



## Working Party Volunteer Vacancy

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### New Working Party: Diabetes

### Closing Date: 30 November 2017

The Health and Care Research Committee is planning to launch a member-led working party to research the risk factors, incidence and mortality of diabetes along with future plausible trend scenarios which are of relevance to working actuaries. The working party should encompass a wide range of expertise and the committee would welcome volunteers from both within and outside the Actuarial Profession.

The committee is looking for both:

- members of the working party
- people with expertise in the area of diabetics who can act as subject matter experts (not necessarily committing to being full working party members).

Please note in your application which role you are applying for and whether you would be prepared to serve as Chair or Deputy Chair of the working party.

### Brief description

The prevalence of diabetes is significant and increasing which will have consequences for both mortality and morbidity rates. In the UK the prevalence is 4.0m (0.5m estimated undiagnosed) and this is expected to increase to 5m in total in 2025.

The topic of diabetes raises many potential questions:

- what is diabetes and how is type 1 and type 2 defined?
- what is the historical incidence of diabetes and what are the drivers for the increase in prevalence
- disability consequences for people with Diabetes and how can prognosis be improved e.g. by changing life style
- what are the key rating factors for the condition and what role do increasing obesity rates play?
- what is the mortality rate for a population with diabetes and what could be the impact of future treatments?
- what is the future treatment and how effective will it be?

Naturally the increasing prevalence presents the insurance industry with challenges and opportunities:

- what are the underwriting implications as treatments improves?
- can the industry cover more people with diabetes and can products be developed that can influence behaviour to improve mortality?
- how effective is diet at controlling this disease?

The working party is being established in order to develop a centre of knowledge and understanding on diabetes within the profession, drawing upon expertise through links outside the profession where necessary.

### **Working party objective/aims**

Given the high prevalence of this disease and implication on NHS budgets and mortality/morbidity implications we view this is a key public interest issue which will also have consequences for the insurance industry.

### **Experience/skills/background desirable**

We are seeking to invite up to 10 members to join this working party. Ideally, these members will have a background in understanding mortality and morbidity, the issues associated with medical underwriting and a keen interest in the diabetes condition. We anticipate having a broad spread of expertise and interests.

Medical practitioners, or others, with expertise in diabetes are also invited. We would welcome such members as either full working party members or as subject matter experts that the working party can refer to.

### **Outputs:**

Working parties should aim to produce a written record of their findings, as well as seeking opportunities to present their research. A first output should be an initial paper setting out the mortality and morbidity implications and consequences for the insurance industry.

The potential outputs should be substantive and could include:

- article(s) in The Actuary to draw attention to the research
- present at the Protection, Health and Care Conference or Life Conference in 2018
- preparing and presenting a Sessional Event or British Actuarial Journal paper
- presentations at regional societies and other Professional conferences (e.g. Risk & Investment conference)
- a website / wiki
- proposal for government
- press releases on key findings

### **The types of tasks working party members take part in:**

- chairing meetings
- reviewing literature and draft papers/reports
- interviews
- creating questionnaires
- writing
- modelling

### **Time commitment**

For this working party, volunteers will typically be expected to attend between four and eight teleconference meetings per annum, each lasting 30-90 minutes, and to perform research between meetings. Volunteers should expect to contribute to the research and drafting of articles and papers. The content of the work has yet to be identified so the commitment required is not yet clear. Conference calls will be arranged at a mutually convenient time for all involved.

If you live or work near to one of the IFoA offices, you are welcome to make use of our facilities for the call. Similarly, if more than one member of the working party is based close to each other, you may agree to meet up and dial in together, but there will be no requirement for volunteers to meet in one place.

### **October 2017**