



Mortality Working Group Virtual Meeting
Wednesday, 27 May 2020 from 07:00 to 09:00 a.m. ET

Minutes

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

Chairperson: Marc Tardif

Vice-chairperson(s): Ermanno Pitacco, Leza Wells

Secretary: Nancy Kelly

	Business
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions:</p> <p>Marc Tardif welcomed everyone to the Zoom virtual meeting and introduced new members to the group including Anja Kuys from South Africa, Dan Ryan who replaces Brian Ridsdale (former Chair) as the UK representative and Aldona Skucaite representative from Lithuania who was not present.</p> <p>The agenda was approved as presented with no additional items added.</p> <p>The minutes from the meeting held in Tokyo, Japan on 19 November 2019 were approved as presented with Dale Hall and Assia Billig moving them as 1st and 2nd respectively.</p> <p>Referring to the general Workplan and Budget, Marc noted that the Working Groups were now in an all projects continue/completion phase, with no new business to be created or funding dollars added due to the present COVID status in all countries (non-travel requirements) and due to all Working Groups now being recently moved to become the new Forums. A new reporting and approval process will be introduced at a later time once the Advance Committee to which the Forums will report, has been created.</p>
2	<p><u>IAA Restructure Update:</u></p> <p>Marc gave a brief presentation providing the background and direction on the restructure proposed and recently approved by Council.</p> <p>The main goal of a Forum will be a 'sharing entity' with the goal to share knowledge and expertise among the FMAs. The membership criteria for the newly proposed Forums would be Full Member Association (FMA) based and nominated. There could be more than one representative member from one FMA on a Forum (one primary member with voting rights) and interested persons also need to be nominated and supported by their respective FMA to participate. An Associate Member Association (AMA) can nominate someone to sit on the Forum however they would not have the same status as a full voting member would.</p> <p>Each Forum will be reviewed every 2 years to ensure that they are and continue to be a valuable entity serving the objectives to the IAA and assessing how active members are and activity/s being achieved by the Forum.</p> <p>The Chair and Vice-Chair will be appointed by the Nomination Committee.</p> <p>Chairs of the Forums will sit on the Advance Committee similar (but broader in scope) to how the Scientific Committee works presently. The Leadership of the Advance Committee will be established in</p>

	<p>the coming weeks.</p> <p>Any projects and their respective Task Forces created by the Forums must be limited to the timeframe of the project itself. All new projects and Task Forces (limited to 6 members max) must be approved by the Advance Committee to move forward.</p>
3	<p><u>Research in Mortality - US</u></p> <p>Dale Hall presented the COVID-19 experience in the US including comparative statistics in countries around the world. A brief discussion ensued with questions on factors and patterns that influence these statistics both in the US and other countries.</p>
4	<p><u>Research in Mortality – UK</u></p> <p>Dan Ryan presented the UK experience and data of excess mortality due to COVID-19. His presentation also showed factors and existing conditions people had was also a contributing factor to the increase in count in overall deaths, as well as those number of people who did not seek medical treatment during this time.</p>
5	<p><u>Research in Mortality – Canada</u></p> <p>Assia Billig presented the Canadian experience reporting that data was not timely or readily available from Statistics Canada. She reported mortality trends and projections from the available population data that was done pre-COVID and the effects of COVID that will inevitably change the projections. She stated that updated data for population 65+ covered by a universal Old Age Security Program was expected in the Summer.</p> <p>ACTION: Assia will send an updated presentation to Nancy to replace the one appended to the agenda and minutes. <i>(Completed)</i></p>
6	<p><u>Country Reports</u> <i>(Updated version)</i></p> <p>Leza Wells briefly addressed those country reports that needed to be updated and those countries that are currently without a report.</p> <p>ACTION: Leza advised that she will be sending a call out for reports in preparation for the next working group meeting in the Fall and encouraged all those representatives to prepare to submit their reports at that time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leza will provide an updated document to append to the minutes. <i>(Completed)</i>
7	<p>MWG Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Older Age Mortality Project (On Hold) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sam Gutterman was not on the call to provide an update at this time. ii. Long Term Drivers of Future Mortality (In Progress) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Klein provided a brief update and status of the project. He advised that a paper has been put together but now needs to be reviewed and updated which he hoped to be completed later in the year. The COVID pandemic has interfered with his available time preventing him from moving forward on this and the next project. iii. Underwriting Around the World (In Progress) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Al Klein advised that 2 papers have been published on this topic. He has received information from 19 countries to date and he may receive more information from 5 more countries. He is unsure at this point if further work can be done and completed before year end but will be taken up next year if there is interest on this topic.

