

# **Forewords**

## **by the Outgoing and Incoming Committee Chairs**

Timothy F. Harris and Jean-Marc Fix

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# Foreword by the 2017 Symposium Chair

Timothy F. Harris, Outgoing Chair of Committee on Living to 100 Symposia

The Society of Actuaries, along with the support of international participating organizations, every three years brings 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.

Content for the Jan. 4–6, 2017, Living to 100 Symposium included prominent featured speakers—Nir Barzilai, M.D., and Judith Campisi, Ph.D.—who provided insight into what the future may hold for life expectancy. Other, equally distinguished speakers presented information from sessions on topics including these:

- Impact of socioeconomic factors on longevity
- Challenges and strategies for financing an increasingly long life
- Drivers of longevity
- Longevity in the public eye
- Innovative business solutions in response to the aging population
- Mortality trends and projections of older age
- Public-policy challenges as a result of aging

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. This information has applications for achieving a variety of goals:

- Designing, pricing, valuing and managing financial-security products
- Developing national life tables
- Assessing the state of government social-insurance programs and private pension plans
- Ensuring the availability of health care providers and health care facilities for the aged
- Projecting the resources, products and services needed for and used by an aging population
- Providing valuable information for retirement and financial planning

This year's symposium attendees included representatives from 12 different countries: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Republic of Singapore, Switzerland, Taiwan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

The monograph contains the majority of the information that was presented at the symposium earlier this year. In addition, many articles that have appeared in various publications summarize different perspectives of the 2017 symposium. Links to the articles can be found within the Media and Trade Coverage section of the Living to 100 website. Continue to monitor this section throughout the year, as more articles will appear in the coming months.

One of the general themes from the conference, as well as many of the articles, is that we have been living longer, and our grandchildren could see significant improvement from such advancements as regenerative medicine and use of existing drugs such as metformin to treat aging. However, there have been some concerns about the impact of obesity and prescription drug use on longevity going forward.

On behalf of the 2017 Living to 100 Symposium Committee, we would like to thank the authors of

papers presented at the symposium and the presenters for their participation in this event. We also would like to thank members of the committee and SOA staff for their tireless dedication to the symposium. Finally, we'd like to thank the corporate sponsors of the 2017 symposium: Hannover Re, Milliman, SCOR, and Sun Life Financial.

The committee is interested in your ideas for the next symposium. To submit an idea for consideration, please send an email to [livingto100@soa.org](mailto:livingto100@soa.org). See you in 2020!

## Foreword by the 2020 Symposium Chair

Jean-Marc Fix, Incoming Chair of Committee on Living to 100 Symposia

The enduring success of the Living to 100 Symposium series is due to the work of many dedicated and, dare I say it, passionate individuals, whether on the organizing committee or not.

One person plays a key role in any sports team: the team captain. For us committee members, our team captain was Tim Harris. He provided the guidance—and the work—that we needed to keep Bob Johansen's vision alive and well. Therefore, it is with mixed feelings that I am getting the torch from Tim. Tim has been a member of the committee since day one, more than 12 years ago. Fortunately, as chair emeritus, Tim will keep on providing the continuity we need to stay true and develop Bob's original vision. I wish Tim smooth sailing, literally, as he sails the blue Caribbean seas, and look forward to his participation in the coming years as we get another symposium on the way. Make sure to thank Tim for his service when you see him at our next symposium.

Will 2020 be the year predestined to clarify our vision on aging? I am not sure, but what is sure is that we are living exciting times on the aging research front. What is also sure is that we are already working to make the 2020 Living to 100 Symposium a success!

You know, from reading the monograph, that we will have well-known, captivating speakers and a wide range of researchers and panelists from around the world. We will explore the frontier of our collective knowledge on aging and mortality and debate the possible problems and potential solutions that this will create.

What you cannot get from reading the monographs or the transcripts is the appreciation for what a dynamic and enriching venue the symposium is. The hidden treasure that makes the symposium unique is the interaction with the experts from many fields, many of them in the audience, and the exchanges with our peers who have a profound interest in the mortality of the future.

What will that future bring? I do not know. What I do know is that I look forward to meeting you at the symposium in 2020, so we can explore it together.