



Life Section Board Zoom-meeting

March 14th 2025 07:00 (EST) / 13:00 (Paris)

AGENDA

0. Agenda of the meetings and notes Pedro
1. Minutes of last Board meeting for approval Pedro
2. JoCo 2025 Brazil Bill/Pedro
3. Organization of other seminars and colloquia update
 - 2025 Online Colloquium Martin & Ernst
 - 2026 Congress Tokyo Takuro
 - 2027 Colloquium Luxembourg Pedro
4. Scientific committee Jeff/Danilo
 - Announcing call for 2025
5. Virtual club (blog of first session, publishing as article; brainstorming of next topic/speakers) Martin/Simone
6. IAALS bursary guidelines Bill
7. Webinars Ernst
8. Expansion and Value proposition of the Life section
 - Marketing efforts with local FMAs and target markets Pedro
 - Interview series Martin/Simone
 - Next steps for Japanese actuaries Takuro
9. Any other business



Board members

- Pedro Pacheco Villagrán (Mexico) – Chair
- Bill Sayre (United States) – Treasurer
- Ana Bojanic (Serbia) – Secretary
- Simone Brathwaite (Barbados)
- Paul Nitsou (Canada)
- Martin Oymanns (Germany)
- Marika Guralnik (Estonia)
- Ernst Visser (The Netherlands)
- Danilo Aulicino (Italy)
- Jeffrey Humphreys (Australia)

IAA Delegates

- Gunn Albertsen
- Peter Withey

IAA Section representative

- Teboho Mabeba

IAA Director

- Christian Levac

Absent Board Members

- Rosalind Rossouw (United Kingdom) – Vice-Chair
- Takuro Sorihashi (Japan)

MINUTES

0. Agenda of the meeting and notes

The agenda for today's meeting was adopted without any changes.



1. Minutes of last Board meeting for approval

Minutes of the last Board meeting were approved.

2. JoCo 2025 Brazil (May 18-21 2025)

Pedro reminded that we have a financial risk with this colloquium (if there is a financial loss, it will be split between the Sections); the event needs to be a success, both for Brazil and in the context of this becoming an annual event.

Christian also noted that his involvement in the organization of the event has been a lot more involved than is usually the case – usually the local association plans the event, and we need to stick to this principle for future events.

- **BURSARIES:** 5,700 CAD was committed to IAALS bursaries for the JoCo; the request for additional funds (from Volodymyr Zubchenko, from Ukraine) is another 3,500-4,000 CAD. This was approved by the Board via email. The travel costs are paid after the conference, based on the actual amount used.
- **WORKSHOP:** Pedro updated that this will take place on Thursday morning 8:30-12. Gallagher (one of the gold sponsors and the initiator of the workshop) had some questions regarding organization which were resolved yesterday. The name of the workshop is still being decided.
- **RECORDING:** (Live-streaming is more expensive and complicated/tricky, potentially without added value given the time zones; while recording is less expensive and does not require a great Internet connection. All other Sections have opted out of recording or live streaming.)

Pedro sent via email, in coordination with Bill, a request for Board member's opinions on this. The vote indicated **just recording** (no live stream).

Christian noted that one of the challenges of Sao Paolo (vs Brussels) is that there is only the 1 main (bigger) auditorium and all the other rooms are smaller break-out rooms; so there is a potential issue with IAALS having the main room for all sessions. The alternative is recording just the plenary sessions and splitting that cost. ASTIN will be deciding on this next week.

Pedro and Bill/Christian repeated the above. At the last JoCo organizer meeting, the topic of potentially sharing the cost with other Sections was discussed but hasn't been decided yet. The other Sections are not interested in recording but do have a qualm with the biggest auditorium being taken up by IAALS regardless of the number of IAALS attendees in comparison to the other Sections'. The recording equipment can't be moved around so the room will have to be set in advance.

- **REGISTRATION NUMBERS:** Christian updated that Early-bird registration ends today: as of this morning, ~140 registrations had come through, but there are still ~40 speakers who haven't registered, so the total number at this point should be ~180. We are doing pretty well in terms of sponsorship and have reached the sponsorship goal, so in terms of breaking even, we need about 100 more registrations.



- **AGM:** A reminder that **the AGM will take place on May 20th**. A quorum is not needed for AGM purposes. (5? IAALS Board members will be attending the JoCo live: Marika will arrive on the evening of the 20th).

The authors who won the prize will not be able to make it to Brazil to present the paper at the AGM; **Christian is investigating whether it might be possible for the presentation to be virtual** (PBSS has the same issue).

Ana will not be present in Brazil/ at the AGM, but will be in touch with Tebo to coordinate/prepare the presentation slides.

