



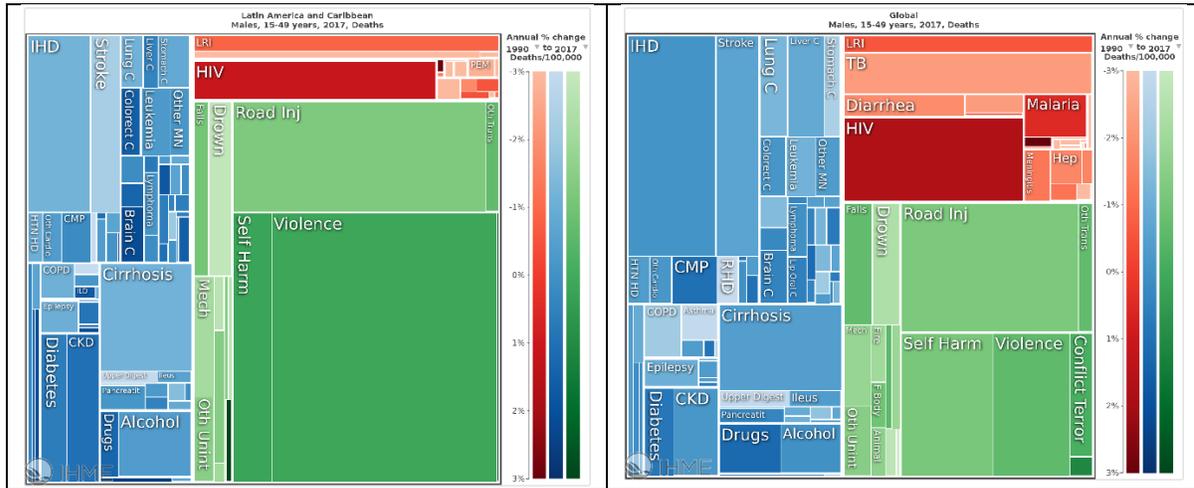
**Mortality Working Group
Wednesday and Friday, 28th and 30th November 2018
Sheraton Maria Isabel Hotel, Mexico City, Mexico
Minutes**

The attendance list can be found at the end of these minutes.

Mortality Working Group – Part 1 – Wednesday 28th November, 2018 -- 14:00 – 17:30

1. **Chairman Brian Ridsdale [welcomed](#) members, guests and external speakers to the meeting.** Members who had joined since he last meeting were: Simon Brimblecombe (Switzerland), Ahsanul Haq (Bangladesh), Michelle Vhudzijena (Zimbabwe), Jeff Johnson (US).
[Minutes](#) from the meeting in Berlin were approved.
2. **Brian reviewed the [Workplan and Budget](#).**
3. **Dale Hall (US) presented an [update](#) on recent US research from the SOA. Key observations included:**
 - a. US population mortality rates declined by 1.3% per year on average from 1999 through 2012, but since then the trend is flat, with rate increases in 2 of the last 5 years.
 - b. Analysis by cause of death (“COD”) shows increasing rates due to accidents, suicides & assaults, with growing influence of deaths from opioid drug overdoses.
 - c. Social Security analysis by size of benefit: lowest benefit amount quintile mortality rate is above 160% of average, while largest benefit amount quintile mortality rate is below 60% of average.
 - d. Increasing use of Socioeconomic group specific mortality tables.
4. **Brian Ridsdale (UK) [presented an update](#) on recent UK research in mortality**
 - a. Items included in the [UK Mortality and Longevity Update #14](#), issued November 22
 - b. A novel approach for forecasting life expectancy, published in the Lancet (a peer reviewed medical journal). Forecasting life expectancy, years of life lost, and all-cause and cause-specific mortality for 250 causes of death: reference and alternative scenarios for 2016–40 for 195 countries and territories, [Foreman et al, Lancet](#) October 2018.
5. **[The effect of Homicide in Latin America](#)**
Ivan Botello, a guest speaker indicated why homicides have such a large impact in Latin America, referencing the fact that Latin American countries represent just 10% of the world’s population but have 25% of the world’s total homicides. In contrast, Asian countries represent 65% of the world’s population but just 5% of the total homicides.

