

REPORT ON THE 14TH INTERNATIONAL AFIR COLLOQUIUM, BOSTON

The 14th annual AFIR Colloquium was held November 8-9, 2004 in Boston, Massachusetts. The colloquium was held jointly with the Canadian Institute of Actuaries and Society of Actuaries' Investment Symposium and attended by over 250 participants. John Riley, from the Society of Actuaries, led the organization of the meeting. The scientific committee for the 14th AFIR Colloquium included A. Eric Thorlacius, Prof. Elias S.W. Shiu, Prof. Mary R. Hardy, Prof. Samuel H. Cox, Shaun Wang, and Robert R. Reitano.

The AFIR colloquium was opened by Jean Berthon, the chairman of the AFIR committee, along with Larry Rubin and Josee Deroy on Monday morning. The opening session included a keynote presentation from Dr. Mark Warshawsky of the US Department of Treasury. On the previous evening, a reception was held at the Boston Aquarium where the attendees were treated to a private viewing of the extensive aquatic collection including specimens from around the world.

The meeting included presentations of 30 AFIR submitted papers, along with 25 professional presentations of current topics for the Investment Symposium and three keynote speakers. The AFIR paper topics were broad ranging in content and included representations from around the world. The papers can be found on the web site <http://afir2004.soa.org/>.

On the Tuesday afternoon, a business meeting was held for AFIR. During this session, a presentation was made by the Swedish actuarial society who made a proposal to hold a future AFIR colloquium in Sweden. This proposal was voted on and accepted.

Tuesday afternoon concluded with the presentation of the Bob Alting von Geusau prize for the best AFIR topic paper published in the ASTIN bulletin during 2003. The prize was awarded to Phelim Boyle and Mary Hardy for their paper "Guaranteed Annuity Options". Mary Hardy accepted the award and expressed appreciation for the prize. Prakash Shimpi gave a very stimulating talk on the role of actuaries as risk professionals. Following this, Jean Berthon congratulated the large audience on an active and stimulating colloquium, welcomed them to submit papers and attend the next colloquium in Zurich, and formally closed the colloquium.

Eric THORLACIUS