



## Xi Cynthia Yuan

**Nominated by: Wen Li and David Hare**

**Age: 39**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 2012**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### CV

I am currently Deputy Manager of the Actuarial and Risk Management Department of China Re Group. Before joining China Re, I worked as ERM team leader for Sargicor at Lloyd's. I worked in various roles in the London market - as pricing actuary at Gen Re and benefit consultant at Watson Wyatt.

I am currently a member of Council of the Insurance Institute of China. I am also advisor for CIRC (Chinese Insurance Regulatory Committee) in C-ROSS (Chinese Solvency II reformation) constitution, acting as chairman of various working parties regarding issues like correlation between risks, credit risks and reinsurance solvency regulation. I also facilitated the establishment of the first Chinese owned syndicate (2088) in Lloyd's.

### Professional Work

I chaired the working party *Economic Capital Modeling in Emerging Market* at GIRO and have acted as a speaker. I take part in various conferences both internationally and locally and am active in speaking about my profession. I mentor students in China helping them for their exams and career development. I organize the China Re Group actuarial seminar every year to promote professional standard academically. I also organize the seminar jointly between China Re Group and the IFoA to promote my profession in my local area.

### Why I want to be a Council member

Almost half of the IFoA membership is now based outside the UK and I believe this proportion is set to increase. I have always been proud to be a Fellow of the IFoA, even more so after I came back to China from the UK. I have always been very supportive of the development of the IFoA, and feel that I can contribute more to the profession if I am a member of Council.

If I am elected to be on the Council, I will help to engage more with our overseas members, helping the profession to deliver its international strategy and to bring our UK and overseas members closer. Also, I believe the high working standard set by the IFoA would help local regulatory development. I would love to be a facilitator of these.

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## **Charles Cowling**

**Nominated by: Fiona Morrison and Jane Curtis**

**Age: 51**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 1991**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### **CV**

I have been a director at JLT Employee Benefits since 2006. Before that I was a Worldwide Partner at Mercer, having worked there since 1984.

I am a pensions actuary but I have also worked in the areas of investment, HR and Executive Compensation and as a computer systems analyst.

I am a Fellow of the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications and I am a Chartered Mathematician and a Chartered Scientist.

I am married with four children and I am a Churchwarden and a governor of Bolton School.

### **Professional Work**

- Member of Council (2003 – 2009, 2011 – 2014)
- Honorary Secretary (2007 – 2008)
- Chairman of Pensions Board (2008 – 2010)
- Chairman of Discount Rates Steering Committee (2009 – 2013)
- UK pensions representative at the International Actuarial Association (2011 - )
- I am a regular presenter at conferences in the UK and overseas and an author, or co-author, of a number of actuarial papers - our paper on discount rates was the recipient of the Peter Clark award for the best paper in 2011.
- Master of the Worshipful Company of Actuaries (2013 – 2014)
- Governor of the Pensions Policy Institute (2013 - )

### **Why I want to be a Council member**

I want to promote diversity and opportunity, particularly amongst our younger members. There are challenges in many traditional areas of actuarial work, but so many opportunities for actuaries in wider fields. We need to encourage our brightest and best actuaries from all backgrounds to show the world what we can do. Our CERA and analyst qualifications are just a step in the right direction of encouraging much wider participation of actuaries in our society.

I also want to continue to support our overseas strategy, both in terms of enhancing our support to overseas members but also in terms of supporting the Institute and Faculty as a world leading professional body.

Finally, I am a strong supporter of our duty to serve the Public Interest, not only through our professional work, but also in the many other ways that actuaries can and do give something back to our society – from important research through to valuable charitable work.



## **Mike Smedley**

**Nominated by: David Fairs and Peter Tompkins**

**Age: 44**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 1993**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### **CV**

I have been with KPMG since 2005 and am a Partner in the pensions advisory team. I advise a mix of trustees and predominantly sponsors, and in the past have been Scheme Actuary to a portfolio of schemes, had a brief spell as an investment consultant and been a specialist in mergers and acquisitions. I have a degree in mathematics and a MBA.

- Mercer (2000-2005)
- Towers Perrin (1998-2000)
- PriceWaterhouse (1993-1998)
- New Bridge Street Consultants (1990-1993)

### **Professional Work**

- Adviser to Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) on the development of the Financial Assistance Scheme in 2005
- Member of the DWP-sponsored industry working group on Incentivised Transfer Exercises (ITE) and the ongoing ITE Monitoring Board
- Speaker at conferences and a regular press commentator
- Co-opted member of IFoA Council since late 2013

### **Why I want to be a Council member**

I was co-opted to Council about six months ago, having been 'runner up' in the 2013 elections. A few impressions from my involvement so far:

- The IFoA has changed for the better and become less "sleepy", but not yet dynamic;
- There is healthy debate and criticism, and Council is not complacent;
- Public interest concerns seem to drive some decisions at the expense of members' interests;
- Issues and opportunities can be slow to progress and implement.

