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Living to 100 Symposium V

By Timothy F. Harris

Living to 100 Symposium V was held January 8-10, 2014 at the Walt Disney World Swan Resort in Orlando, USA, presented by more than 40 international participating organizations. The symposia bring together thought leaders from around the world to discuss the increasing longevity of humans and its impact on social, financial, health care and retirement systems.

Whether you're an actuary, gerontologist, demographer, economist, physician, scientist, other professional, or just an interested person, this symposium offered an opportunity to discuss aging topics and gather information to help you estimate advanced age mortality and mortality improvement rates to:

- design, price, value and manage financial security products
- develop national life tables
- assess the state of government social insurance programs and private pension plans
- ensure the availability of health care providers and health care facilities for the aged
- project the resources, products, and services needed for and used by an aging population
- provide valuable information for retirement and financial planning

Content for the 2014 Living to 100 Symposium, the fifth in the series, was expanded to include more topics than ever before related to future life expectancy and the implications of the growing senior populations. The symposium included prominent featured speakers—James Vaupel, Nir Barzilai and Anthony Atala—who provided insight into what the future may hold for life expectancy. Other equally distinguished



speakers presented information from sessions on topics including:

- lifestyle and longevity
- marriage and old age mortality
- cognitive impairment and longevity
- drivers of longevity
- societal challenges and adaptations as a result of a longer lifespan
- innovative business solutions in response to the aging population
- mortality trends and projections of older age

Later this year a monograph of all of the presented papers will be available at 2014 International Living to 100 Symposium.

This year's Symposium attendees included representatives from 15 different countries:

Bermuda
Canada
Chile
Estonia
France
Germany
Ireland
Israel
Netherlands
Japan
South Africa
Switzerland
Taiwan
United Kingdom
United States

Possibly the most prominent of the international attendees was James W. Vaupel from Germany. Vaupel is the executive (and founding) director of the Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock. He is a scientific member of the Max Planck Society for the Advancement of Science, the German Academy of Sciences Leopoldina and regular scientific member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences. He is also a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Dr. Vaupel led the first general session with his presentation on improvements of life expectancy. He discussed the trend of how 2.5 years are gained per decade, which may lead to a larger number of today's

younger generations reaching 100 years of age. Over the next forty years, life expectancy will reach to a hundred years or more, but it is difficult to know beyond the next few decades the extent of human mortality.

Some of the other international presenters included:

MATTHIAS BÖRGER

Matthias Börger is a consultant at the *Institut für Finanz- und Aktuarwissenschaften (ifa)*, an actuarial consulting firm based in Ulm, Germany.

Dr. Börger presented a paper on Projecting Mortality Improvements – On Cohort Effects, Coherence, and the Continuation of Life Expectancy Trends.

FRANCO PERACCHI

Professor of Economics at Tor Vergata University, Dr. Peracchi is also a fellow of the Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), in Rome, Italy.

Dr. Peracchi along with Valerie Perotti of The World Bank presented a paper on Subjective survival probabilities and life tables: Evidence from Europe.

EMILY CLAY

Emily Clay is with the Demographic Analysis Unit Office for National Statistics.

Emily presented a paper on Modal age at death: mortality trends in England and Wales 1841–2010

CHING-SYANG JACK YUE, PH.D., ASA

Dr. Yue is a professor in the Statistics Department at the College of Commerce of the National Chengchi University.

Dr. Yue presented A Study of Measuring the Mortality Compression.

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Other International Participants:

- Causes-of-Death Mortality: What Do We Know about Their Dependence? Presented by Severine Gaille, assistant professor of actuarial science at the University of Lausanne and Michael Sherris, professor of actuarial studies at the University of South Wales.
- Adrian Gallop, actuary in the Government Actuary’s Department, United Kingdom presented in a panel on Mortality Projections from a Social Security Perspective.
- Wai Sum-Chan, professor of finance at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Johnny Siu-Hang Li, University of Waterloo, and Jackie Li, Nanyang Technological University authored the paper on The CBD Mortality Indexes: Modeling and Applications.
- Mortality, Health and Marriage: A Study Based on Taiwan’s Population Data, Presented by Hsin-Chung Wang, assistant professor in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at Aletheia University and Jack C. Yue, (see above) of the National Chengchi University
- Which Socio-Demographic Living Arrangement Helps to Reach 100? Presented by Michael Poulain, emeritus professor at *Université Catholique de Louvain Louvain-la-Neuve*, Belgium also an associated researcher, at the Estonian Institute for Population Studies of Tallinn University and Anne Herm, researcher at the *Université Catholique de Louvain, Louvain-la-Neuve*, Belgium also a doctorate student at Tallinn University, Estonia.

Additional information on the presenters and papers described above can be found on the Living to 100 website. As previously mentioned, the complete papers will be available later this year in a monograph available at that site. □