

Gold



NASSAU

MassMutual

PAULINE REIMER, ASA, MAAA

PRYOR

EXECUTIVE SEARCH

Silver



The Hartford



Lincoln
Financial Group®

MOODY'S



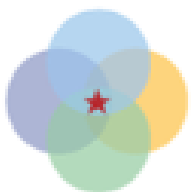
TALCOTT
FINANCIAL GROUP



EMPOWER®



Bronze



Amon
& Associates



Converge RE

Actuaries' Club of Hartford & Springfield

May 19, 2026, Connecticut Convention Center

General Session #1 (9:10-10:10)

AI Bias – An Intro, An Update, and An Agent

Sherry Chan, Managing Director, EY

Yukki Yeung, Functional Lead for Actuarial, AI, and Data Analytics Audits, Banner Life

Dave Ingram, SOA Board Member & AI Bulletin Editor for the SOA Research Institute

Session Description:

This session will discuss AI bias, starting with an introduction to the sources, effects, and types of AI bias. Given how fast AI is developing, an update on AI bias regulations will then be provided. Lastly, we will conclude with looking at an AI agent with a focus on bias, from exhibiting it to detecting it to mitigating it. This session will qualify for bias credit in the US actuarial Qualification Standards, subject to each audience member's own judgement (so don't be biased!).

Sherry Chan is an award-winning Actuary with decades of leadership experience and is a Managing Director at EY in their actuarial advisory practice. Ms. Chan previously served as Chief Strategy Officer of insurtech Atidot, and Chief Actuary for the City of New York and in the State of Ohio. With a Bachelor of Science degree in mathematics and actuarial science and an Executive MBA from The Ohio State University, Ms. Chan is on the Boards of the Society of Actuaries, The Ohio State University's College of Arts & Sciences, Abacus Actuaries, and is a member of the US Railroad Retirement Board's Actuarial Advisory Committee.

Yukki Yeung, FSA MAAA is an actuary with a focus on internal auditing and a growing interest in understanding how technology, including AI, impacts professional fields. In addition to her work at Banner Life, Yukki volunteers with the Society of Actuaries (SOA) as a member of the Professional Development Committee. Yukki also teaches data science at Northwestern University, where she enjoys exploring the intersection of analytics and problem-solving.

Dave Ingram, FSA, CERA is a retired risk management actuary. He currently serves on the board of the SOA and is also the volunteer editor of the AI Bulletin for the SOA Research Institute. He has recently become a speaker and writer about actuaries and Artificial Intelligence.

Breakout Sessions #1 (10:35-11:35)

A: Funding Agreements in Life Insurance: An Asset Manager's View

John Rup, Director Insurance Solutions, Conning

Session Description:

From the perspective of an insurance-focused asset manager, this session will discuss the growth and evolving use of funding agreements among life insurers, where there is interest across the industry, and how these liabilities are being incorporated into balance sheet strategies. The session will focus on why funding agreements can be attractive from an asset allocation standpoint and how they can align well with insurers' long term investment capabilities when liabilities are integrated into wider portfolio construction.

John Rup is a Director in the Insurance Solutions group at Conning. In this role, he is responsible for the creation of investment strategies and enterprise solutions for insurance companies. Prior to joining Conning in 2023, he worked in investment banking and insurance asset management. Mr. Rup holds a bachelor's in finance from Northeastern University and an MBA from Yale University.

B: Actuarial Modeling Reimagined: AI, Cloud, and Competitive Platforms

Matt Farmer, Manager, WTW

Matt Heaphy, Head of Pricing & Risk Analytics, Martello Re

Session Description:

Actuarial modeling has been constrained by high platform conversion costs, keeping companies tied to a few dominant systems that struggle to keep pace with regulatory changes like VM-22. Current modeling systems rarely adapt to emerging technologies such as AI, and meet growing demand for faster, more efficient processing. In the past, closed-box solutions were preferred because open-source options demanded heavy maintenance and specialized expertise. Those challenges are rapidly diminishing, making open and flexible platforms a far more viable choice for the future. At the same time, firms face rising cloud computing costs that require innovative strategies to manage. This session will explore practical ways to reduce cloud costs, leverage AI effectively, and provide a look at what key attributes future modeling platforms will need to be competitive.