In the light of this experience, the three things that I will push for on Council if elected are:

1. Supporting actuaries: More time and energy promoting and supporting actuaries, and seeking opportunities for de-regulation not red tape.
2. Being commercial: Generally being faster, bolder and proactive. If we are slow then others will fill the gaps in our place.
3. Listening to members: Understanding members as a whole, particularly the silent majority and those outside regulated areas who don't always get a voice.

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## **Johan Strydom**

**Nominated by: Charles More and Gurinder Aulakh**

**Age: 36**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 2008**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### **CV**

Johan is an actuary and director of The Actuarial Consultants. He has 15 years' actuarial experience and has been involved in the research and development of Telematics Insurance for over 7 years. Recently he has been consulting as Head of Pricing for the Markerstudy Group followed by a focus on telematics broker propositions and product developments. His main interests are in developing improved risk models for insurers and attractive insurance products for customers.

Johan was nominated for the Actuarial Post Magazine, GI Actuary of the Year Award, in 2013.

### **Professional Work**

Johan enjoys contributing to discussions and debates in new areas where technology allows actuaries to add value. He is a regular speaker at conferences where he educates actuarial and non actuarial audiences on the value of actuarial work. He is also often interviewed by the media in this regard (e.g. see [http://youtu.be/mMGLjhXds\\_k](http://youtu.be/mMGLjhXds_k) and <http://peggysmedleyshow.com/index.php?q=node/1560>).

### **Why I want to be a Council member**

The Council is responsible for developing the vision and strategy of the IFoA. An important part of this is looking at new and non traditional areas where actuarial skills have the opportunity to make a difference. This process of evaluating new opportunities I find fascinating, exciting and highly rewarding. Being a Council member will allow me to contribute to the IFoA's vision and enhance my ability to be an ambassador for the profession in these areas.

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## **Xavier Lo**

**Nominated by: Johnny Chow and Yao-Hung Ou**

**Age: 24**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 2013**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### **CV**

- 3.5 years of actuarial consulting experience – first 2 years in PwC (Actuarial & Insurance Management Solutions), and currently at Marsh (Risk Finance – Analytics)
- Passed all actuarial exams in February 2013; officially qualified as a Fellow in September 2013
- Achieved a First Class Honours degree (BSc Actuarial Science) with a 90% average from the London School of Economics in 2010 – awarded a prize for outstanding performance in final year examinations

### **Professional Work**

Through working in actuarial consultancies, I have developed the skill of applying traditional actuarial techniques to help different clients solve their unique business problems. My clients have ranged from multinational financial institutions to local retail stores. An example would be stochastically modelling a client's "capital requirements".

In Marsh, I am responsible for using advanced analytics and models to assist insurance brokers in the pricing, and evaluation, of insurance contracts – even in the cases where quantitative analyses were traditionally not considered to be useful (for example, marine insurance lines). Working at Marsh also allowed me to enhance my communication skills, especially with colleagues or clients who are not actuarially literate, as I had to demonstrate the value and insight that analytics could add to the insurance brokerage market.

I am active in volunteering for the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries. I have recently carried out a photo and video shoot for the IFoA for their promotional material. I have also attended career fairs as a representative of the IFoA, and have spoken to a lot of potential candidates who are looking for some guidance on having a career change to becoming an actuary. As a "Guinea Pig" for the actuarial exams, I have given my thoughts into the process of setting fair and reasonable examination papers.

### **Why I want to be a Council member**

As a newly qualified Fellow of the IFoA, I would like to give the Council "a new pair of eyes" and raise more awareness about the issues surrounding students or newly qualified actuaries. This is especially important as the actuarial profession is dealing with a constantly changing landscape.

Although the public are now gradually more aware of actuaries and our roles, I want to push for a bigger focus on marketing actuaries as not only being analytical experts, but excellent communicators of difficult concepts – most importantly, not boring as individuals. This allows the profession to attract the best talent, and would allow us to expand and apply our actuarial services to a variety of different industry sectors globally.

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## **Marian Elliott**

**Nominated by: Brian Spence and Alan Collins**

**Age: 31**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 2007**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### **CV**

I have 12 years' experience in the pensions industry, and joined Spence as a director in 2012. I head up the Trustee Advisory Practice and lead the London office.

My experience spans scheme actuarial work, pension scheme administration and investment consultancy.

