The International Actuarial Association (IAA) is pleased to announce that at its meeting on December 2021 in Madrid, Spain, the Council of the IAA approved the following individuals to serve as Officers of the IAA effective January 1, 2022.

President: Roseanne Harris (South Africa)
President-Elect: Micheline Dionne (Canada)
Immediate Past President: Jan Kars (Netherlands)

All terms of office are for one year ending on December 31, 2022

Ms. Harris’ involvement in the work of the IAA started in 2014 as a member of the Health, Education and Social Security Committees. From 2018 to 2020, she served on the Executive Committee, also served as Council delegate for the Actuarial Society of South Africa for 2016-17. Her complete bio is available online.

Ms. Harris offered these comments upon assuming the position of IAA President:

I cannot express adequate thanks to the members of Council for the honour of being elected to this position. I am both daunted and excited. Excited because of the opportunity to contribute at this level to the profession that I am so incredibly proud to belong to and daunted because of the large shoes I need to fill given the illustrious members of the profession who have preceded me. I am also daunted because I have big plans for the year ahead.

There is no doubt that we are living through a time of unprecedented uncertainty, and this is an important time for the actuarial profession to be making a positive contribution as we strive to understand, measure and manage the risks that we are facing as a planet. During my presidential term of the Actuarial Society of South Africa, I defined my themes as relevance, integrity and professionalism noting that these were key to our profession’s survival. I am excited to have the opportunity to apply these themes at a global level.

We are facing the massive challenges of post (and current) pandemic risk - what it means to live in a world with COVID-19 as an endemic feature and how to address the protection gaps and inequalities that have been exposed. We are also grappling with the risk and consequences associated with climate change and the urgent need to adapt to more sustainable ways. We need to ensure that the valuable contribution that the actuarial profession can make in understanding these risks and navigating our way through them is apparent to our key stakeholders. The IAA has an important role in encouraging the application of actuarial thinking to these challenges and coordinating the excellent work being done by actuaries across the world.

In terms of my intended organizational focus during my term, there are two...
areas I would like to highlight. The first is diversity and inclusion which is something I feel strongly about. The exciting aspect of this is the opportunity for broader and more diverse participation in the IAA. Secondly, is with respect to the Sections. The IAA Sections is how the IAA reaches individual actuaries around the world and I would like to take steps to ensure that there is better integration and collaboration with the Sections so that we can both really harness the important work of the volunteers participating in the Sections and also ensure that the role of the IAA in tackling matters of global significance is visible to them.

I would like to thank my employers – Discovery Health and Wits University who have been so incredibly supportive already in allowing me to take on this role, and my family for understanding my passion for my profession. I would like to acknowledge my predecessors, Jan who has so ably steered the IAA through an incredibly challenging period in his wonderfully calm and good-humored way and Tonya who has been such an inspiration to me ever since we first met. Finally, I would especially like to thank the volunteers on Council and in all the committees, forums, taskforces and sections who are the driving energy of the IAA and on whom I will be relying on to bring my plans to fruition this year. I encourage you to contact me to share any thoughts and ideas.

Thank you!

NEWS FROM SECTIONS

International Actuarial Colloquium 2022

Carrying the theme ‘Global Pandemic – Beyond the New Normal’, the Colloquium aims to examine lessons learned and explore future options in light of the pandemic. The effects of the pandemic are pervasive and will impact virtually all aspects of insurers’ and pension funds’ business models, including regulation, social protection, capital, investments, risk, products, customers and distribution.

The Call for Papers is now closed and the Scientific Committee is working on finalizing the programme. Registration will also begin shortly. For more information, please visit the event website.
Actuarial Colloquia 2022

Due to the current COVID-19 situation around the world, the Actuarial Colloquia 2022 – hosted by the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS) and presented by the IAA’s AFIR-ERM and ASTIN Sections – has been updated to a fully online format and will take place from June 20–24, with exact times to be confirmed. Stay tuned for more details!

NEWS FROM MEMBER ASSOCIATIONS

Canadian Institute of Actuaries – Canada

With 2022 ushering in the opportunity for more changes, challenges and growth, the Canadian Institute of Actuaries (CIA) is setting its sights higher and is eager to build on the success of 2021.

Your 2021 listening and reading wrap-up

The Institute has compiled the lists of the top 10 CIA podcasts, research publications and Seeing Beyond Risk articles from the past year.