Matt Farmer, FSA, MAAA is a Consultant in the ICT Life Practice at WTW and has five years of actuarial experience. In his role, he focuses on liability modeling, Bermuda reinsurance and disability insurance. Previously, Matt was an actuary at a large disability carrier where he gained modeling experience in Long-Term Care and Individual Disability Insurance. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Actuarial Science from Bentley University and is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Matt Heaphy, FSA, MAAA is the Head of Pricing & Risk Analytics at Martello Re. His areas of expertise include pricing, product development, data science, experience studies, modeling, hedging, and reinsurance. Matt is an open-source advocate and has published a handful of publicly available R packages and one Python package. Prior to joining Martello Re Matt has held leadership roles in pricing, product management, and data analytics working for insurance and consulting organizations. Matt holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Actuarial Science from the University of Connecticut, is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

C: VM-22 in Practice: Early Adopter Lessons and Asset Optimization Insights

Angela McShane, Senior Manager, EY

Charlie Hibbert, Manager, EY

Session Description:

As VM 22 enters its first year of early adoption, insurers are discovering that implementation presents both strategic and operational challenges that extend well beyond adoption timing. This session provides a brief update on the regulatory landscape, and a practical view of how early adopters are navigating VM 22, sharing real world insights from impact assessment through implementation.

Speakers will discuss lessons learned across key areas including modeling, assumption setting, pricing, asset strategy, and more, highlighting what has proven more complex or more impactful than expected. The session will feature an illustrative asset optimization case study, demonstrating how different asset allocation levers can meaningfully influence VM 22 reserves in practice.

Attendees will leave with actionable insights to help inform their own implementation planning, execution priorities, and path forward under VM 22.

Angela McShane is a Senior Manager at EY and has extensive experience in financial reporting and accounting change. She leads EY's actuarial regulation practice, including her role leading the VM-22 field test and multiple VM-22 strategy and implementation engagements. She is an active participant in PBR industry forums and frequent industry speaker on regulatory topics.

Charlie Hibbert is a Manager at EY in the L&H Actuarial practice. He has over ten years of experience in the life insurance industry with extensive experience in regulatory change, life insurer investments and asset liability management. He is actively involved in VM-22 impact assessments and implementation projects across the industry, both leading projects and supporting as an SME, covering results analysis, asset optimization, sensitivities and forecasting.

D. Inside Level Funding: An Actuarial and Market Perspective

Allie Martin, Product Strategy Director, Cigna

John Faenza, Product Management Senior Advisor, Cigna

Session Description:

Level Funding has emerged as a compelling alternative between fully insured and self-insured health plans, particularly for small and mid-sized employers seeking cost predictability with upside potential. This session will provide an overview of Level Funding and how it compares to traditional funding arrangements. We will explore key actuarial pricing considerations, unique volatility and monetization dynamics, and the go-to-market rationale behind why brokers and clients choose Level Funding. The discussion will also cover how Level Funded products are underwritten and sold, along with important regulatory considerations actuaries should understand.

Allie Martin is a Product Strategy Director at Cigna Healthcare, where she leads strategy for Funding Solutions, Financial Solutions—including gene therapy and advanced cellular therapy solutions—and monetization strategy. She previously held multiple roles across Pricing and Underwriting at Cigna Healthcare, bringing deep experience at the intersection of actuarial pricing, product design, and underwriting strategy. Allie holds undergraduate degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and is a graduate of Cigna's Actuarial Executive Development Program (AEDP).

John Faenza is a Product Management Senior Advisor at Cigna, supporting the Funding and Financial Solutions organization. Prior to his current role, John has held multiple roles in the Risk Management and Underwriting organization since starting at The Cigna Group in 2013 after graduating from the University of Connecticut. John lives in West Hartford with his wife Christy and son Jack, and he enjoys golfing and cooking in his free time.

Breakout Sessions #2 (12:50-1:50)

A: Governing the Black Box: AI Regulation and What It Means for Insurers

Max Samadov, Head of Risk Advisory, SAS Institute

Session Description:

AI is transforming insurance underwriting, pricing, and claims, but regulators are catching up fast. NY DFS Circular Letter 2024-7, Colorado's AI Act, and the NAIC Model Bulletin (now adopted by 24 states) are setting concrete expectations around bias testing, explainability, and model oversight.

This session translates the regulatory landscape into operational reality: what does a defensible AI governance framework look like? Drawing on model risk management frameworks from financial services, we'll cover AI governance principles, bias testing programs, explainability requirements for adverse decisions, and third-party vendor accountability — giving actuaries and risk professionals a practical roadmap for compliance in a rapidly shifting environment.

Max Samadov is a FinTech and AI risk leader with 15+ years designing, selling, and delivering enterprise analytics and governance platforms for banks and insurers. At SAS Institute, he leads the North American risk advisory team, focused on model risk management, AI governance, ALM, and regulatory compliance. His regulatory expertise spans Basel II/III, IFRS 9/17, CECL, CCAR, and emerging state-level AI mandates for insurers.

