



SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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# Education on the Go

by James Miles

**W**ith the recent addition of a station on iTunes, the Society of Actuaries (SOA) took another modest step into the world of podcasts. Over 20 podcasts are now available on iTunes, and all the podcasts continue to be available for listening on the Professional Development area of the SOA's website. Podcasts offer an opportunity for the SOA and the sections to provide an additional venue for access to educational opportunities for their members and other interested persons; and they are free.

Rob Frasca took the lead on developing the first podcasts for the Financial Reporting Section, and along with Henry Siegel, they created a series of original podcasts. In 43 minutes spread over three podcasts, Rob and Henry discuss the insurance contracts projects of the International Accounting Standards Board (IASB) and the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB). In the first podcast Rob and Henry begin with the basics of IASB, IFRS, and IFRS 4 (Insurance Contracts). The second podcast continues with a discussion of the insurance contracts projects of the IASB and FASB and includes a discussion of the basic measurement model being proposed for long-duration contracts. In the third podcast, they discuss unbundling, future premiums, participating contracts, reinsurance, short duration contracts, presentation and disclosures.

The current set of SOA podcasts is an eclectic collection ranging from five minutes to 25 minutes in length. The Taxation Section podcasts are based on articles from *TAXING TIMES*. Kristi Bohn interviews Mark Wernicke on the Affordable Care Act in two of the Health Section podcasts. The Actuary of the Future Section created a series of podcasts based on a section-sponsored webcast about making the transition to being a manager. Discussions of recent research projects provide the focus for the podcasts produced by the Pension Section.

Podcasts are designed to deliver information only through the audio medium, unlike recordings of webcasts and virtual meetings that depend on viewing PowerPoint slides along with the audio recording in order to have the full experience. Podcasts can be recordings of original presentations, material



re-purposed for presentation in an audio format, or original material.

You can subscribe to the SOA podcasts through the iTunes store. Search on: Society of Actuaries. You can also listen to the podcasts by accessing them through the Web page: <http://www.soa.org/PDCalendar.aspx?type=podcast>.

Do you have an idea for a webcast sponsored by the Financial Reporting Section? Would you like to produce a webcast? If so, please send an email to Tara Hansen at [tara.hansen@ey.com](mailto:tara.hansen@ey.com) with your ideas. ■



James Miles, FSA, MAAA, is a consulting staff fellow at the Society of Actuaries. He can be reached at [jmiles@soa.org](mailto:jmiles@soa.org).