Welcome notes from Brian Spence, IACA Chairman

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Spring 2024 edition of IACA Newsletter. This is a general update of IACA activities over the past few months as well as its future planned activities.

This Spring marked the end of my 37-year career as a consulting actuary, culminating in my retirement from the executive role at the consulting firm I founded 24 years ago.

I have transitioned to a non-executive director role, offering a completely different perspective. This change has allowed me more time to tackle for my own circumstances what Nobel Prize winner William F. Sharpe termed the single “ nastiest, hardest problem in finance”: determining how much I can withdraw from my pension portfolio without risking depletion.

I've been fortunate to have a career in actuarial work that provided a good income and a comfortable retirement fund. As I write this, however, I am about to attend a relatives' meeting at my 96-year-old mother's care home, where I witness first-hand the immense resources, professionalism, and costs involved in providing high-quality care in advanced age.

During my career, I've observed the gradual decline of DB pensions in the private sector, largely replaced by DC pensions of lower value. Overall tax burdens are at all-time highs, and while the healthcare revolution that has significantly extended longevity is still ongoing, substantial progress has been made. The likelihood is very high that we will have a much larger population of the very elderly than society has had to deal with before.

Consulting actuaries play a crucial role in advising governments, corporations, and citizens on the financial
aspects that will enable a comfortable and productive old age for all. This includes considerations beyond finances, such as the span of working life, attitudes toward aging, and lifestyle adjustments. All in the context of increasingly tenuous global security and the imperative to moderate climate change.

IACA boasts many members in the retirement field, but the challenges posed by aging populations and technological advancements engage our colleagues across the entire spectrum of actuarial work.

The rest of this newsletter highlights some of IACA’s recent activities.

Please take the time to catch up on any relevant webinars you may have missed which are highlighted here. Additionally, please do consider taking on a role on our Board or one of the Committees.

Now is the perfect time to plan your attendance at JoCo24 in Belgium this September. Beyond the formal program, it offers a fantastic opportunity to discuss the very similar challenges we all face with actuarial colleagues from around the world. The program is incredibly broad and the sessions planned sound interesting and very relevant to the issues we are all addressing.

Best regards,

Brian

Call for nominations for the Max Lander and the Geoffrey Heywood Award

*Does an actuary in your practice deserve to be truly recognised? Or do you wish to nominate one of your peers for an award? NOW IS THE TIME!*

The intent of these awards is to help bring the consulting actuarial profession into the public domain and to encourage the successful development of consulting actuarial practices and actuarial literature. Both awards will be presented at the 2024 IACA Biennial General Meeting in September at the Joint Section Colloquium in Brussels.

**The Max Lander Award (+ CAD 1,000)**
This award is a Lifetime Achievement Award for a consulting actuary. This award is named in honour of the late Max Lander who was a founding member of IACA and the initial IACA Secretary/Treasurer. The Max Lander Award is given to a member of the actuarial profession who has contributed to the public awareness of the work of the actuarial profession and the promotion of the business of consulting actuaries. The 2024 award will be the 10th Max Lander Award to be presented.

Past Recipients:

**2022 Brent Walker (Australia)**
Donation: Actuaries Institute Australia Health Event Bursary

**2020 Ibrahim Muhanna (Lebanon)**
Donation: Virtual ICA 2022
2018 Daisy May McFarlane-Coke (Jamaica)
Donation: Caribbean Scholarship Fund Through the Actuarial Foundation

2016 Leonard John Martin (United Kingdom)
Donation: IAA Congress Reserve Fund

2014 Christopher D. Daykin (United Kingdom)
Donation: Peter Clark Memorial Fund

2012 Frederick W. Kilbourne (United States) - Read the Award details
Donation: Charity Fair Horse Show

2010 Klaus Heubeck (Germany)
Donation: Peter Clark Memorial Fund

2008 Paul N. Thornton (United Kingdom)
Donation: IAA Congress Reserve Fund

2006 W. James MacGinnitie (United States)
Donation: Peter Clark Memorial Fund

**The Geoffrey Heywood Award (+ CAD 500)**

This award is named in honour of Geoffrey Heywood MBE who was the founding Chairman of IACA. The Geoffrey Heywood Award will be given to a young consulting actuary who has provided significant services to the public and the actuarial profession. The world is full of talented, bright young actuaries who are bringing great credit to our profession. Someone you know is a potential winner of this award, so be brave and nominate him or her.

