



## Working Party Volunteer Vacancy

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### Diabetes Working Party

The Health and Care Research Sub-Committee launched a member-led working party in 2018 to research mortality and morbidity of diabetes to understand how risk factors and good management of this conditions can impact outcomes. The working party now requires up to three additional volunteers based in Asia who are either actuaries or lay members with extensive expertise in the area of diabetes with modelling and analytical skills working with large data sets, or with insurance or health product specific knowledge of diabetes in Asia.

### Brief Description

The prevalence of diabetes is significant and increasing globally which will have consequences for both mortality and morbidity rates. Globally, it is estimated that people with diabetes has risen from 108 million in 1980 to 422 million in 2014 (source: WHO).

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 was 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 public health service budgets globally and mortality/morbidity implications we view this as a key public interest issue which will also have consequences for the insurance industry.

## **Experience/Skills/Background desirable**

Experience and skills that are desirable will be advanced modelling and analytical skills working with large (health) data sets, ideally in an actuarial or medical setting, or with insurance or health product specific knowledge of diabetes in Asia. The new members will be involved in working with both actuaries and academics on the working party and through potential funded research. The work will involve understanding the types of modelling involved and reviewing the outcomes.

## **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
- Publication in collaboration with diabetes organisations
- Present at the Protection, Health and Care Conference or Life Conference in 2019
- Presenting at international conferences e.g. Singapore Actuarial Society, Asia Conference
- 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
- Contributing to the Government green paper and public debate on “Prevention is better than cure”
- Press releases on key findings
- Medical journals of the model outputs
- Life Underwriting Conferences (e.g. LUCID)
- ICLAM – International Committee of Insurance Medicine

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

- Reviewing literature and draft papers/reports
- Modelling
- Liaising with academics

## **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. 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.