

SOCIETY OF ACTUARIES

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HIV/AIDS Non-Insurance Task Force needs volunteers

by Peter W. Plumley

have been asked to chair a Society of Actuaries task force to study the non-insurance related actuarial aspects of the AIDS epidemic.

This task force is unusual, because it doesn't relate directly to the current work of most actuaries. (There is another life insurance practice committee that works on the insurance-related aspects of HIV and AIDS.) Therefore, it has been difficult to find people within the actuarial profession who are interested in serving on it. At the same time, it presents an opportunity for the actuarial profession to become more involved in an important and complicated public health issue. The task force needs volunteers who meet the following requirements:

- Some knowledge of the mathematics of the AIDS epidemic and the issues that would be of interest to actuaries
- A willingness to spend some time on the work of the task force
- Most important, an open mind a desire to substitute "facts for appearances, and demonstrations for impressions," even if the conclusion doesn't happen to agree with the current "politically correct" thinking or is contrary to preconceived ideas The details of the task force's work

will, of course, be up to its members. I anticipate, however, that several broad areas will be studied:

- The risk of HIV infection for various segments of the population, within the context of general risk levels
- Cost-benefit relationships of the various approaches to AIDS education and prevention
- The mathematical validity of alternative theories on the relationship of HIV to AIDS

If you are interested in serving, please contact me at my *Directory* address, and I will send you more information.

Peter W. Plumley is a consulting actuary in Chicago and chair of the HIV/ AIDS Non-Insurance Task Force.



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Journal calls for papers

The first issue of *Applied Mathematical Finance* is planned for September 1994. It will be published quarterly by Chapman & Hall in London.

The journal's aim is to encourage the confident use of applied mathematics and mathematical modeling in finance. It will encourage communication between finance practitioners, academics, and applied mathematicians.

Both theoretical and empirical research is welcome, as are papers on emerging areas of mathematical finance and interdisciplinary topics. The journal will accept reviews of significant practical tools, algorithms, and new products.

For more information on submitting papers, contact editors Pat Hagan, MS B 265, C3, Los Alamos National Lab, Los Alamos, New Mexico 87545, or Paul Wilmott, Mathematical Institute, 24-29 St. Giles', Oxford, 0X1 3LB, United Kingdom.