

ACTUARIES making sense of the future on **GENETICS**

by Alan Doble

Institute of Actuaries of Australia

A New Millennium.

A New Challenge for Actuaries

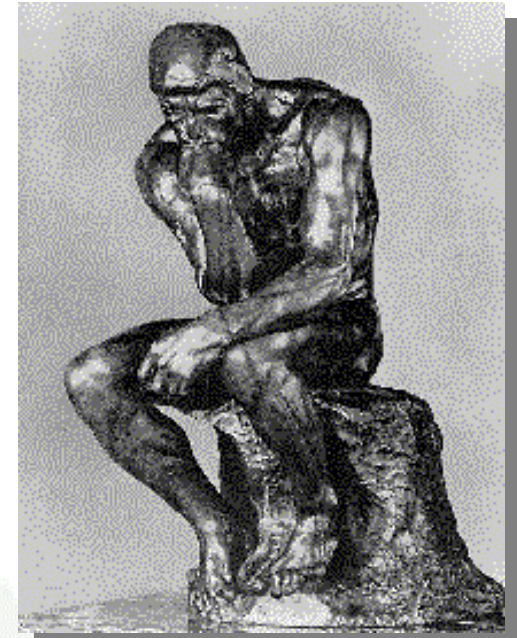


Australian View

“One of the roles of the actuarial profession is to inform public debate”

“to clarify...technical, statistical and financial implications of policy decisions

(Coleman, 2000)



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Genetics = Hot Media Topic

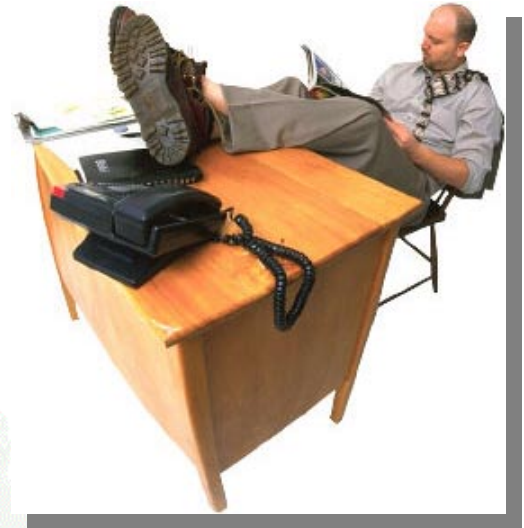
- **Daily Articles**
 - Popular Press
 - TV and Radio
 - Financial Journals
- **Now in the Public Mind?**
 - Yes, ...
 - But is it sensationalised?



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Who is interested?

- **Medical Industry**
 - Doctors & Geneticists
 - Drug Companies (\$\$\$)
- **Governments**
- **Law firms**
- **Insurers**
- **Actuaries (?)**



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IAAust Paper: Seven Major Areas

- 1 **Education: How genes work**
- 2 **HGP: Improving human health**
- 3 **Ethical questions in human genetics**
- 4 **Genetically modified organisms (GMOs)**
- 5 **Genetics and the financial sector**
- 6 **Legislation and Codes of conduct**
- 7 **Actuarial modelling**



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Direct Challenges to Actuaries



- **Wider Fields?**
 - Modelling for industry
 - GMOs
- **Insurance costs?**
 - Death insurance (↓)
 - Annuities & Pensions (↑)
 - Disability insurance (↔)
 - Critical Illness (definitions?)
 - Health insurance (↑)
 - Liability Covers (?)

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Law Reform in Australia

- **Increasing interest by Government**
 - Joint legal/health inquiry
 - To be prepared by ALRC and AHEC
 - Report to Attorney General & Minister of Health
 - Multi Stage reporting
 - Final recommendations March 2003
 - Substantial IAAust input



Law Reform & Health Inquiry

- **Protection of Human Genetic Information**
- **Protection of Privacy**
- **Anti-discrimination**
 - Medical & health services
 - Employment/ industrial relations
 - Life Insurance



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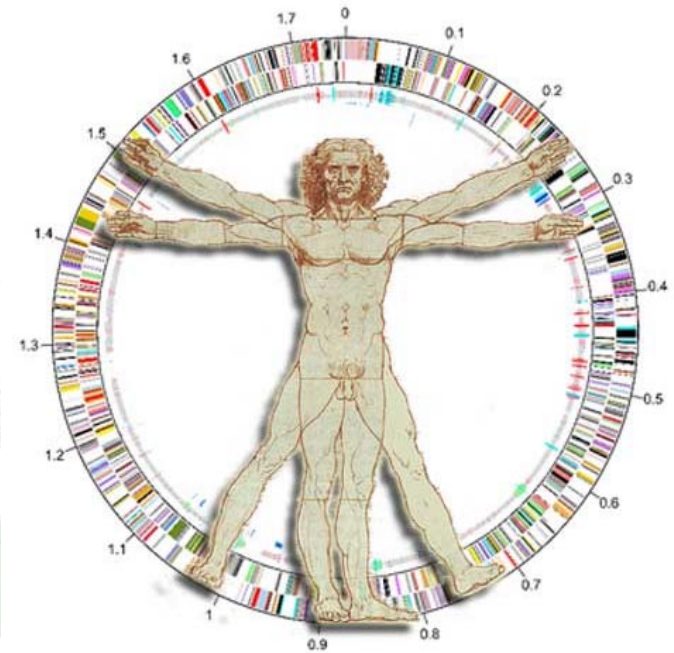
Indirect Challenges

