

## Newly Elected International Section Council Members



**THEO IAPONAS**, FSA, CERA, MBA,  
Deputy VP, Swiss Life, Zurich, Switzerland

**Professional Background:** I am currently working on pricing of specialized transactions (retrocession portfolios, longevity swaps, portfolio swaps, etc.). In addition, I manage the retention policy of Swiss Life Group as well as handling the client and partner management.

**Society of Actuaries Activities:** This is the first time I volunteered for the SOA and I am looking forward to the experience.

**Relevant Experience:** I have worked in several parts of the world (United States, United Kingdom, Cyprus, and Switzerland) and continue to be heavily involved in international business. At my current position, I have the privilege to work in a variety of global projects involving different countries, regulations and, most importantly, cultures.

**Why are you interested in leading your section?** I enjoy pricing various insurance products around the world and learning about their unique challenges, especially with regards to different regulation regimes and culture. With this perspective, I would like to help the International Section “spread” the lessons learned in some countries to others facing similar challenges.



**BEN MARSHALL**, FSA, FCIA, MAAA,  
CERA, LLB, CLU, ChFC, VP & Risk Management Actuary, Royal Bank of Canada, Mississauga, Ontario Canada

**Professional Background:** I am active in ERM for the insurance companies of the largest Canadian bank, with specific accountabilities for capital planning, economic capital modeling and reporting, risk policy, risk management of strategic initiatives, product risk approvals and risk reporting.

**Society of Actuaries Activities:** I am a past contributor to *The Actuary*, past member of Fellowship Exam Grading Committees, frequent exam supervisor, and past winner of SOA’s Speculative Fiction contest. I am also a longtime member of the International, Education and Research, Financial Reporting, Investment, Joint Risk Management (SOA/CAS/CIA), Management & Personal Development, Product Development, Reinsurance, and Technology Sections of the SOA.

**Relevant Experience:** I am an elected member of the International Actuarial Association’s

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(IAA) Actuaries Without Borders (AWB) Committee. I have also been appointed as Canadian Institute of Actuaries' (CIA) liaison with IAA's Education Committee.

**Why are you interested in leading your section?**

I am interested in serving with the International Section Council of the Society of Actuaries in order to facilitate its engagement with new and developing actuarial associations throughout the world. As a member of AWB's education subcommittee and newly elected chair of its microinsurance/microfinance subcommittee, I have seen both the need for North American actuarial engagement in more remote parts of the world, and the positive results that can come about through that engagement. I have also been involved in more traditional international actuarial practice and believe that the International Section is the right starting point for North American input into exciting and rapid new developments in the international actuarial practice arena.



**LINA XU**, PhD., FSA, MAAA,  
Director, Prudential, Newark, NJ

**Professional Background:** Conducted mortality experience studies across Asian countries; consulted in constructing China industry mortality table; have conducted mortality, morbid-

ity, lapse, and premium persistency experience studies.

**Society of Actuaries Activities:** Member of the International Section.

**Relevant Experience:** I have worked for a global reinsurer, a corporate insurer, and, recently, a direct insurance company. I've given numerous seminars and presentations to regulators (China Insurance Regulation Commissioner), the International Actuarial Conference, organizations and international insurance companies, and universities. I also had the privilege to work with and assist several national actuarial organizations and insurance companies. Through the exposure to all parties, I have built my credentials and networked with some Asian actuarial organizations and personnel. I was VP of the Boston Chapter of the Chinese Actuary Club, which has enhanced my leadership skills.

**Why are you interested in leading your section?** Through my diverse international experience, I can make valuable contributions to the section in communicating and working with multicultural actuaries outside of the United States. I feel I have much to offer the section in building a closer relationship with local actuarial societies/organizations and a stronger influence in the international actuarial practice. □