ICA 2018

The 31st International Congress of Actuaries (ICA) was held in Berlin on 4-8 June. The ICA is the largest established international forum of actuaries that has been regularly organised and held since 1895. Hosted by the Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung e.V. (DAV), the ICA 2018 attracted a record number of participants, 2,741 delegates, from 103 countries, and offered a rich scientific program. More than 500 speakers and moderators across all seven IAA sections contributed to 125 scientific sessions and 364 presentations.

ASTIN Section and Best Paper Awards

The ASTIN Section was represented by 63 papers, out of which five won a best paper award. These are:

- **ICA Best Paper Awards:**
  - ‘Modelling Dynamic Policyholder Behaviour through Machine Learning Techniques’ by Marco Aleandri (Sapienza University Rome, Ageas);
  - ‘Neural Networks Applied to Chain-Ladder Reserving’ by Mario Wüthrich (ETH Zurich); and
  - ‘Pricing of Cyber Insurance Contracts in a Network Model’ by Matthias Fahrenwaldt (Heriot-Watt University), Stefan Weber and Kerstin Weske (both Leibniz University of Hannover).

- **ASTIN Best Paper Awards:**
  - ‘The Transition Towards Semi-Autonomous Vehicle’
New IAA rules governing ASTIN

In order to align with other IAA sections, the IAA proposed the following changes to the rules governing ASTIN:

- The “ASTIN Committee” to be renamed to the “ASTIN Board”; and
- The ASTIN Board member must confirm his/her Ordinary membership in the ASTIN Section each year. If the Board member fails to maintain his/her Ordinary membership, the ASTIN Board may terminate the Board members term automatically.

The proposed changes have been approved by the ASTIN General Assembly in Berlin.

IAA Sections Spokesman - new appointment

The IAA Sections have mutually agreed to appoint Michiel van der Wardt, Vice-Chair of the ASTIN Board, as the Spokesman of the IAA Sections in the IAA. In this new role Michiel will inform and consult with the IAA Sections on strategic issues, and inform the relevant IAA bodies and stakeholders when the Sections come into consensus.

Virtual ICA

For the first time in the history of ICAs the Virtual ICA (VICA) was introduced in Berlin. Thanks to the support of a number of institutional partners from the global actuarial community as well as several sections of the IAA (including ASTIN), many ICA sessions were broadcasted live online and were also recorded. This allowed a much broader audience from around the world to follow the high-value content presented during the ICA, and helped to secure this knowledge in a sustainable manner. The recorded actuarial content (more than 180 hours) is available at www.virtual-ica2018.org to members of the IAA Sections and also the IAA Member Associations which provided their sponsorship.

The Bob Alting von Geusau Prize

We are also pleased to report that two members of the ASTIN Board, Eric Dal Moro and Yuriy Kravvych, have won the Bob Alting von Geusau Prize for their paper ‘Probability of Sufficiency of Solvency II Reserve Risk Margins: Practical Approximations’ published in ASTIN Bulletin (Volume 47, Issue 3, 2017). The prize is sponsored by the AFIR-ERM Section and comes with 5,000 Canadian Dollars. The paper was recognised as an excellent paper with a state-of-the-art approach on a very timely and current topic with high practical usage for actuaries working in the AFIR-ERM field. The prize was endorsed by the AFIR-ERM Board and announced at the AFIR-ERM General Assembly in Berlin. This paper will also be presented at the next AFIR-ERM Colloquium in Florence, Italy from 21 to 24 May 2019.
2017-2018 Annual Report

ASTIN has recently published its 2017-2018 Annual Report. It was presented at the ICA in Berlin. It is the first formal edition of its kind, and sets the example of the type of communication we would like in the future. Here, we took the opportunity to present ASTIN, outline its history and achievements and explain its values. We also wanted to bring the Board members closer to ASTIN members by introducing ourselves and explaining what we do, as well as what we are striving to achieve in the future.

New roles and joiners

ASTIN welcomes a new member to the ASTIN Board, Professor Emil Valdez from the University of Connecticut (USA). This new appointment has been endorsed by the ASTIN General Assembly in Berlin. Emil joined ASTIN earlier as an ASTIN Board volunteer to lead and coordinate the work of ASTIN Working Parties. Emil will continue acting as ASTIN Working Parties Coordinator whilst serving on the board. We welcome Emil on board and wish him every success in his new role.

ASTIN also welcomes the following new ASTIN board volunteers:

- **Professor Jan Dhaene** (KU Leuven, Belgium);
- **Walther Neuhaus** (Oslo, Norway);
- **Salma Jamal** (Paris, France); and
- **Bor Harej** (Ljubljana, Slovenia).

We look forward to working with our new volunteers who will be helping us with ASTIN’s current activities, and will also have an opportunity to familiarise themselves with ASTIN, its Board and Members, and also the IAA.

