

Membership of the Professional Skills Working Group

The group's members are:



Peter Heffernan, FIA - Chair

Peter currently works for Pacific Life Re, as Vice President, Capital Management & Reporting, based in Bermuda. Prior to this Peter spent almost all of his career in both consulting, at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), and industry, at Scottish Widows and Pension Insurance Corporation (PIC), with a particular focus on audit and risk oversight roles. Peter has been presenting to clients and at conferences on professionalism for a number of years and is keen to ensure the group continues to produce thought-provoking materials to support the goals of the IFoA.



Sally Calder, FIA – Education Actuary

Sally began her actuarial career in pensions consulting, focusing on medium to large DB pension schemes. Volunteering for the IFoA led to her current role as Education Actuary, where she supports the IFoA's education curriculum and the development & delivery of professionalism material. She has a particular interest in ethics, neurodiversity, and "all things Actuaries' Code," and has used her experience of supporting the communications examination to pen several novels.



Sonal Shah, FIA – Education Actuary

Sonal Shah is an Education Actuary at the IFoA, supporting the IFoA curriculum for various modules, in particular for the general insurance (GI) practice area.

Sonal has been an active volunteer within the profession for several years and is currently a member of the Editorial Advisory Panel for the Actuary magazine. She was previously a features editor for a few years and has written several articles for the magazine. She was a Board member of the charity Actuaries du Monde (Actuaries of the World) and Actuaries Without Borders.

As a member of the PSWG, Sonal produces case studies and delivers professionalism training at conferences and other events.

The group's IFoA volunteer members are:



Ben Stroud, FIA CERA – member volunteer

Ben is Head of Insurance Transfers and Regulated Roles at Hymans Robertson LLP. He has 15 years of experience within the life sector, which includes managing with-profits funds at a consolidator, as a regulator at the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and more recently as a consultant. Ben's career has focused on consumer interests, conduct risk and with-profits. He is a self-proclaimed "serial volunteer" having previously been a member of IFoA research working parties, a CPD Coordinator, Student Employer Contact, a Career Ambassador, and member of the 400 club before he joined the PSWG in 2022.



Neil Walton, FFA – member volunteer

Before retiring in 2020 Neil spent 40 years as a scheme actuary with Scottish Life, Royal London and XPS Pensions Group providing advice to mainly smaller pension schemes provided by a range of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and large multinational companies. He was involved in a number of faculty research groups and joint Institute & Faculty working groups focused on pension topics over the years before joining the PSWG.



Richard Chalk, FIA CERA member volunteer

Richard is a Senior Actuary at the Bank of England, where he has worked in a variety of roles (and prior to that, the Financial Services Authority), since 2006. He is a general insurance actuary and has worked with a wide range of firms in the UK general insurance sector across a number of fields, including reserving, capital modelling, and the prudential regulatory framework. He joined the PSWG in 2019, through which he has worked on several of the group's videos and written materials and has led sessions on professionalism at every GIRO Conference since 2019. Outside of actuarial work, he is passionate about theatre, comedy and cabaret.



Ewen Tweedie, FFA – member volunteer

Ewen is currently an Actuarial Director in Broadstone's Insurance, Regulatory and Risk division, delivering a wide range of actuarial services to UK and international insurers. He has previously worked in both industry (Wesleyan) and consulting (PwC) roles across a number of different areas, including reporting, with profits, audit and pricing. Ewen has previously been a member of the Health & Care Research

Committee, and the Life Conference Organising Committee. He has joined the PSWG to continue to promote, present and share content on professional standards and to challenge others to explore ethical dilemmas.



Kaushal Bhagat, FIA member volunteer

Kaushal is a Senior Actuary at NorthStandard P&I club doing a mixture of reserving, regulatory, and capital modelling. He did a masters in Mathematics at King's College London and started his career in consultancy as a graduate at Deloitte. He qualified as a fellow in 2017 and has been at NorthStandard for 10 years. Kaushal has a keen interest in professionalism issues and enjoys debating ethical issues with others. Outside of work, he enjoys running, reading and board games.