I have particular expertise in pulling together actuarial, covenant and investment advice to provide coherent funding solutions for clients. I also act as an independent trustee and sit on the board of a number of UK pension schemes.

### **Professional Work**

I represent Spence at the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) and deliver training sessions to the Financial Director and Trustee Forums. I also carry out regular training sessions for organisations such as the PMI and Mallowstreet.

I sit on the Editorial Board of Lexis PSL Pensions to provide actuarial input, training webinars and to contribute to content relating to the practical implications of changing legislation.

I am a member of the Argonauts Club, and will serve as Honorary Secretary for the 2014/15 year. I also recently received the International Association of Consulting Actuaries (IACA) Geoffrey Heywood "Young Consulting Actuary High Achievement Award" at the Actuarial Congress in Washington.

Recognising the need to develop more junior industry participants across professions, I launched the well subscribed Future Influencers group which hosts three monthly events, to which junior solicitors, actuaries, administrators, investment professionals and trustees are invited. The idea behind these events is to give junior staff the opportunity to hone their presentation and networking skills in a low pressure environment amongst an audience of their peers.

### **Why I want to be a Council member**

I recognise the need for actuaries to integrate and collaborate with other advisors and industry professionals, in order to fully understand our clients' circumstances and provide constructive advice.

I also see a tendency for actuaries to be pigeonholed into traditional areas and my focus throughout my career has therefore been to gain broad experience and to promote the profile of actuaries among other professions.

My approach as a Council member would therefore be to actively promote the profile of the Profession, increase collaboration with other professional bodies, understand and support the needs of members and promote increased participation from younger members.

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## Jim Boyle

**Nominated by: Huw Evans and Peter Tompkins**

**Age: 54**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 1986**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### CV

I have a first class honours degree in Statistics from the University of Glasgow and a masters degree in Operational Research from the University of Lancaster. I joined the profession in 1981 as an actuarial trainee at Guardian Royal Exchange in Edinburgh before moving to consultancy in 1984. I have worked in a number of consulting firms and am currently Chief Actuary at Capita Employee Benefits where I have been since 2002. I have held a Scheme Actuary practising certificate since 1997.

### Professional Work

- Member of the Pensions Board since 2010 and Chair since 2012
- Former Chair of the Pensions Board's CPD Sub-Committee
- Former member of the Professionalism Awareness Committee
- Served for many years as a Senior Pensions Lecturer on the New Fellows' Professionalism Course
- Represented the IFoA for many years on the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland's Pensions Committee
- Former editor of *The Actuary* magazine

### Why I want to be a Council member

One of the continuing challenges of the profession is to ensure that the wide variety of regulatory authorities and legislators hear the voice of the actuarial profession in its public interest role, given the range of organisations vying to be heard. In the last few years, from my position on the Pensions Board, I have seen the very great effort that the IFoA puts into building and sustaining relationships, and I have been privileged to play a part in this. As my tenure as Chair of the Pensions Board comes to an end, I can continue to offer this experience and knowledge if elected as a Council member.

Much of my work as a volunteer over the years has been in the area of professionalism. I am proud of the way the IFoA has sustained its reputation for the highest standards in the face of rapid social and business expectation and the expansion of the profession worldwide. If elected to Council, I will do all I can to ensure that the IFoA continues to evolve best practice and to support its members wherever they are based.

The role of the actuary has changed enormously over the course of my career and continues to change. I want to help ensure that the IFoA continues to anticipate these changes and to equip our members with the necessary skills and knowledge to make a difference.

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## **Malcolm Slee**

**Nominated by: David Hare and Jane Curtis**

**Age: 61**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 1980**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### **CV**

Senior Enterprise Risk Manager at Aviva UK Life following a number of years in with-profits management roles within Finance, having been at Aviva in York 10 years overall.

Prior to that, at Guardian Financial Services in Lytham St Annes, where I filled a number of roles, many involving direct contact with the policyholder.

### **Professional Work**

I am currently Chair of the Professional Content Development Working Group producing and presenting material to highlight our Professional Skills Training requirements, thus enabling members to refresh and strengthen their skills.

I am contributing to the FRC's review of the TAS, having been involved in the development and roll out of the original TAS, and gave a number of seminar presentations on them. I play a central role within my own company ensuring TAS requirements remain to the fore of all actuarial members.

I have been secretary of the Yorkshire Actuarial Society for 8 years and have organised a wide range of talks each year.

I have organised and presented professionalism talks for my company's in-house CPD events on the Actuaries' Code, TAS, Regulatory requirements, etc.

### **Why I want to be a Council member**

Being an actuary is much more than being technically competent. I am a firm advocate of actuaries being totally aware of what is expected of them, how they should perform, what are the wider considerations, and not least the public interest considerations. This must be in a practical and realistic manner. If elected to Council, I would look to ensure the profession is progressing these aspects in a manner that the membership can relate to and believe in.