ASTIN Working Parties

The ASTIN Working Party ‘Machine Learning and Traditional Methods Synergy (MLTMS) in Non-life Reserving’ has recently completed its work. The work has been led by Salma Jamal.

The project examines the benefits of combining traditional methods and machine learning methods to determine non-life reserves. Different approaches to estimate claims reserves are calibrated using real data on the claims experience of a professional liability line of business. The results provide guidelines for practically choosing the methods that might be most suitable.

The results of this work have been presented at the ICA in Berlin, and will also be posted on the ASTIN website along with R code and supporting illustrations.

ASTIN Webinars

The following two webinars have been recently organised and held by ASTIN:

- **MLTMS in Non-Life Reserving** - 21 June 2018; and
- **Phase 2 Big Data** - 26 July 2018

The recorded version of webinars as well as a PDF of the presentations can be found on the ASTIN website and are freely accessible to ASTIN members.

ASTIN New Initiatives

**Raising ASTIN’s brand awareness**

We have launched our new campaign which aims to showcase ASTIN’s importance to the actuarial profession and non-life insurance industry, raise ASTIN’s brand awareness and strengthen its membership base. The main activities of this
campaign include:

- production of an ASTIN Video,
- launch of a new ASTIN website; and also
- other activities aiming to change and improve the way ASTIN communicates with its members and engages with the wider non-life insurance community outside the IAA.

**ASTIN Local Chapters**

ASTIN would like to work more closely with its existing members and also attract new members worldwide by creating and fostering local ASTIN groups to promote actuarial science in the field of non-life insurance.

The aim of this initiative is to formally establish local/regional ASTIN Chapters, which mid- to long-term can become the elementary building blocks of ASTIN International as a section of the IAA. This should set up a good foundation for national ASTIN communities and provide them with opportunities to closely collaborate on an international basis.

A small survey from the fall of 2017 shows a lot of interest and willingness from local forces to develop ASTIN groups, and a “Proof of Concept” for this vision is already provided by the existing ASTIN groups in Europe, (e.g. Scandinavia, Germany, Switzerland), but also through the activities of the CAS in the US and in Europe (CAE). All of these can and should be used as blueprints.

Our ASTIN members Kirsten Sasady (Chair of ASTIN Denmark and ASTIN Board member) and Roland Voggenauer (Chair of ASTIN Germany) are driving this initiative, so if you are interested in getting involved in creating an ASTIN Chapter locally please do get in touch with Kirsten and Roland.

**Forthcoming Events**

**IAA Meetings**

- **Mexico City, Mexico** – November 27–December 2, 2018
- **Washington, D.C., United States** – May 15–19, 2019
- **Tokyo, Japan** – November 18 - 21, 2019
ASTIN Colloquia

2019 - April 2-5, Cape Town, South Africa

ASTIN Colloquium will be held jointly with 4 other IAA Sections: IAAHS, IAALS, PBSS and IACA. The deadline for abstract submission is 31 Aug 2018.

2020 - May, Paris, France

ASTIN Colloquium will be held jointly with 4 other IAA Sections: AFIR-ERM, IAALS, PBSS and IACA.

2021 - May, Orlando, FL, USA

It is envisaged that ASTIN Colloquium will be held jointly with AFIR-ERM (subject to further confirmation) and in collaboration with CAS.

2022 - April 4-8, Sydney, Australia

ASTIN Colloquium will be held as part of 32nd ICA.

2026 - Tokyo, Japan

ASTIN Colloquium will be held as part of 33rd ICA.

Miscellanea

The ASTIN Board congratulates Prof. Emil Valdez, the board member and ASTIN Working Parties Coordinator, for publishing his book in co-authorship with Dr. Guojun Gan on ‘Actuarial Statistics with R: Theory and Case Studies’.

This book is written primarily for actuarial students and practitioners who wish to learn the basic fundamentals and applications of modern statistical methods using R programming. It provides data analytic tools utilising supervised and unsupervised learning, as well as time series and simulation models. Twelve practical case studies demonstrate applications of topics that include generalised linear models, decision trees, principal component analysis and cluster analysis. This book comes with the solution manual and will soon be available from ACTEX publisher.

Prof. Paul Embrechts from ETH, Zurich will be retiring this year after 29 years of teaching and leading cutting-edge research at ETH. Paul has recently given his farewell lecture ‘January 31, 1953 and September 11, 2001: Living with Risk’, which can be viewed on the ETH website.

Paul is the founder and leader of the well-known risk and actuarial think-tank RiskLab. He is an active member of ASTIN and a great contributor, and has regularly addressed at ASTIN colloquia as a keynote speaker. Paul served as Chief Editor of ASTIN Bulletin [1996-2005]. He is well known for his extensive research publications and also for his books on Quantitative Risk Management and Extreme Value Theory.

We wish Paul all the best and hope for continuing cooperation in the future.
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