

Southeastern Actuaries Conference

2023 Spring Meeting

Speaker Bios

Professionalism: A Foundation That Will Serve You Well!

Darrell Knapp, Retired

Darrell serves as Secretary-Treasurer of the Academy and as chairperson of the Life and Health Qualifications Seminar produced by the Academy each fall. His volunteer service also includes previously chairing the Society of Actuaries' Education and Examination Committee, and serving on many Academy public policy and governance committees. He retired after over 30 years as a health actuary for Ernst & Young.

Thomas Wildsmith, Willis Towers Watson

Tom is currently managing director, legislative and regulatory policy, at the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. As president of the American Academy of Actuaries in 2015-16, he penned the seminal four-part series in Contingencies magazine, "The Academy and the Web of Professionalism," that examined the infrastructure of actuarial professionalism and how the Academy is instrumental in supporting that infrastructure and the U.S. actuarial profession.

Drivers of Mortality Improvement: SOA Research Spotlight

Mark Spong, Oliver Wyman

Mark is a senior manager with the Actuarial Practice of Oliver Wyman and leads their mortality and assumption setting initiatives.

The Way AI and Predictive Analytics Impacts Life Insurance Carriers in the New Era

Dror Katzav, Atidot

Dror is Atidot's Founder and CEO. Before co-founding Atidot Software Inc., Dror completed an 11-year career as a Team Leader & Project Manager with an elite IDF (Israeli Defense Force) Unit, leading state-of-the-art technology development in Intelligence. Dror led teams in Artificial Intelligence (AI), data solutions, and information sciences in that unit.

US GAAP LDTI – Overview and Early Observations

Sam Keller, WTW

Sam is a Director with Willis Towers Watson based in Minneapolis. Sam has a background in insurance company financial reporting and leads WTW's US GAAP initiatives. Sam joined WTW in 2014 and works on a variety of financial reporting and governance projects, including recently leading US GAAP Long Duration Targeted Improvements implementations.

Andrew Davis, WTW

Andrew is a Manager for Willis Towers Watson based in Atlanta where he specializes in AXIS modeling. Andrew joined WTW in 2018 and his recent projects include Long Duration Targeted Improvements implementation, Universal Life Secondary Guarantee modeling, and Merger & Acquisition model builds.

Is This Time Different: ALM in a Higher Rate Environment

Russell Gao, Fortitude Re

Russell leads asset allocation and asset rotation for Fortitude Re. In this role, he leads a team of quantitative strategists, investment actuaries, and portfolio managers to design and implement investment strategies to drive new business growth and investment performance. Prior to Fortitude Re, he spent over a decade at Goldman Sachs Asset Management, where he was most recently the global head of asset allocation for the \$800bn fixed income business.

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Health and Combo Product Modeling Challenges and Solutions

Jesse Resnick, Moody's Analytics

Jesse Resnick is a Fellow of the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and the Society of Actuaries. He has worked in the insurance industry for over fifteen years, having started his career at Sun Life in Toronto, and has worked for the past ten years on actuarial modeling software at Moody's Analytics. Having found himself with too much time on his hands after completing the actuarial exams, Jesse decided to take up running, and has since completed four marathons.

Inflation Reduction Act – Beyond the Obvious

David Walters, Wakely

David Walters has worked as a healthcare actuary since 2007. His primary expertise is in pharmacy analytics and Medicare Advantage, specifically in Part D and risk adjustment. Mr. Walters has co-authored White papers on Part D changes from the Inflation Reduction Act.

SOA Pharmacy Partnership Forum: Reimagining Pharmacy Financing

Greg Warren, Axene Health Partners

Greg currently serves as a Partner and Consulting Actuary at Axene Health Partners. He has been a pharmacy benefit consultant to plan sponsors helping them with their benefit plan design, clinical program strategies and pharmacy benefit manager evaluation, contracting and auditing. He has also functioned as chief financial officer for a top ten PBM and a VP of finance and analytics for a Fortune 50 retail pharmacy. Greg founded and led Optum's Pharmacy Advisory Services practice and then subsequently served as Chief Actuary for Optum Advisory Services leading over 270 consulting associates in delivering actuarial, underwriting and pharmacy consulting and software to payers, governments, pharmacies, PBMs and life sciences organizations around the world.

AAA Health Equity Committee - Gearing up for Symposium

Stacey Lampkin, Independent Living Systems

Stacey has volunteered with the AAA Health Equity Committee since its inception in 2020, and is serving on the HEC Symposium planning team. She has specialized in Medicaid and related programs for nearly 20 years. Her passion is designing creative solutions that provide the best balance of quality healthcare for vulnerable populations and taxpayer value. Over her career she has had the great fortune to explore those challenges from a variety of perspectives: as a consulting actuary to states, as an administrator in a state Medicaid agency, as a Commissioner on MACPAC, and very recently she has begun getting a provider and plan perspective working at Independent Living Systems, which operates a provider service network MCO in Florida focusing on LTSS.

Role of Life Underwriter in the Collaboration Between Underwriters and Actuaries

Kent Karnick, LifeScore Labs

Kent's current role is Underwriting Innovation Lead at LifeScore Labs. His Life Underwriting career has taken him to Northwestern National Life, ING, Voya and Mass Mutual in the production role. He has also had roles in IT as a Business Analyst at Voya, Sharing Life Underwriting knowledge at Life Epigenetics and the life settlement industry. I have also been a trainer and worked in Quality Assurance.

AI, Large Language Models and ChatGPT

Svetlana Bender, GuideWell/Florida Blue Actuarial Resources Corporation

Dr. Svetlana Bender is the head of Behavioral Science and Technology Solutions at GuideWell and is responsible for transforming research into actionable ideas and tech-enabled solutions aimed at improving individuals' well-being and health-related decisions. Prior to her current role, she was the head of behavioral finance at UBS and also worked at Allianz Global Investors Center for Behavioral Finance.

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Mental Well-Being and Flourishing - Our New North Star

Nick Dewan, GuideWell/Florida Blue

Dr. Dewan is a sports psychiatrist and healthcare executive with thirty years of leadership experience and throughout his career he has been an innovator who has helped transform the healthcare industry with his efforts in improving access, quality, and cost effectiveness. He is a former athlete and collegiate coach and is always ready to help leaders improve their tennis or golf mindset.