Catch up on the highlights of 2021 that you might have missed. Read, listen and learn about the discussions that have emerged top of mind in the profession and with your peers in this year-end round-up:

- Top 10 podcasts
- Top 10 research publications
- Top 10 Seeing Beyond Risk articles

What’s new

- **Spring 2021 data update to the Actuaries Climate Index**
  
  The Actuaries Climate Index (ACI) has been updated with data through the spring of 2021. This update includes revisions to the maps, graphs and ACI data. Visit the data disclosure webpage for important summary information regarding the data.

- **Results of new experience studies show better credibility**
  
  The CIA’s most recent experience studies reveal that credibility can be seen at higher durations,
mitigating some uncertainty from a valuation/projection standpoint:

- Lapse Experience under Universal Life Level Cost of Insurance Policies
- Lapse Experience under Term-to-100 Insurance Policies

• **New modelling framework enhances the efficiency of mortality forecasts**

Common Mortality Trend Model and Mortality Prediction proposes a modelling framework that allows for the simultaneous consideration of populations at disparate mortality development stages. The research paper also presents a flexible mortality forecasting framework that borrows information not only from across populations but from across time, enhancing both the accuracy and efficiency of mortality forecasting.

5 minutes with …

The CIA is excited to share its latest initiative, 5 minutes with …, a video series profiling the recipients of the CIA Legacy Awards, our annual appreciation program that recognizes the valuable contributions of volunteers who move the CIA forward. This spotlight is recognition of those efforts but, most importantly, it is thanks.

Check out the latest profiles, featuring Amal Rajwani and Sheldon Lin.

**Deutsche Aktuarvereinigung – Germany**

*Increasing the involvement of women: online Female Actuaries Shaping the Future event*

The DAV (German Association of Actuaries) would like to focus on promoting diversity in the Association and increase the visibility and involvement of women in the DAV. To this end, an online networking event will take place on March 1.

In a keynote speech, Laura Gersch, a member of the board of Allianz, will speak on the topic of “Womens in the insurance and finance industry”. Afterwards, DAV board member Susanna Adelhardt will give an insight into the opportunities for volunteering and working in an honorary capacity in the DAV. This will be followed by breakout sessions for participants to get to know each other and exchange ideas on shaping the Association and the profession.

**Actuarial Media Center**

*Convention A: the new conference experience around the globe*

Convention A will be what is called a truly international conference. From September 19–23, the first edition of this new format will take place: an online-only conference from the actuarial community made for the actuarial community.

It will not only run for five days but will also include all time zones, meaning interested actuaries from all over the world will be able to join in at almost any time of the day.

It is being organized by the European Actuarial Academy (EAA) in cooperation with actuview, but will be different from other events: the congress program will be jointly put together by many, many partners, and institutions of the actuarial profession. Confirmed partners include:

- The IAA
- The Actuarial Association of Europe
- Universities from Fudan in China and Ulm in Germany
- The national associations of Austria, Germany, the Netherlands, South Africa and Switzerland

The first confirmed Sponsoring Partner is the Reinsurance Group of America.

All of them will choose a topic and independently host a four-hour expert session as part of the congress program.
Additionally, five high-ranking keynote sessions during prime times, discussing the most pressing and relevant topics of the actuarial profession, will be a daily highlight for all participants.

Further information on Convention A can be found at www.convention-a.com. To stay up to date, please also register here for the event’s newsletter or follow Convention A on Twitter and LinkedIn.

EAA – European Actuarial Academy GmbH

As the European knowledge centre for actuaries, the EAA is offering a broad variety of attractive actuarial training within the next months. Please find below an overview of some upcoming web sessions:

• **Practical Application of Clustering in Insurance, February 16**
  This web session provides an introduction on clustering with a focus on typical stumbling blocks arising when clustering techniques are applied in practice, such as interpretability, missing values and mixed data types. The theoretical explanations will be accompanied by a practical example in R on a public data set showcasing a typical insurance application.

• **Operational Risk for Actuaries, March 3–4**
  Operational risk is the risk of loss, arising from inadequate or failed internal processes, people and systems or from external events. The goal of this session is to provide actuaries with tools and ideas on how to be better involved in operational risk management and how to use existing actuarial toolboxes to improve valuation of operational risk.

• **Introduction to Effective Visuals with ggplot2, March 8**
  Data visualization skills are essential to analyze large amounts of information and make data-driven decisions. There is no insurance professional who does not benefit from making data more understandable. In this session, you will learn how to create elegant and effective visuals with the R package ggplot2.

