

Actuarial Society Update – May 2021

ASSA 2021 Calendar

Event	Date	Venue
Seminars		
Life	7, 12 & 18 May	Virtual
Health	12 & 13 May	Virtual
Investments	27 & 30 July	Virtual
Retirement	5 July	Virtual
Short term	2 September	Virtual
Risk Mgt	TBC August	Virtual
Banking	18 August	Virtual
Education	30 March	Virtual
Wider fields	15, 23 & 29 June	Virtual
Alternative investments	25 August	Virtual
Public interest	29 June	Virtual
Insurance data science	TBC September	Virtual
Systems & technology	25 May	Virtual
IAA meetings	May	Virtual
	11 – 15 October	Virtual
AGM	23 June	
Convention	20 – 22 October	
Africa seminar	19 October	
A1/A2 & F106 exams	12 – 23 April	
	13 – 28 September	
A311 exams	06 & 07 May	
	11 & 12 October	
N211 exam	11 May	
	TBC	
F2 exams	20 (F202) & 21 May	
	18 (F202) & 19 Oct	
F1 exams (excl F106)	02 – 11 June	
	TBC	

Remembering Wim Els

To date we have received over 120 messages in the rememberingwim@actuarialsociety.org.za mailbox. The messages will be collated and

presented in a tribute book to Wim's family and available to members online. The box will remain open until **9 June** so, if you still wish to submit a tribute, please submit it to the box before then.

Wim's two significant passions in ASSA during recent years have been the Actuarial Society Academy (ASA) and the Actuarial Society Education Trust (ASET). Both are transformation focused initiatives with ASA focusing on ASSA students and ASET on high school students. ASSA, with the blessing of Wim's family, will be doing an appeal to members, employers and other parties to support these two initiatives with the intention of building a living memorial for Wim by doing what we can to accelerate and deepen transformation in ASSA and the country.

Staff changes at ASSA.

Yvonne Lazarowicz has joined ASSA as General Counsel. This is a newly established position set up to advise the Executive, Council and other ASSA structures on all ASSA constitutional and disciplinary processes as well as all legal, regulatory and legislative matters.

We are in the process of considering short- and long-term solutions to fill the gaps left by Wim's sudden passing. However, as it will take longer to recover 25 years of organisational memory, I ask for the forbearance of members over the next few months. If you have queries on areas where you might have consulted Wim previously. Contact Jo Coetzee (jcoetzee@actuarialsociety.org.za) for logistical issues and me (mmcdougall@actuarialsociety.org.za) for other issues.

ASSA communications

In recent years, ASSA has fairly been lambasted by members for spamming them with email communication. This was a reasonable charge as in recent years we have sent out an average of close to 2 emails per day to all members or specific member mailing lists (e.g., Fellows or Students).

In 2021 we have changed to a policy of issuing 1 weekly email – Newsbytes – sent out on Tuesday afternoons. Other than a few specified or emergency communications (Presidential newsletter, Update, AGM notice, death of key current ASSA officials or office bearers), this will be the only email sent to ASSA mailing lists each week. Newsbytes is structured so that members can click through from the index matters of interest.

Newsbytes will include all seminar, sessional and education announcements as well as job and other advertisements and general obituaries. There are no separate emails for sessional meetings or seminars.

In addition, ASSA will be increasingly active in social media ([Facebook](#), [Linked-In](#) and [Twitter](#)). The [Facebook](#) and [Linked-In](#) feeds are primarily directed at members and will include notification of events. Please “like” our events or share them when you see them so that we can reach our full membership through these channels. [Twitter](#) remains primarily focused on external stakeholders.

ASSA AGM

The ASSA AGM takes place on **Wednesday, 23 June**. This is an important meeting in the Society’s governance cycle and an opportunity for members to engage directly with the President. Fellow and Associate members who will not be attending are strongly encouraged to register a proxy. Members may either designate another specified Fellow or Associate member or the President as their proxyholder. Members can register for the AGM at <https://login.actuarialsociety.org.za/>

A Code of Professional Conduct discussions

A reminder of the sessional meeting that will be held on **10 June** to consider various interpretations of the Code of Conduct as it impacts members in different situations. This will be an opportunity for members to express their views on where and how the code of conduct is applicable. As all members of ASSA are bound by the Code of Conduct, it is important to have wide participation in this meeting so the profession can develop a shared understanding of the applicability of the code to different situations. Following this meeting a task team may be established to either redraft sections of the Code of conduct or draft explanatory guidance for clarity. Contact Niel Fourie (nfourie@actuarialsociety.org.za) if you need more information.

IAA Forums

As part of their recent restructure, the IAA has created forums for certain areas of work. These will be operational from 01 July 2021. The following forums have been established:

- i. Health Forum
- ii. Banking Forum*
- iii. Data Analytics Forum*
- iv. Inclusive Insurance Forum*
- v. Mortality Forum*

- vi. Resource and Environment Forum*
- vii. Social Security Subgroup (will be a Subgroup of the Pension and Employee Benefits Forum)

**These forums will only meet virtually while the others will have some hybrid or in person meetings.*

As directed by Council, these entities will be populated by volunteers designated by Full Member Associations (FMAs). Starting on 1 July 2021, these IAA Forums/Subgroup will have two main categories of participants:

1. *Members:* the formal representatives of IAA FMAs.
2. *Observers:* other volunteers who are designated by their FMA.
Note some Forums may also have representatives from Partner Supranational organizations, Liaisons to other IAA entities such as Sections and/or Ex-officio members, as applicable.

ASSA is well represented in the forum leadership with Ashleigh Theophanides leading the Data Analytics forum, Michael Tichareva the Banking forum and Nigel Bowman the Inclusive insurance forum. In addition, ASSA has appointed representatives to Health Pensions and Mortality forums. However, members wishing to participate in the forums as observers, will need to be nominated by ASSA. Observers will attend the meetings online and have access to all documentation and be able to participate in the discussions. Should you wish to be appointed an ASSA nominated observer to any of the forums, contact Nicky September (nseptember@actuarialsociety.org.za).

ASSA Office

The ASSA office will be closed for the day on 15 June 2021.

Regards



Mike McDougall