

ENTREPRENEURIAL & INNOVATION

(Vote for up to three candidates)

Rong Rong

Victor Zhao

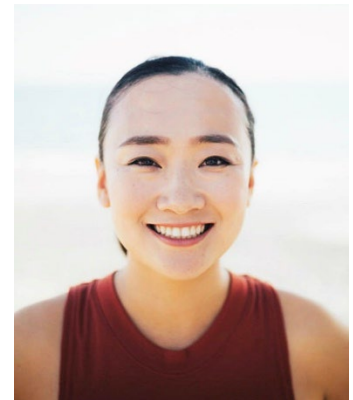
Sam Wehner

Christopher Smith

Rong Rong, FSA, CERA, MAAA, CPCU
Vice President
Swiss Re
Woodland Hill, CA

Professional Background

I am a Fellow of Society of Actuaries (FSA), a member of American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA), a Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst (CERA) and a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU). I started my professional career with Swiss Re in 2008 after graduating from the University of Texas - Austin. My first actuarial role was to support a pricing actuary to price U.S. individual Life products. After completing actuarial exams in 2010, I moved to London and became an L&H pricing actuary for the UK and Ireland market. Then I joined the risk management team to support large transaction review and group governance initiatives. After three wonderful years in London, I moved back to the States and worked as a Casualty pricing actuary and then switched to my current role as a treaty underwriter, where I manage global property and casualty deals by ensuring proper costing, underwriting, offering and negotiating with clients and internal counterparts.



I am also certified coach and yoga teacher and I am trying to build my own business on the side with my coaching and business skills.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

I am always interested in volunteering for the SOA: proctoring exams, GI exam committee, assisting in organizing social events, being active in research projects, participating in section projects, mentoring actuarial students etc.

I served in international and leadership and development Section Council in the past.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

I am the risk manager for my son's baseball league. I also tutored students to help them with homework.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I am exploring entrepreneurship myself outside my professional work and found it interesting but challenging so I want to serve entrepreneurs in the actuarial community through leading the section.

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Victor Zhao, FSA, CERA
Senior Payer Strategy Manager
Eden Health
Throop, PA

Professional Background

Entrepreneurial, energetic, and empathetic actuary passionate about people and technology. From actuarial pricing and data science to product management, I have carved a unique career path to bring innovation to healthcare. I recently joined Eden Health as the Senior Payer Strategy Manager, a VC-backed primary care provider startup on a mission to create a world where every person has a relationship with a trusted healthcare provider.



Prior to this role, I spent 5.75 years in Cigna's Actuarial Executive Development Program and am a two-time winner of the CEO's Champion Award: developed premiums to support the profitable growth of the medical stop loss insurance, built machine learning models to transform the underwriting process, managed virtual care products & startup vendors, and as my side hustles, founded several award-winning employee programs, including a diversity & inclusion group, a dragon boat racing team, and 5 grassroots innovation programs.

Society of Actuaries experience (Section and committee memberships and participation):

An active member of the Entrepreneurial & Innovation Section, I have been serving as a startup advisor through the SOA-Plug & Play InsurTech Office Hour program since its inception in 2020.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- 2020-Present: Director at Large, Temple University Fox School of Business Alumni Association: co-chair Events and Communications Committees, responsible for event planning, budgeting, and marketing.
- 2020-2022: Founder & Chief Innovation Catalyst, Cigna Aspire Innovation: established an employee-run initiative to stimulate grassroots innovation and nurture intrapreneurship. Assembled and led a team of 35 responsible for planning and running 5 annual programs: iTournament (employee "Shark Tank"), iBootcamp (idea incubator), iEducation (innovator speaker series), iSummit (global conference), and iNetwork (innovation marketplace).
- 2017-2019: Founder & Regional Lead, Cigna Aspire Enterprise Resource Group—Pennsylvania Chapter: revamped the pan-Asian employee resource group's operating model and established the Pennsylvania chapter. Led a team of 9 to create and host monthly diversity and professional development events. 2X national membership and 3X regional membership in 2 years.

Why are you interested in leading this section?

From working with startups and leading corporate innovation programs, I came to appreciate the tremendous potential actuaries have as change agents to advance traditional industries such as insurance and healthcare. I hope to accelerate the growth of the Entrepreneurial & Innovation Section: reach more actuaries and empower more innovators with the skillset, mindset, and connections to be the change they wish to see in our society.

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Sam Wehner, ASA, MAAA
Senior Quant Developer
Praedicat
Los Angeles, CA

Professional Background

Sam is currently Senior Quant at Praedicat, Inc where he is innovating new techniques for modeling emerging risks in catastrophe insurance. Sam has started 4 mathematical modeling software businesses in the last 10 years, and he was brought into an additional 4 startups to help implement innovative technologies and provide various services to clients in industries such as insurance, agriculture, architecture, education, fashion, medical, oil and gas, retail, manufacturing, logistics, and networking. In the first 5 years of his career as an actuarial software engineer and consultant, Sam realized that to drive innovation in the actuarial community he would need to work in other, more innovative industries for several years with the goal of coming back to the insurance industry to provide expertise and guidance in the new landscape. After gaining a substantial expertise in modern software and data strategies regarding implementation and leadership, Sam is starting to use this knowledge to bring the insurance industry beyond the past and into the future.



Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Member of the Entrepreneurial Innovation Section, the Leadership Development Section, and the Education Research Section.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- The Actuarial Foundation: Development Committee Member of the Modeling the Future Challenge competition.
- University of Central Missouri: Actuarial Program External Advisory Board Member
- University of Central Missouri: Statistics Program External Advisory Board Member
- Code For America Volunteer
- Eagle Scout

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I believe I can provide a unique perspective on the entrepreneurial and innovative potential of the actuarial profession given my experience in starting modeling businesses and working in non-insurance industries with the aim of bringing cutting-edge technology to our traditional industry

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Christopher Smith, ASA
Senior Associate
Mercer Health and Benefits
Richmond, VA

Professional Background

I have served clients at Mercer as an actuarial consultant for almost three years now. Along the way, I've contributed to and led innovation both formally (by way of working with Mercer's Center for Health Innovation) and informally (by supporting the "Pythonization" of several house models, for example). I think that I would be an asset to the leadership team of the Entrepreneurial and Innovation Council as a result of both this experience and my background leading business development at StoneTrash.com, an online marketplace for remnant/overstock tile and solid surface material.

Society of Actuaries Experience (Section and committee memberships and participation)

Member

- Actuary of the Future Section
- Entrepreneurial & Innovation Council
- Health Section

- Leadership & Development Section.

Other Relevant Volunteer Experience

- Meals on Wheels – Richmond, VA – Volunteer Delivery Driver (Ongoing)
- Long Island Junior Chamber of Commerce – Hauppauge, NY – Treasurer (2017-18)
- Sigma Alpha Mu Fraternity – Stony Brook, NY – Recorder (2015)

Why are you interested in leading this section?

I am interested in getting more involved with the Society of Actuaries and think that this is a great way to get started!

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