	<p>iv. Cause of Death (Presentation) Dov Raphael presented a detailed report on behalf of the project contributors and members Ayse Arik, Yair Babad and himself. He reviewed details in the report as well as the next steps to completion of the project. ACTIONS: Interested members were invited to contact Raphael directly should they wish to do a peer review of the formulas and modelling. The draft report would be sent to the working group in the next month to review and provide any further comments.</p> <p>v. Epidemics (Project Completed) Marc advised that the report was currently going through the Scientific Committee review process and once completed Thomas Béhar, Chair of SC, is expected to pull comments together and advise Sam Gutterman and his team on the results and recommendations.</p> <p>vi. Other Ideas/Discussion Gyula Horváth, Project Manager of the MWG, advised that no new proposals would be requested at this time. Marc confirmed that due to the pending IAA restructure, any further proposals of projects would be discussed and requested once the Advance Committee is in place and the approval process is known.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>Editorial Committee: Mortality WG Information Base Ermanno Pitacco briefly presented the information base as it currently exists on the website. He advised that annual updates were needed to keep the information current but suggested that the categories currently listed be shortened to help page owners/managers in their updates and hopefully to reduce subject overlap. He stressed the importance of collaborating on this project and suggested that the current page owners could work with those experts in the subject areas even those who may not necessarily be members on the working group. A brief discussion ensued on the availability of data to gauge the number of hits on the pages which measures the amount of traffic/visits. Nancy advised that due to the recent creation and moving of these pages onto the current IAA website, those stats would not be available at this time but that older statistics could be relied on. Ksenia Novikova confirmed that the presentation she made to the working group several years ago could be used as a guide in deciding what topics seemed to be of more importance to visitors on the site. ACTION: Ksenia to share information and presentation with Ermanno for his work with page owners to decide on a shorter list of topics and updates. <i>(Completed)</i></p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Marketing Committee Ksenia Novikova raised some questions and requested that members give some thought as they moved forward with pending changes that may affect the overall marketing of activities for the working group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. With regard to the IAA restructure, how would that impact on their activities and projects and how would/could it change their focus moving forward? ii. With regard to the future addition of associate member associations to Forums, how would that affect their work in disseminating translated reports and potentially including additional countries/languages? iii. With regard to supranational organizations and other Forums, how will we be cooperating with any of those groups in the new structure? iv. Although we will be reducing the number of topics on the Info base page, should we be adding any information/reports on COVID and highlighting them? Marc confirmed that although the IAA has added some information on COVID on the website,

	<p>he expressed the view that MWG would not be doing its job if they were not sharing this kind of relevant information and perhaps have a dedicated group gathering and preparing material on this topic. Ibrahim Muhanna also suggested that perhaps MWG could contribute and collaborate with the other committees in providing input to an overall single IAA report/message rather than having separate reporting on several various pages on the topic. Marc agreed that working collaboratively with the other committees made sense and they would take this approach on the subject going forward.</p>
<p>11</p>	<p>Next meeting and Adjournment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marc advised that the next meetings originally scheduled to take place in Ottawa, Canada in the Fall will not be taking place due to the COVID situation but will now be held virtually. A schedule is expected to be made and shared for these meetings to be held in the later November timeframe. • Following a brief discussion it was agreed that an additional Mortality WG meeting would be scheduled prior to the virtual meeting in the mid to late September timeframe to continue with ongoing work and activities in preparation for the Fall virtual meeting. <p>ACTION: Marc to work with Nancy on identifying next meeting dates and a doodle poll will be sent out for members' response.</p> <p>Marc thanked everyone for their participation and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 09:15.</p>

List of Participants

Marc Tardif – **Chair**
 Ermanno Pitacco – **Co-Vice-Chair**
 Leza Wells – **Co-Vice-Chair**
 Gyula Horváth – **Project Manager**
 Ksenia Novikova – **Marketing**
 Amali Seneviratne – **IAA Staff**
 Nancy Kelly – **IAA Staff**

Members:

Adam Reese
 Al Klein
 Anja Kuys
 Assia Billig
 Ayse Arik
 Dale Hall
 Dan Ryan
 David Bogataj
 Dmitri Pomazkin
 Dov Raphael
 Eduardo Martinez
 Ewa Dylewska
 Farid Flici
 Hans de Mik
 Hans Michael Øvergaard

William Horbatt
Ibrahim Muhanna
Lars Pralle
Luis Al. Jimenez
Michelle Vhudzijena
Morteza Aalabaf-Sabaghi
Onofre Simões
Rikard Bergström
Séverine Arnold
Yair Babad