This can be illustrated by comparing male cause of death rates age 15-49 for Latin American countries (chart in left) to the World (on right).



6. Mexican Social Security

Marcela Abraham, Carlos Gonzales, and Rocio Gomez, guest speakers, presented information regarding the emerging mortality experience of individuals who became disabled and eligible for Social Security Disability income.

7. MWG Projects

Updates were provided on the status of the current MWG projects.

- a. [E-cigarettes \(Sam Gutterman\)](#) - This project has been completed and is awaiting approval from the North American Actuarial Journal for publication.
- b. Older Age Mortality Project (Sam Gutterman) – This project is on hold for now
 - i. Separating out the data from the US Dept of Defense. We will seek additional years' data and update the analysis of mortality rate changes at older ages, noting that there is paucity of data on female retired military members. There is however, a large enough data set of surviving spouses who are female.
- c. Long Term Drivers of Future Mortality (Al Klein).
 - i. Progress has been made on eight of the 10 factors. A draft paper will be completed in 2019.
- d. Ayse Arik presented a [proposal on a Cause of Death project](#).
 - i. The project was discussed initially in Berlin. Objectives to catalog, assess and analyze existing data on cause of death. Project would compare COD by country, over time, and use in forecasting mortality. Existing sources include:
 1. Human Mortality Database (COD for 16 countries)
 2. WHO Mortality Database (over 140 countries)
 - ii. MWG members had questions for the project, including:
 1. Will the project be able to address changes in underlying mortality data in HMD?
 2. Will we be able to benchmark to the Lancet study (see item 4b)
 3. Should we check the source data from a country vs. the HMD data?
 - iii. Sources of cause of death (COD) data have been identified, as well as some of their similarities and differences.

- iv. The next goals of the project (to be accomplished in 2019) are:
 - Perform a literature search on COD and COD data and studies and begin to document this information
 - Begin analysis on the COD data by country and trends over time
 - Share preliminary analysis at MWG meetings in 2019
- e. Proposed project on better mortality models - Ermanno led a brief discussion on Michael's outline of the work that was done to date.
 - i. The object of this project is to provide a comprehensive overview of current and future developments in mortality modelling with a focus on better mortality models for actuarial applications. An important secondary objective is to stimulate future research on these areas. The outcome will be a series of papers.
 - ii. In 2019
 - o A literature search will be completed on mortality models, with a focus on gaps where additional research can lead to better modeling
 - o A draft paper will be completed on this topic
 - iii. A more thorough discussion of this project will be discussed at the next meeting

Mortality Working Group – Part 1 – Friday 30th November, 2018 – 08:00 – 12:30

8. Scientific Committee

Martin Stevenson provided an update from the Scientific Committee. With the proposed restructuring of IAA, there are no alignments or changes proposed for the Working Groups in the current blueprint. The WGs don't align directly to the Influence / Assure / Advance structure presented in Mexico. IAA Executive leadership are looking to a better restructuring plan by the next IAA meeting in Washington DC. On a personal note, Martin noted that his term on the Scientific Committee concludes at the end of 2018.

9. Editorial Committee

Ermanno Pitacco led the discussion on papers / reports.

- Action Ask Peter Ying to prepare a Country Report for both Taipei and China
- Action Add Hungary to the MWG Information Database
- Action Ask Leza Wells to update South Africa for 2019
Update Portugal in 2019 (for Tokyo?)
- Action Prompt Dilara for Azerbaijan Country report.

Brian – Propose that the Secretariat confirm when they will restart updates to the MWG Information Base.

Propose that the presentations be moved to the Information Base by topic.