3. Organization of seminars and colloquia update

- **2025 IAALS Online Colloquium**

October 8, 2025 (tbc); 1-day fully virtual online event (after the Morocco meetings)

Central theme is **‘Exploring long-term risks’ (aging, longevity, demographics)**. A draft program schedule was circulated which included a keynote followed by 3 technical sessions on topics for practitioners or exciting research / academia areas. On the one side it will be tested as a format – so a discussion format of closed groups of around 20 people with a Board member as moderator, aligned to their expertise, and then rather than an open discussion than a presentation format. This will be done in the morning and the afternoon to serve as many time zones as possible, and it will be recorded and put on Actuvier afterwards. There would also be a keynote panel in the afternoon. So in total, 6 technical sessions, 2 discussion forums and 2 plenary / keynote sessions.

Martin also shared a project plan – the website would be set up in 2024 to communicate the save the date, and then in Feb 2025 we can consider speakers to include in the program, and publish this in May 2025, as well as the promotion ahead of September / early October 2025. We are trying to say that it’s open and free or charge for life section members, so you can become a section member for 60 CAD and you can take part in the event free of charge, which will also help secure Life Section membership for 2024/2025. JoCo is in May 2025 in Brazil – Pedro asked to check the alignment of dates. The goal is 300 participants. There are no sponsors so all costs will be covered from our budget. Ros commented members will appreciate the free registration and will encourage new members to the section. Christian confirmed no clash with the Morocco meetings.

We would need a good keynote speaker; Ernst suggested Dennis Meadows, whom he has reached out to already; no response yet but would be great. **The Board should suggest potential speakers.**

Ernst updated that the latest meeting was yesterday; the speakers are still being worked on, and again urged other Board members to feely suggest topics/speakers. He reminded the Board of the main themes, as circulated by Martin on February 14th. Danilo enquired on what type of support is encouraged from our side; **Ernst reiterated**



that suggestions of speakers would be more helpful. Danilo and Simone had some suggestions and will let Ernst and Martin know.

– **2026 Congress Tokyo (November 8-13 2026)**

Takuro updated that they are forming the Subject Committee under the Program Committee; they will be asking for help from the IAALS Board for the Subject Committee, particularly in regards to the best paper selection. Three people from Japan will be in the Life Section Subcommittee and working with us on this.

Takuro updated that Marika has volunteered to be on the Subject Committee for IAALS (the task would mostly consist of reviewing the abstracts/papers once they start coming in after March and afterwards selecting the best paper) and thanked Marika for this.

Christian updated that the Call for papers will be released in the next week or two; the deadline will be end-of-September.

– **2027 Colloquium Luxembourg**

Christian updated that he had a preliminary meeting with the organizing committee a few weeks ago (the agreement was signed ~3 months ago); they are just starting to work on preliminary budgeting, how the accounting will work etc., so this is starting slowly; we'll know more later this year.

– **2028+**

Christian updated that the next JoCo will be coming up with 2028, followed with the next ICA in 2029 (Kenya). Regarding the location of the 2028 JoCo, and keeping in mind the rotation of the locations, they have approached the Canadian Institute of Actuaries to see if they'd be interested in hosting; this will be discussed in Sao Paolo.

4. Research / Scientific committee

Jeff and Danilo volunteered to be the liaisons & help to Severine for the Scientific committee.

Christian reminded / updated the new members that at the last call for research we had received 5 proposals; accepted 2, of which 1 backed out, and the contract negotiation with the second one is still ongoing. **The Board agreed we should/could publish a new call.**

Jeff helped Severine with abstracts for the JoCo (Brazil); categorizing them, marking some as potential rejections, and looking at reviewing a few for the prize.

Christian also updated that the research project launched last year has finally been signed by the University of Switzerland, so this can now proceed.

Bill suggested CAD 20,000 for two projects (originally this was CAD 30,000 for one project); but we can still say 30,000 per project. The Board agreed on this.



Ana noted that the new Call for research was published two days ago. Danilo updated that other than working on the finalization of topics for that Call, Jeff and himself also participated in the committee for the Ragnar Norbert prize, which was also announced recently.

5. Virtual Club (quarterly informal virtual IAALS gathering)

The event took place on December 18th, in two sessions, under the name *The ColloquIAALS: How Actuaries Can Use AI in Their Work, Along with Other AI-Related Topics*.

Rosalind reported that feedback was truly great. Tebo will share the recordings of both sessions with Rosalind so that **Ros can write a blog**. Given the high quality of the event, the great content discussed and good questions raised, the Board discussed the possibility of publishing an article of the event in actuarial magazines; **Rosalind will ask permission of the speakers to do so**. Peter suggested contacting FMA's in this regard.