A frequent speaker at industry forums, Max brings a practitioner's perspective to AI governance — translating complex regulatory requirements into operational strategies for risk and compliance leaders. He holds master's degrees in engineering and public relations from Cornell University and Ball State, an economics degree from Donetsk National University, and the FRM designation from GARP.

B: 10 Career Myths (or, things people tell you that are not true)

Mitchell Stephenson, Head of Model Governance Solutions, Fannie Mae

Joseph Finch, Strategic Business Finance Lead, MassMutual

Rob Tavernier Senior Manager, EY

Session Description:

Join three prior ACHS presidents for an engaging soft skills session where we will address 10 career myths (or, things people tell you that are not true), and how these relate to actuarial work. We will share our takes on the myths, go through personal anecdotes, and provide reference material and recommendations for each one.

Topics will include:

- The importance of difficult conversations with stakeholders (myth: nice guys / gals finish last)
- Strategies for self-promotion and highlighting successes (myth: don't toot your own horn)
- Techniques for upskilling in a rapidly changing world impacted by artificial intelligence (myth: growth will just happen)

Mitch Stephenson is the Head of Model Governance Solutions at Fannie Mae; a company focused on providing liquidity and stability to the U.S. housing market. He's held roles at several Fortune 500 insurance companies including Prudential, Voya, International Netherlands Group, and CIGNA. His experience includes enterprise risk management, pricing, product development, modeling, assumption setting, and reserving for life and annuity products. Mitch is a Fellow in the Society of Actuaries and Member of the American Academy of Actuaries. He presents often on topics related to artificial intelligence and leadership skills for technical professionals and regularly contributes to industry publications on related topics.

Joe Finch is a Strategic Finance Business Lead supporting MassMutual's Life and Health businesses. He has been an actuary at MassMutual since 2012. He has worked in various pricing and strategy-focused roles and currently oversees the financial performance of inforce life and health products. In the past, you may have seen Joe during his time as president of the Actuaries' Club of Hartford & Springfield and volunteering with the Actuarial Foundation's Math Motivators program.

Rob Tavernier is a Senior Manager in the Insurance and Actuarial Advisory Services practice of Ernst & Young LLP's Financial Services Office. Rob joined Ernst & Young in October 2017 and is based in the firm's Hartford office. Rob supports the actuarial managed services team where he has developed, implemented and delivered sourcing solutions across actuarial functions and business units at several medium and large life insurance companies. In his role, Rob is very focused on the development of EY's global actuarial team, including 400+ actuarial team members based in India. Rob is also a past president of the Actuaries' Club of Hartford & Springfield.

C: RILAs Demystified: Inside the Engine Driving the Fastest Growing Segment of Annuities

Sarah Berkenstock, AVP and Actuary, Lincoln Financial Group

Jeffrey Roscoe, Senior Manager, Oliver Wyman

Session Description:

Registered Index-Linked Annuities (RILAs) have rapidly transitioned from a niche product to a significant segment within the annuity market. This session begins by addressing the fundamental question: What is a RILA? It then advances beyond the basics to explore deeper insights across topics including market growth drivers, policyholder behavior and perspectives, option mechanics, insurer profit strategies, associated risks, and anticipated future product developments.

Sarah Berkenstock is an AVP and Actuary at Lincoln Financial, where she works within the annuity pricing organization on strategic initiatives and special projects spanning Lincoln's retail annuity product suite. Her professional experience includes pricing, risk management, AXIS model development, and ALM.

Jeffrey Roscoe is a Senior Manager at Oliver Wyman based in Hartford, CT. Jeff specializes in annuities, supporting clients on a variety of engagements spanning pricing, valuation, FP&A, actuarial due diligence, assumption setting, and experience studies.

D: Navigating Uncertainty: What North American Insurance Leaders Can Learn from Emerging Markets

Paul Muvembi, Actuary, MassMutual

Session Description:

The presentation will draw actionable insights from business leaders in Africa and other emerging economies who are no strangers to volatility. These leaders have long operated in environments marked by economic instability, political shifts, and limited resources—conditions that mirror the growing unpredictability now facing the North American insurance sector.

The presentation will explore four key themes:

- 1) Identifying high-impact capital allocation opportunities in fluid environments,
- 2) Fostering innovation in legacy industries,
- 3) Motivating and scaling human capital amidst structural challenges, and
- 4) Balancing cost discipline with sustainable, profitable growth.

By spotlighting real-world strategies from emerging markets, the presentation will offer actuaries and insurance executives a valuable lens for resilience, agility, and long-term thinking.

