game

ASTIN was one of several sponsors of an online insurance pricing game hosted on the [AI Crowd platform](#). Participants used insurance claims data to build a pricing model to set premiums in a competitive market. Players competed against one another to win policyholders. Just as in the real world, it is possible to build market share by offering a lower price. However, success depends on making a profit which includes the cost of claims.

The competition closes on 6 March. An online presentation will take place on 21 March. The winner will be announced and the top 10 performers will give very brief overviews of their models.

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

On 9 February, Ron Richman (South Africa) presented on the topic of "AI in Actuarial Science". A recording of this webinar, along with a PDF copy of the presentation, can be found on the ASTIN website and are freely accessible to ASTIN members.

Our upcoming webinars

For information about future ASTIN webinars please refer to the [‘Our Activities’](#) page on the ASTIN website. If you are interested in proposing a webinar, please contact [Roger Hayne](#), or [Brian Fannin](#).

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!

Forthcoming Events

IAA Meetings

Sydney, Australia 28 May – 1 June 2023

ASTIN Colloquia

Week of 17 May 2021 - Completely online

More details at [this link](#).



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 32nd ICA.



2026 - Tokyo, Japan

ASTIN Colloquium will be held as part of 33rd 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]
- [Axel Wolfstein](#) [Secretary]