10. Heterogeneity in Mortality

Ermanno Pitacco presented his [paper](#) on heterogeneity in mortality

11. Country Reports

- a. Gyula Horváth presented the [Country report](#) for Hungary and an analysis of [life expectancy in Hungary Post WWII](#).
- b. Hiroshi Yamazaki presented the updated [country report for Japan](#).

12. Underwriting the Elderly

Dr. Keiko Imuro, guest speaker, is Chief Underwriting Officer for RGA’s Latin American market. She presented on the topic of underwriting the elderly.

13. [Life Expectancy in Russia](#)

Dmitri Pomazkin gave his presentation on the dynamics of life expectancy in Russia over the past half century and the prospects of it reaching 80 (or more) by 2030.

14. [Selection of Mortality Models](#)

As Michael Sherris was unable to attend the meeting, his topic on a Data Analytics Paradigm for the Construction, Comparison, and Selection of Mortality Models is deferred to another meeting.

15. Discussion on Potential New Future Projects

Epidemics / bacterial resistance - This is a newly proposed project and the objectives will be presented at the next MWG meeting in Washington DC. Sam Gutterman agreed to chair this new effort to be started sometime in 2019. Several others volunteered to help with this project.

16. Seminar in Washington

Jeff Johnson will chair the seminar planning committee (jointly with Population Issues Working Group). Note: Provisional title: "Public Policy, Social Security and trends in mortality

17. Tokyo - Seminar – possible topic – Understanding Exceptional Mortality

18. Comments on what we could do better

The sound system could be improved.
Presentation slides should be less “busy”. Papers beforehand, simple slides.
Make the MWG Updates more interesting by focusing on research rather than “what happened”
Press the secretariat to get the Information Base updated

19. Plans for meetings in Washington

See country reports (above)
Mika offered a Country report for Finland
Reports from all research projects

20. Marketing

Brian asked for volunteers to work on marketing the MWG. Yair and Dale Hall volunteered. Others are welcome to volunteer with this effort.

Attendance List:

Members		Part 1	Part 2
Brian Ridsdale	Chairperson	✓	✓
Al Klein	Co-Vice Chairperson	✓	✓
Ermanno Pitacco	Co-Vice Chairperson	✓	✓
Onofre Alves Simões		✓	✓
Ayse Arik		✓	✓
Yair Babad		✓	✓
Sam Gutterman		✓	✓
Dale Hall		✓	✓
Gyula Horvath		✓	✓
Bill Horbatt		✓	✓
Jeff Johnson		✓	✓
Mika Mäkinen		✓	✓
Dmitri Pomazkin		✓	✓
Lars Pralle		✓	✓
Adam Reese		✓	✓
Michael Sherris		✓	✓
Hiroshi Yamazaki		✓	✓
Observers			
Bob Beuerlein	American Academy of Actuaries	✓	
Rob Brown	Scientific Committee	✓	✓
Chris Daykin	Institute and Faculty of Actuaries	✓	
Yosuke Fujisawa	Institute of Actuaries of Japan	✓	✓
Elayne Grace	Actuaries Institute Australia	✓	
Rodrigo Ibarra	Equadorian Actuarial Association	✓	
Klaus Mattar	Bronze Patron	✓	
Gabriela Melendez Vargas	Colegio Nacional de Actuarios A. C.		✓
Nicolette Rubinsztein	Actuaries Institute Australia	✓	
Oliva Sanchez	Colegio Nacional de Actuarios A. C.	✓	
Nobu Shimizu	Institute of Actuaries of Japan	✓	
Hiroshi Shoji	Institute of Actuaries of Japan		✓
Lindsay Smartt	Actuaries Institute Australia	✓	
Martin Stevenson	Actuaries Institute Australia	✓	✓
Odd Svendsen	Den Norske Aktuarforening	✓	✓
Neil Tagoe	Actuarial Society of Ghana		✓
Marc Tardif	Canadian Institute of Actuaries	✓	✓
Jose Antonio Valencia Trujillo	Colegio Nacional de Actuarios A. C.	✓	
Joeff Williams	American Academy of Actuaries	✓	