The profession is a wide mix of people from many locations and I think it is important that Council reflects this in its make up and I believe I can be a very useful addition to Council and ensure that the views of the membership are heard from a wide perspective.

Although we are only a small profession, I believe we have a voice that can make a difference and I would be looking to see how we can further our input into relevant topics.

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## Mark O'Reilly

**Nominated by: Simon Walpole and Graham Watson**

**Age: 61**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 1978**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### CV

- 2001 – present: Deloitte Consulting. Retired as US partner 2010; Senior Advisor to Deloitte China, based in Hong Kong
- 1981 – 2001: Towers Watson, Mercer and Buck Consultants
- 1976 – 1981: British Government Actuary's Department
- Graduated at LSE: BSc.(Econ.) First Class Honours in Statistics

#### Locations:

London (1976-82 & 1985-87), Frankfurt (1982-85), San Francisco (1987-92 & 1996-2002), New York (1992-96) Chicago & Detroit (2002-10), Hong Kong (2010-present).

### Professional Work

Retirement actuary, specializing in international work. That includes "global actuary" for multinationals' retirement programs, designing and implementing new types of plans around the world. (Most notably, for Mecca Leisure in 1986 which received front-page coverage in the FT as breaking with "two centuries of actuarial practice" by introducing gender-equal annuity rates. I also designed the first Contractual Trust Arrangement for Germany in 1983, which qualifies plan assets for accounting purposes.)

Volunteer, Strategic Role, IFoA Member Support.

I am an ASA and have written five full-length articles for the SoA's *Actuary* magazine and the Academy's *Contingencies* magazine, and a couple for *Benefits International*.

### Why I want to be a Council member

I'd like to be a voice for members outside the UK. I have had unusual exposure to the actuarial profession, retirement programs and insurance products throughout Europe, the United States and Asia. My consulting environment has ranged from a human-capital perspective to accounting, governance and tax advice. I have absorbed local media coverage of our industries, and local business thinking, on three continents. For four years in China, I have been part of a team which is otherwise insurance actuaries, much improving my knowledge of what's important to their business – particularly in fast-growing insurance markets.

As actuaries, we have a unique technical qualification which is deeply respected the world over, but to date we have – in my view – too small a voice in areas such as data analytics and the ageing world population. For example, the first area provides at least part of the solution to the challenges of the second, and such a case is naturally argued by actuaries. Our image of taking the long-term perspective will likely gain following as we face the head-winds of ageing populations. Many of our best ideas have global significance, when adapted to local elements.

If elected to Council, I hope to promote themes which resonate with our profession, candidates for our profession, and the interested public around the world.

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## David Cule

**Nominated by: Nick Silver and Helen Davies**

**Age: 57**

**Qualified as a Fellow: 1986**

**Member of the General Constituency**

### CV and Professional Work

BSc (Pure Mathematics Class 1)

I have been a Pensions Actuary for over 30 years, training at Duncan Fraser, and, for the past 25 years, a Partner/Director with Punter Southall, helping to grow the group from 30 people to over 800 involved in all manner of saving for retirement. I am a member of Punter Southall's Professional Affairs Committee.

I have been involved in all aspects of pension's advice over that period, from small self-administered schemes to top 20 schemes of over £5bn in assets, and have advised on national and international aspects for governments and private firms.

I have been involved with the Profession as examiner, author, member of Pensions Board and other committees. I recently worked with Treasury/DWP (on IORP revision or "Solvency II for pensions"), ICEAW (at committee level and on the recent SORP Exposure Draft), a current IFoA short term working party, IAA accounting issues committees and have provided opinion and comment on many issues. Occasionally I am called insightful, rarely called dull.

### Why I want to be a Council member

As a member of Council with considerable experience I would seek to bring influence and support to the relationships the Profession has with external parties which will fundamentally influence our long-term role in the world and look to ensure that our significant role in finance remains. These parties will include the law-makers and regulators (both national and international), other professional bodies and international actuarial associations. As I already have relationships with many of these organisations I believe I will be well suited to that task.

Whilst all my career has been in the pension side of our profession I do believe there is much strength to be gained by bringing together our common skills across the areas in which we operate. There is value in clarifying what actuarial skills are common and what makes them unique, and what skills we have that overlap with others where we can provide alternative insights. This stretches beyond the statutory duties we are required to provide by law. Once identified these skills can be given prominence in our literature and education process so that our insight and expertise can enhance the outcomes for society as a whole in a demonstrable way, much like our forebears brought with the original formulation of scientific life assurance.

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