In terms of the write-up/blog of the first gathering, Rosalind is still working on this. Tebo noted that the recordings are on youtube and on actuvie. A discussion between the Board members on whether this was permissible (and desired) ensued. It was concluded that we do not have explicit permission; and that since the idea was to keep the discussion as a 'safe place' and promote active participation, that the best way forward would be to publish only the opening presentations (pending approval from the speakers) and not to publish the ensuing discussion. Ros also noted that she is in a very busy work period and might have to reach out to other Board members for help.

The idea of the frequency of this type of event was also discussed – ideally **quarterly**. Pedro suggested a panel format as ideal.

Rosalind hasn't received ideas on potential people and ideas to include in the next panel, but she is leaning towards the climate change topic, and suggested getting in touch with speakers from the interview series as potential 'speakers'. Simone provided these contacts and Ros sent out emails to them.

In terms of dates, it would be great to have **the next gathering towards the end of March** and suggested focusing our energy.

This is put on hold since Rosalind is on temporary leave due to health issues. The Board wishes her a quick recovery. Ana updated that Rosalind had already made contact with potential speakers/moderators for the next meeting, with the mention of end-of-March as a date; but due to Ros' absence, Tebo, Martin, Simone & herself had decided to put this on hold temporarily & notify those contacts that the date will be postponed. Tebo already did this (notified Rade, Christelle and Sandra).

Tebo also updated that they had removed the recording of the December 18th session that was on actuvie, as agreed.



6. Bursary process formalization/guidelines

Bill shared that as a Section we do not have formal guidelines on the bursaries; we usually model the choices based on Christian's input on what other Sections are doing, what the specific country's situation is, etc. For the 2025 JoCo, the case that had been discussed via email since the last Board meeting was due to the higher-than-standard amount of travel costs; the Board had voted on approving the additional amount, but agreed to discuss guidelines for the future.

Christian said that an IAA bursary policy does exist, but it is specific to ICA's. Some Sections do have their own policies (and ideally, these would be the same across all Sections). In general, other Sections do not approve full travel costs; some responsibility on the side of the bursary recipient is expected.

It was agreed for Christian to send out a template/sketch of any bursary policies the other Sections have (AFIR and ASTIN), that we could use as a base for the IAALS.

Christian asked Tebo if she could dig these out and send to Bill, with AFIR being simpler so a better template.

7. Webinars

Ernst updated that the details of the next webinar have been finalized: the date will be a little bit later than planned: **April 15**; the topic is ***Granular Mortality Modelling with Temperature- and Epidemiological-related Shocks***, by Karim Barigou, and he himself will be moderating.

Tebo confirmed she has all the information she needs from Ernst so the promotion will start soon. Ernst expressed concern regarding technicalities due to a recent webinar he attended that had failings; Pedro noted that usually they have rehearsals one day prior to the event, which he recommends.

Following the April 15th webinar, the next one they are considering is on the topic of increasing speed of life actuarial calculations via GPU, by a speaker from AON; more details to follow.

8. Expansion and Value Proposition of the Life Section

– General comments

Pedro believes that we should have more aggressive marketing for these types of events. Marketing material should be sent not only to IAALS members but also to FMA's. Martin agreed, noting that the number of registered people for virtual attendance ahead of the JoCo was low (~30), despite the event being free, so the question does stand on whether we are really reaching our membership.

Marika noted that being present at FMA gatherings is a very useful & productive medium for presenting the Sections and doing targeted marketing. She also mentioned that due to the diverse background & geographic location of the Board members themselves, we could also individually contribute to marketing in our own local associations/areas.



Rosalind noted that there was some disorganization in terms of marketing, citing the example that we did not maximize the JoCo for IAALS marketing.

- **Marketing efforts with local FMAs and target markets**

A quick recap of the meeting held between Pedro, Marika, Paul, Christian, Martin and Tebo in November: All Sections are struggling to find more members; some regions are more active than others; not many people are aware of the added value of section membership. An administrative issue is that only 1/3 of the FMA's in the IAA collect Section fees on IAA's behalf along with their own dues (it is much easier to sign up for Section membership when doing it at the same time with FMA dues than separately through the IAA site). A language barrier also exists; the IAALS has alleviated this through providing closed captioning of our webinars.

The overall conclusion is that definitely more marketing needs to be done through FMA's. Marika noted that we need a more individualized approach to FMA's since they are all different and require different approaches. Being tailor-made is a more time-consuming effort so will take longer; Martin added that for this reason, we should start right away, with selected target FMA's as first steps. They agreed these first targets should be: Latin America, Korea, Singapore and India.

Christian will share the number of IAALS members by country; which should help the Board members to see the situation.