**Past Recipients:**

2022 Kudzai Chigiji (Zimbabwe)
Donation: TBC

2020 Michael Clark (United States)
Donation: Organization of Latino Actuaries

2018 Sherry Chan (United States)
Donation: The Ohio State University, Actuarial Science Program

2016 Chintan Gandhi (United Kingdom)
Donation: Charitable Trust of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries

2014 Marian Elliott (United Kingdom)
Donation: South American Actuaries Dev Programme

**Awards administration**

Please email your nomination with brief reasons to Margaret Sherwood, chair of the IACA Awards Committee (msherwood@tillerconsultinggroup.com) with a copy to Brian.
Spence, IACA Chairman (Brian_Spence@spenceandpartners.co.uk) before 30 June 2024. Self-nominations are allowed.

1. The IACA Awards sub-Committee will decide who will receive the Awards:
   a. The Max Lander Award may be awarded to any actuary who is, or has been, a consulting actuary.
   b. The Geoffrey Heywood Award may only be awarded to a consulting actuary who is under age 40.

2. The recipients of the Awards will receive a plaque and a monetary award donated in honour of the recipient to an actuarial-related organization of his or her choosing that is involved in or promotes the development of the actuarial profession. The monetary award will be CAD1,000 for the Max Lander Award and CAD500 for the Geoffrey Heywood Award.

3. The recipients will be notified and presented with the Awards at the IACA Biennial General Meeting in September at the 2024 Joint Section Colloquium.

**Nomination for IACA Board**

**Call for nominations (including self-nominations) to serve on the IACA Board**

The Nominating Committee of the IACA Board is seeking candidates for three open positions on the Board. These positions are for a 4-year term starting at the conclusion of the Biennial General Meeting in September 2024 in Brussels. The Board meets virtually monthly. Board members are expected to participate on at least one of the IACA Board Committees (Marketing, Member Services, Webinars, Publications) and attend most of the Board meetings each year, recognizing that as consultants, they may have conflicts. Board members collaborate to advance the goals of IACA. Please email your nomination (you can self-nominate) with a short resumé to Brian Spence, IACA Chairman (Brian_Spence@spenceandpartners.co.uk) as soon as possible but no later than 30 June 2024 as the Nominating Committee needs to finalize the slate at least 2 months before the BGM.

Taking into account the current geographical spread of the Board, there is a special call upon consulting actuaries in Asia, Oceania and the Middle East to register for the Board so we can be a true global Board of consulting actuaries. And of course we are also looking for diversity among actuarial disciplines, size of business organisation and not to forget of gender.

**Joint Colloquium 2024 in Brussels & IACA Biennial General Meeting**

The first Joint Colloquium of all IAA Sections (ASTIN, AFIR-ERM, IACA, IAALS, IAAHS and PBSS) will take place from September 22-25, 2024 in Brussels, Belgium. The venues are Hotel Le Plaza Brussels and the AG Campus (300 meters). The JoCo2024 theme is “Reconnecting Actuaries”:

- Reconnecting actuaries after a pandemic period that changed the ways they work and meet.
May 2024

- Reconnecting actuaries from interconnected areas of interest to the current and future challenges of the profession.
- Reconnecting actuaries around the same objectives: meet, exchange, learn, discover ... and enjoy!

Together with this JoCo2024 the IACA Biennial General Meeting will take place, scheduled from 16:00 till 18:00 on Sunday 22nd September.

For more information, including the full program, please check www.joco2024.org

Happy to meet you all in Brussels!