Paul Muvembi is a pricing actuary at Mass Mutual, where he supports the pricing and profitability management of the company's fixed and income annuity products. His work sits at the intersection of capital efficiency, product strategy, and long-term risk management—areas that have become increasingly critical as insurers face heightened economic and market uncertainty.

Over the course of his career, Paul has held actuarial roles across Hartford, New Jersey, and Des Moines, with responsibilities spanning pricing, valuation, modeling, hedging, and asset-liability management.

He holds a Bachelor's Degree in Actuarial Science and Finance and a Master of Financial Management Degree from Drake University.

Breakout Sessions #3 (2:05-3:05)

A: Think Like an Actuary: Rules for Innovation (and life)

Timothy L. Rozar, Senior Vice President and Chief Innovation and Content Officer, RGA

Session Description:

Drawing on decades of hard-learned lessons, this session explores how the actuarial mindset clarifies the forces that drive innovation, from uncertainty and human behavior to simplicity and trust.

Timothy L. Rozar is Senior Vice President and Chief Innovation and Content Officer at Reinsurance Group of America (RGA). Prior to his current role, Tim served as Chief of Staff to the CEO and performed a multifaceted role that included oversight of the company's enterprise strategy.

Tim has also served as founder and Chief Executive Officer of RGAX, RGA's innovation lab and insurtech accelerator. Before then he was RGA's Global Head of Research and Data Analytics, overseeing predictive analytics, biometric research, competitive intelligence, and actuarial experience analysis. He started his career with RGA in 1996 as a pricing actuary and also previously led RGA's U.S. product development, management information, and research teams.

Tim is a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries (SOA), where he is the former President and Chair. He is also a Chartered Enterprise Risk Analyst (CERA) and a member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA). He received his Bachelor of Science (B.S.) degree in actuarial science from Maryville University and his M.B.A. from the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis.

B: Building a Successful Employer Owned Life Insurance Business Model

Raza Zaidi, AVP Business Development, Lincoln Financial Group

Karen Burgess, VP Operations & Administration, Lincoln Financial Group

Sara-Beth Sidla, AVP Product Implementation, Lincoln Financial Group

Session Description:

Overview of how to build a successful business model for Employer Owned Life Insurance (“EOLI”) commonly known as COLI, BOLI, ICOLI. The session would provide insight into product chassis, distribution model, operations and administration, and funds management. The theme is to show how each piece is necessary to build a successful EOLI business model.

Raza Zaidi, ASA, MAAA has 36 years of actuarial experience. Since 2008, he has served as Assistant Vice President and Business Development Actuary for Lincoln Financial Group’s Executive Benefits division (COLI/BOLI/ICOLI). In this role, he is responsible for new business pricing, supporting product development efforts, and partnering with internal wholesalers to strengthen relationships with key distribution partners and promote Lincoln’s Executive Benefits solutions. Prior to joining Lincoln, Raza was a consultant at Towers Watson, where he advised clients on group non-medical products and COLI/BOLI programs. Earlier in his career, he held actuarial positions at several major insurance carriers, including Aetna, MetLife, CNA Financial, and UNUM. Raza holds a B.Sc. in Actuarial Science and Economics from the University of Toronto. He is an Associate of the Society of Actuaries and a Member of the American Academy of Actuaries.

Karen Burgess, FLMI, FALU has more than 35 years of experience in the insurance industry. She has held underwriting and management roles at Cigna and Lincoln Financial. Karen currently serves as Vice President for Lincoln Financial Group overseeing the Client Experience team for Executive Benefits and PPLI. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Special Education from the University of Connecticut.

Sara-Beth Sidla is a graduate of Bentley University with BS in Economics and has since worked in both the public and private sector. Since 2011 she has worked at Lincoln Financial, holding various positions within the Life and Executive Benefits teams. Sara-Beth currently drives product positioning and implementation from ideation through launch for the Executive Benefits business line. Her other responsibilities include product research and analysis, process improvement, relationship management and post-sale support. She holds her Series 6 license as well as her LOMA ALMI. Outside of insurance work, Sara-Beth sits on the board for her local United Way, is an avid fan of the outdoors during all of the New England seasons and spends a few hours each week at a local animal shelter.

C: What A Tangled Web – How 250 Years of Health Care Developments have Shaped Regulation of Health Coverage in the U.S. and Given us the Patchwork System we Enjoy Today

Jason Karcher, Actuary and Health Policy Consultant, Milliman

Session Description:

Who knew U.S. Health care could be so complicated? As it happens, that's a feature not a bug. In this session, we will explore key developments in U.S. health care and its regulation over the first 250 years of our history from the establishment of the Marine Health Service in 1798 all the way through the Patient Protection & Affordable Care Act of 2010, and how the peculiar combination of providers, payers, and markets that drive 20% of the U.S. economy is, in many ways, the natural outcome of these many efforts.