• **ML Explainability in Actuarial Data Science: A Primer, March 10**
  These days, nobody disputes the profound impact and yet-untouched potential of machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence. This seminar aims to provide insights into the areas of unsupervised learning, supervised learning and artificial neural nets via model-agnostic explainability approaches.

• **An Introduction to Economic Scenario Generators and their Validation, March 14–15**
  The Economic Scenario Generators are at the core of stochastic models used by insurance companies. The applications of stochastic models are very diverse and impose different requirements. This session features discussions of risk-neutral modelling, real-world capital market modelling and ESG validation aspects relevant for Solvency 2 work and other applications.

• **Practical Machine Learning Applications in Finance and Insurance, March 16**
  Artificial intelligence is currently on everybody’s lips and seems to be vital for industry to be successful at the market. This session aims to introduce and build machine learning techniques with the focus on regression and classification problems. It will also explain how to implement machine learning techniques in Python, with the goal of putting the participants in a position to solve any specific problem of interest.
3rd EAA e-Conference on Data Science & Data Ethics

“Big data” and “digitalization” are certainly some of the most important buzzwords that the actuarial profession must deal with today. However, the new role of actuaries within big data and the ongoing digitalization is not yet fully defined. The exchange of best practice experiences and ideas is necessary. Therefore, the EAA is pleased to offer actuaries and other experts a virtual forum for knowledge exchange: on May 12, the third EAA e-Conference on Data Science & Data Ethics will take place.

The conference programme has recently been published and covers an attractive range of keynotes and expert presentations, all devoted to actuarial data science.

Would you like to find out about the latest developments in this hot topic and become part of this must-attend event? If so, you should register by March 12 to benefit from the early-bird offer.

Please visit actuarial-academy.com for further information on EAA events and training.

Casualty Actuarial Society – U.S.

Register for the 2022 Ratemaking, Product and Modeling Virtual Seminar

This year the CAS will host its 2022 Ratemaking, Product and Modeling Seminar and Workshops as a hybrid event – with both in-person and virtual elements – from March 14–16 at the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The seminar gives property/casualty insurance actuaries and consultants the opportunity to earn continuing education credits in a variety of sessions covering relevant and timely topics necessary for continued professional growth and maintaining actuarial credentials. To register, visit the CAS website.

CAS and SOA to host Be an Actuary Month to introduce high school students to the actuarial profession

The CAS and Society of Actuaries (SOA) have partnered to create four virtual events in February to inform high school students about the actuarial profession as a career choice. Held concurrently with the U.S.-based Insurance Careers Month, these free programs celebrate Be an Actuary Month and are designed to inspire students towards a maths-related career path through interactive activities in a fun virtual environment. Credentialed actuaries and candidates are encouraged to volunteer for these events to share their experiences on why they became an actuary. High school students, community college students, teachers and school counsellors are welcome to sign up for any event. For more information on Be an Actuary Month, visit BeAnActuary.org/HSevents.

Call for presentations: 2022 Climate Risk Seminar

The CAS is excited to invite proposals for its Climate Risk Seminar, taking place from July 19–21. This educational and networking event will be entirely virtual, with presenters and attendees logging in from remote locations worldwide. The CAS is seeking strong presenters who can present on the following themes:

- Race and climate change
- Vulnerability indexes
- Climate risk analytics
- Energy policy change
- Climate risk forecasting
- Other special topics, such as agri insurance and geo-spatial data

Submissions are due by February 2. For information on submitting a proposal, please visit the CAS website.
Conference of Consulting Actuaries – U.S.

2022 CCA Enrolled Actuaries Conference – Registration now open!

The 2022 Conference of Consulting Actuaries (CCA) Enrolled Actuaries Conference will be held virtually on May 2, 4 and 6. The meeting will offer 39 sessions covering developments in single-employer, multi-employer, public and small plans as well as other topics relevant to pension professionals. Enrolled actuaries may earn up to 18.5 credit hours of continuing education credits under the Joint Board for the Enrollment of Actuaries (JBEA) requirements. Total credits include 2.0 EA Ethics credits for the Tuesday general session on ethics. Many of the sessions will be recorded, allowing for participants to earn more continuing professional development credits under the Qualification Standards.

For more details, visit the conference website.

Upcoming CCA continuing education webinars

Do not miss these forthcoming events:

- February 9 – Ever-Impending Reform: A Look at Potential Part D Redesign
- February 23 – Assumed Rates of Return and Discount Rates in a Low-Yield Market
- March 9 – Healthcare COVID Update: What We Know Now that We Didn’t Know Then

UPCOMING EVENTS

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