- **IAAust supports fair pricing practices**
 - **Voluntary insurance needs underwriting**
- **No objection to IFSA Life Insurance Policy**
 - **Full disclosure of known test results**
 - **Insurers should not ask for new tests**
 - **No “hidden” coercion (no preferred lives)**
 - **ACCC approval for two years**
 - **Joint Inquiry results then known**

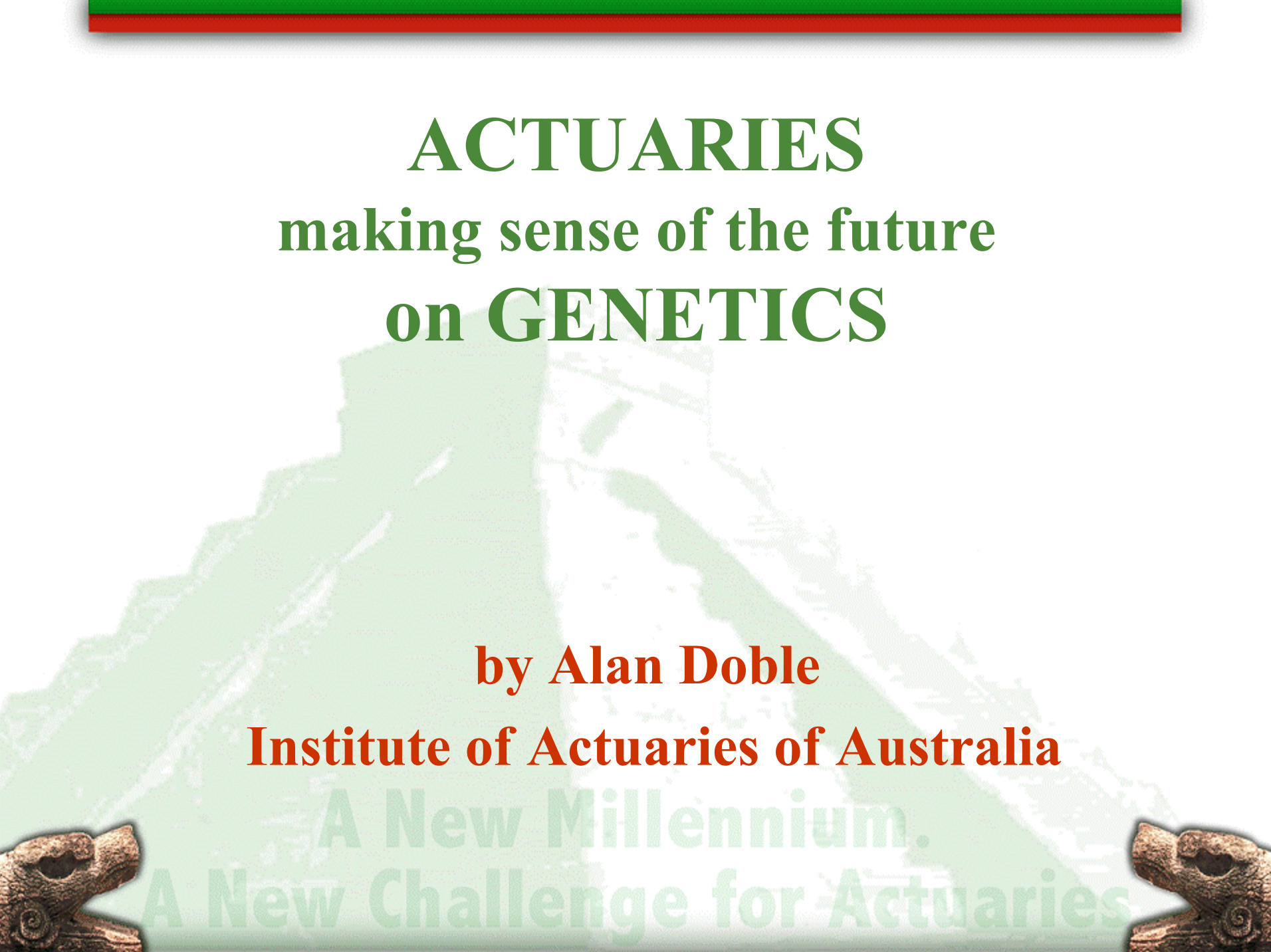


Forum: Questions on Genetics

- Do actuaries know enough?
- Are we active enough?
- What is it we should do?



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