Jason Karcher is an Actuary and Health Policy Consultant with Milliman. In this role, he focuses on helping clients across the healthcare and health coverage landscape understand and react to regulatory changes by states and the federal government. Jason has particular expertise in private health insurance regulation, and will happily talk your ear off about premium tax credits, ERISA pre-emption and state PBM reforms, or the latest health care reform bills being bandied about in the nation's capital. Jason is a lapsed life valuation actuary, having started his career with Allstate Life Insurance Company. Jason holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from California State University Long Beach and Masters of Science in Pure Mathematics from the University of Illinois at Chicago, but please don't hold his theory-forward education against him.

D: Actuarial Professionalism Responsibilities in the Expert Testimony Role

Lisa Kuklinski, Former Member Actuarial Standards Board Life Committee, American Academy of Actuaries

Session Description:

Being called or tapped to provide expert testimony presents a special circumstance that can involve unique professionalism questions. Do my Code obligations change when the rules of a court, hearing, or arbitration limit what I may say or not say? How can my communications before audiences like judges, legislators, regulators, attorneys, or arbitrators comply with Code obligations to not mislead others if I'm speaking or seen as speaking on "one side" between adversaries? Learn about key professionalism considerations, resources, and touchpoints for preparing to take on this special role and circumstance.

Lisa Kuklinski, MAAA, FSA, has served in key professionalism and professional leadership roles, including formerly as chairperson of the Actuarial Standards Board's (ASB) ASOP No. 10 Task Force, and for six years as a member of the ASB Life Committee. She currently serves on the ASB's ASOP No. 1 Task Force. She previously served on the Society of Actuaries Board of Directors and is a principal at Oliver Wyman in New York City. Last year, she helped clarify the professional role of the actuary and actuarial standards and professional responsibilities--and their limits—in a presentation at the ARIAS Fall Meeting, a national conference of reinsurance and insurance arbitrators.

General Session #2 (3:30-4:30)

Projecting Future Mortality: From Extrapolation of Recent Data to Drivers of Long Term Trends

Erik Pickett, Actuary and Chief Content Officer, Club Vita

Jennifer Haid, Principal Insurance and Actuarial Advisory Services (IAAS), EY

Session Description:

Longevity is a central consideration across many actuarial practice areas, including pension risk transfer, defined contribution decumulation, defined benefit pension valuation, health, and long term care.

Current mortality rates can be accurately captured by examining recent experience data using multi-factor models and experience studies. But how can we model how mortality rates will change in the future?

This session explores the key considerations involved in projecting future mortality rates. We outline a common framework for mortality projection models and examine how recent trends are used to inform near-term projections, including the impact of recent pandemic experience. Finally, we discuss approaches to setting long-term mortality improvement rates, drawing on lessons from historical data and driver-based considerations to capture longer-term trends.

Erik Pickett, PhD FIA FSA is an actuary and Chief Content Officer for international longevity data analytics company Club Vita. Erik leads the dissemination of Club Vita's longevity research, insights and analytics across its US, Canadian and UK geographies, working with a range of insurer, reinsurer and pension plan clients. He began his career as a mathematician, working at a number of universities around Europe, while moonlighting as a part time street performer. He transitioned to the world of actuarial science 15 years ago, first as a pension actuary with Mercer and Hymans Robertson then specializing in longevity analytics with Club Vita. Erik is a Fellow of the Institute Actuaries, a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries and has a PhD in mathematics.

Jennifer Haid, CFA FSA is a Principal in EY's Insurance and Actuarial Advisory Services practice, based in New York. She brings over 20 years of experience at the intersection of retirement, longevity, and data analytics. Jenny is known for her ability to navigate complexity with clarity and for building high-performing, collaborative teams.

Jenny has worked both as a consultant and in industry roles. She most recently served as CEO of Club Vita, the market leader in longevity analytics in the US, UK, and Canada. Before that, she was VP of Institutional Markets at AIG, where she led jumbo pension risk transfer (PRT) transactions, launched the funded reinsurance business, and expanded institutional markets product set. Jenny began her career as a traditional pension actuary in Toronto, and then pivoted to EY's US insurance consulting team to focus on longevity and retirement income.

As Jenny returns to EY, she is particularly interested in the insurer of the future, with focus on how technology can unlock capacity, sharpen decision-making, and empower actuarial teams to deliver greater impact.

Jenny is a past Board Member of the Society of Actuaries and a founding member of its Longevity Advisory Group.