Upcoming IACA Webinars
We have some exciting webinars planned for the coming months including:

Transforming Insurance: From AI Explainability to Real-Time Decision-Making | 29 May 2024

This session explores two revolutionary technologies reshaping the insurance industry: Explainable Artificial Intelligence (XAI) and real-time decision-making frameworks. XAI transcends traditional analytics, enhancing model accuracy and regulatory compliance, which is crucial for today's actuaries. Simultaneously, the adoption of real-time decision-making frameworks is revolutionizing operational efficiency and competitive positioning within the sector.

We will delve into how these technologies not only facilitate complex and automated decisions across business processes—from fraud detection and underwriting to claims handling and reserving—but also offer profound competitive advantages. Join us to understand how integrating these cutting-edge approaches can redefine industry standards, improve strategic planning, and drive significant business outcomes in insurance.


Deloitte’s analysis reveals that working women, across all age groups from 19 to 64, bear higher out-of-pocket medical costs than men, even when excluding pregnancy-related services, leading to an indirect income gap. This, coupled with the existing gender wage disparity, amplifies financial and health stress for working women, forcing them to choose between necessary care and affordability. Join this webinar to explore what is driving the out-of-pocket disparity between women and men and hear about what insurers and employers can do to reassess and reform benefit coverage to alleviate this financial burden on women, promoting equity and optimal health for all.

Past IACA Webinars
So far in 2024 we have been pleased to present several webinars to serve the consulting actuarial community:

Global Perspectives: The Australian Experience – Dee McGrath

This webinar looked at the Australian retirement system and compared it against other systems throughout the world. The presentation looked at lessons learned from the Australian experience and opportunities for change in the future.
Machine Learning Applications to Non-Life Pricing and Underwriting – Xavier Marechal & Oana Avramescu

Check out this webinar to gain an understanding of some useful machine learning techniques for actuaries and their applications for pricing and other underwriting activities.

Mindful Actuary – Happiness In this Moment – Thanuja Krishnaratna

Learn from an actuary and student of mindfulness, Thanuja Krishnaratna, who studies with Buddhist monks in her home country of Sri Lanka. This webinar focuses on helping your mind to be present, to relax, and to energize you to complete your day-to-day tasks more efficiently and creatively.

Implicit Pension Debt vs Government Debt, Are We Ready to Deal with Both? – Alejandro Bonilla Garcia, Georgios Symeonidis

This webinar looks at pension debt vs government debt across countries in the EU. For many countries, pension debt is implicit as opposed to explicit, but understanding how much national pension debt is implied in the system as a percentage of GDP is not only instructive but imperative for assessing the long-term financial health of a country.

Cyber Insurance-Linked Securities – Alexander Braun & Martin Eling Moderator Brian Fannin

A jointly organized webinar by AFIR-ERM, ASTIN & IACA

In this webinar we investigate the feasibility of cyber risk transfer through insurance-linked securities (ILS). On the investor side, we elicit the preferred characteristics of cyber-ILS and the corresponding return expectations. We then estimate the cost of equity of insurers and compare it to the Rate online expected by investors to match demand and supply in the cyber-ILS market.

These and other webinars are available on actuview: www.actuview.com

About IACA

The International Association of Consulting Actuaries (IACA) is a IAA-section, and was formed by several senior consultants attending the International Congress of Actuaries in 1968 who, because the business environment for consulting actuaries was changing so rapidly, felt that an international meeting once every four years was too infrequent. IACA was established as a separate organization and in 1970 started holding meetings every other year.

These days, the Section is home to a diverse group of consulting actuaries from all over the world who are IACA members. Some work as independent contractors, while others are employed by national or worldwide consulting firms.

For more information, please visit the IACA section page on https://www.actuaries.org/iaa/ or feel free to contact any of the IACA Board members.
Forthcoming Events

2024 – 22-26 September - Brussels, Belgium
Event website: www.joco2024.org with mailing list subscription

2025 – 18-21 May - São Paulo, Brazil
Hosted by the IAA Sections and the Instituto Brasileiro de Atuária

2026 – November 8-13 - Tokyo, Japan
ICA 2026 will be held as part of 33rd ICA.