



## Volunteers' experiences

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An IFoA Member  
Engagement Profile

## A view from a volunteer: Chris Reynolds



**Chris Reynolds is the current Chair of the Health and Care Research Sub-committee, a member of the Health and Care Board and sits on the CMI Assurances Committee. He spearheaded the initiative which led to the launch of the Zurich Actuarial Society in 2017. In his day job, Chris works in Zurich for PartnerRe.**

### The experience of a volunteer based in Switzerland

“Being a member of the Health and Care Research Sub-committee is a great way to keep abreast of work in the Health and Care space. On becoming Chair in 2016 I also joined the Health and Care Board. This gives me a holistic view of activity within the Health and Care space and how the work of the research sub-committee contributes.

During my time on this sub-committee we’ve established several working parties and held a number of successful events. The sub-committee provides me with the opportunity to hear from people working in different fields and to interact with committee members from diverse backgrounds with several based overseas.

#### Time commitment

Typically I spend about a day per month for the sub-committee meetings and a few hours of preparation pre- and post-meeting. With email, videoconference, teleconference and other communication tools, being based in Switzerland causes no issues and can reduce the burden for travel. However, I still often attend meetings in person as I can take the opportunity to arrange other business meetings and maximise the use of the day.

#### Building community in Zurich

Of course it’s also good to have activities in Zurich. A desire for increased activity and collaboration locally resulted in me spearheading an initiative to establish a regional community in Zurich. This culminated with the establishment of the Zurich Actuarial Society in early 2017. I chair the organising Committee and working with a group of talented volunteers we’ve organised a range of technical and leisure events over the course of 2017.

My employer is very supportive, recognising the benefits that active involvement in the profession brings. It helps raise the employer’s profile and also helps to continuously develop the employee at the same time. Being based in Switzerland my employer is keen for members of the various actuarial professions to maintain active links with their professional body – volunteering is a perfect way to achieve this and they actively encourage me and my colleagues to get involved.



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### Why I volunteer

In the past, I have also undertaken a number of different volunteer tasks including Assistant Examiner, Moderator, Guinea Pig, Working Party member and Life Specialism Lecturer at the Professionalism Course. In 2012 and 2013 I was also a member, and then Chair, of the committee with responsibility for putting together the programme for the Life Conference. If anyone reading this is thinking of volunteering, I'd say – do it. There are so many different ways in which you can help the profession that there's certain to be an area of interest for you and if there are no current volunteering vacancies in one area, try something else. It is a fantastic way to expand your network of contacts and you never know what doors it may open for you. I've certainly found that my previous volunteering has developed in unexpected ways.”



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To get involved in volunteering for the IFoA visit:  
[www.actuaries.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-ifo](http://www.actuaries.org.uk/get-involved/volunteering-ifo)