Pedro updated that the other challenge discussed was how to raise interest for Section events with younger actuaries; for example the Young actuaries World Cup at the ICA. Bill noted that the SOA has a Young Professionals group, which organizes their own webinars, events etc; and have a representative sit at SOA Board meetings to represent their views. He also mentioned perhaps we could provide subsidized fees to younger actuaries; Christian noted that this would as well be more burdensome administratively, but will be possible when the new IAA website is launched. Ernst updated that in the Netherlands there is a similar 'circle' or younger actuaries. Martin noted that much is going on in this respect; for example in the Dutch and German associations, effort is being put into engaging the younger, not yet credentialed actuaries in terms of encouragement to stay in the actuarial profession (vs wider fields where they would not need the credential) as well as to engage them to participate in association activities through volunteering etc. Martin noted that these young actuaries groups should definitely be contacted for marketing of Section membership.

Jeff noted that they have 1400 actuaries registered as working in the life insurance sector, but only 42 members (of which 7 are students), which is quite disappointing, but follows the trend of ~3%.

Danilo mentioned and shared the link of the SOA feature of a mentorship program in which younger actuaries can ask more experienced ones questions, which he finds great and perhaps could be used for the IAALS: <https://www.soa.org/resources/tables-calcs-tools/mentor-link>

Pedro and Marika will be in a task force with the upcoming President of the IAA (now at the SPC) and will share more ideas about the Sections in this task force.



Pedro updated on the recent discussions on this topic (mostly a repeat of the challenges outlined above.) He will be having a meeting with Charles Cowling later today.

Regarding the Strategic planning committee, Marika commented that the challenge at the last meeting was that the 'big tanker' is not moving; many discussions are taking place but nothing is really happening; leading to Pedro's conclusion that the governance topic needs to be separated from the Sections-promotion topic, and Life section ideas being discussed separately.

Marika agreed to take lead on this part; Pedro and her will see who from the IAALS Board could participate in this smaller committee, to make the decisions and share ideas on how to promote our section more. **Pedro will discuss this today with Charles.**

– **Interview Series with climate practitioners**

Link for previous series: [Events, Webcasts and actuview - Interview Series](#)

Simone again urged Board members who haven't watched the videos to do so, as they are of high quality with high profile speakers.

Regarding the next theme, Simone shared that based on feedback, this would be:

Life Unlocked: Navigating Longevity and Mortality Trends; with the following subtopics:

- Views on impact on mortality and longevity due to medical advancements, pandemics, climate changes or lifestyle changes
- Developing and refining mortality and morbidity tables
- How are developments in AI advancing the assessment of mortality and longevity risks
- Implications of longevity risk for pension and life products.
- Estimating worst case scenarios for mortality and longevity for ORSA – in the medium and long term.

Martin reminded that the budget for this is around 6,000 CAD.

Simone updated that they have some names are in the process of outlining these; with a launch hopefully in the next few months. **Pedro promised to send Simone and Martin the name of a Mexican actuary and PhD holder who specializes in longevity risk** and demographic studies. Simone enquired if any IAALS Board members have UK contacts, since they recently published a very interesting study on this topic.

– **Japanese membership**

Jeff is interested in conclusions/lessons learned on this topic, as he is keen on increasing Australian membership as well. **Takuro and Jeff will be in touch offline for exchanging experience and ideas.** Jeff also inquired on Australian membership; **Tebo will provide it to him.**



In terms of next steps, Takuro said that other than the recent webinar geared towards Japanese actuaries, the ICA 2026 activities are also including promo material for the Sections, including IAALS. He suggested perhaps trying to set up another similar webinar, noting that currently Japanese actuaries are very interested in international activities due to the ICA participation. The conclusion was that efforts need to be continued.

Takuro discussed the slight decrease in IAALS membership. As a next step, he will work on the next speaker for a webinar geared for the Japanese market. Pedro reaffirmed the significance of the Japanese market and the focus on increasing membership and engagement there. Rosalind enquired whether Bill might have some Miliman contacts in Japan that Takuro could reach out to – Bill will ask his colleague again. Rosalind also suggested having some sort of series or 'Road to ICA 2026' that would engage Japanese actuaries.

Christian noted that the other Sections are doing webinars/gatherings, mostly focused on insurance-specific regulations, geared towards the Asian market, and that this might be a worthwhile idea for the IAALS to consider. Pedro also reminded of the translation tool presented in Talinn – Christian noted this was a pay-per-minute so could be added any time.

Takuro updated that not much progress has been made towards increasing membership; other than his enquiry on the numbers, particularly since he received the feedback that Japanese actuaries do not receive IAA emails. He will be gathering more details and have an update for the next meeting.

The next meeting will take place on April 11th 2025.