TREY APEL
PRINCIPAL, SCIENCE & ANALYTICS
CORELOGIC

Trey Apel is a seismologist, professional geologist and holds the title of Principal Scientist in the Science and Analytics division of CoreLogic®. Trey joined the company in May of 2018 and works primarily on developing and supporting earthquake catastrophe models.

Prior to his time at CoreLogic, Trey held previous positions at RMS, AMEC Geomatrix and was a Professor of Geology at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill, Calif. As an earthquake educator, Trey prides himself in diligently distilling complex problems for clients and students alike.

Trey earned a PhD in Geophysics, specializing in plate tectonics and earthquake processes from the University of California, Berkeley. He also earned a B.S. in Geology and a B.S. in Geological Engineering from the University of Idaho. Trey is based in Spokane, Washington.

CRISTINA ARANGO
CATASTROPHE RISK SPECIALIST
AON IMPACT FORECASTING

Cristina works alongside Impact Forecasting’s R&D and software teams to successfully deliver catastrophe models for natural and man-made perils (terrorism). She has experience in all aspects of model development, having spent 5 years in R&D developing models for earthquake and tsunami perils, as well as model use and implementation within re/insurance workflows. She is responsible for managing catastrophe modelling initiatives for a portfolio of customers including re/insurers with a global footprint.

Prior to her time at Impact Forecasting, Cristina held positions as seismic risk analyst at ARUP, and Researcher at Imperial College London where she earned her PhD in Engineering Seismology in 2009.

DAVE BACHIOCHI
RALEIGH REGIONAL MANAGER/SENIOR SCIENTIST/METEOROLOGIST
WEATHERPREDICT

Dr. Bachiochi is responsible for helping lead a team of WPC scientists in various operational forecast/product development and risk assessment projects driven by client needs. Dr. Bachiochi has been part of WeatherPredict since its inception in 2000 and has played a pivotal role in overall R&D efforts during that time and has recently helped manage company operations in the Raleigh office. Dr. Bachiochi contributes with his leadership and expertise in prediction and risk assessment for seasonal climate and ENSO, agricultural and energy interests, extra-tropical storms, tropical storms and understanding climate change.
DAVE BACHIOCHI (continued)

Dr. Bachiochi has over 17 years of experience as an atmospheric scientist both academically and with WeatherPredict. His focused research academically revolved around non-linear dynamics of the atmosphere, ENSO dynamics, coupled ocean-atmosphere modeling, and forecast ensemble techniques with some minor emphasis on climate data assimilation and global climate model cloud modeling. His work prior to joining WeatherPredict included pioneering work in coupled model initialization and seasonal climate SuperEnsemble forecasting. More recently, he has been involved in severe convective storm research, ensemble precipitation products, European wind-storm risk, and global weather risk evaluation for various other perils.

Dr. Bachiochi holds his B.S., M.S., and PhD in Atmospheric Science from Florida State University.

MICHAEL BENNETT
HEAD, DERIVATIVES & STRUCTURED FINANCE, CAPITAL MARKETS TREASURY

Michael leads the team that is responsible for structured note issuance, all derivatives related to funding, structure finance transactions for the Bank and its clients (including catastrophe bonds and swaps, carbon emission rights linked bonds, sukuk (Islamic bonds) for IFFIm and project linked bonds) as well as monetization of certified emissions reductions as agent for the United Nations’ Adaptation Fund.

Michael has spent sixteen years with the Bank, including five years (2006-2010) in the Bank’s Paris office. Prior to joining the Bank, Michael worked for Chase and Lehman Brothers in structured finance and two international law firms in New York, Tokyo and Hong Kong.

He holds a doctoral degree in Law, with a specialization in international and comparative law, from Columbia University in New York.

DEREK BLUM
SENIOR DIRECTOR, PRODUCT MANAGEMENT RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Derek has over 17 years of experience at RMS providing solutions and services related to catastrophe risk models. He oversaw the productization of RMS’ first terrorism and infectious disease models and has deep experience designing and developing many products and features used by RMS clients today. Currently, Derek oversees RMS’ Emerging Risks Models, which includes a suite of solutions for cyber, terrorism, LifeRisks, earthquake human casualty and workers’ comp, marine cargo, industrial facilities, offshore platform, and builder’s risk.

Prior to joining RMS, Derek attended Stanford University where he received a Bachelor’s degree in quantitative economics.
MARK BOVE
NATURAL CATASTROPHE SOLUTIONS MANAGER
MUNICH RE, US

Mr. Mark Bove is a meteorologist & Natural Catastrophe Solutions Manager in the Reinsurance Division of Munich Reinsurance America. His responsibilities include evaluating commercially available catastrophe risk models & tools, providing technical expertise on underwriting property catastrophe risk and exposure accumulation issues, and the development of new property catastrophe insurance products.

Mr. Bove has been using his meteorological and climatological expertise to improve property catastrophe underwriting at Munich Reinsurance America, Inc., for almost 20 years. Before joining the Munich Re Group in July 2000, Mark was a graduate research assistant at Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida, where he conducted research on short-term climate variations and probabilistic modeling of extreme weather events. Research highlights include studies of ENSO’s influence on Atlantic hurricane landfall frequencies and tornadic activity patterns in the United States. Mark’s research made national headlines on several occasions and he was the 1998 recipient of the Father James B. Macelwane award for outstanding undergraduate research by the American Meteorological Society.

Mark holds Masters and Bachelors degrees in Meteorology from Florida State University and has earned the Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and Associate in Reinsurance (ARe) professional designations from The Institutes and the new Certified Catastrophe Risk Management Professional (CCRMP) designation from the ISCM/iCAS.

STEVEN BOWEN
DIRECTOR & METEOROLOGIST
AON IMPACT FORECASTING

Steve has had a lifelong fascination with the weather. After starting off his professional career working in television, he has spent more than a decade in the insurance industry. His current role is with Aon’s Impact Forecasting group, where he serves as a Director and is the Global Head of Catastrophe Insight. This team is primarily focused on conducting real-time and historical natural disaster analysis for clients around the world.

Much of his work utilizes analytics to help communicate the evolving risks and loss trends associated with increasing weather variability, climate change, and other natural perils. He regularly collaborates with government agencies, academia, and industry groups on numerous weather, climate, and insurance-related projects.

Steve earned his Master of Science in Business Analytics degree from the University of Notre Dame, and his Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Florida State University.
SHALOM BUBLIL  
CHIEF RISK OFFICER  
KOVRR

Shalom is Chief Risk Officer at Kovrr and a cyber data science expert. Throughout his career, Shalom has acquired unique expertise in cyber intelligence, threat modeling, risk modeling, machine learning and artificial intelligence. Shalom joined an elite Israeli intelligence unit and served for four years specializing in cyber. Following his military service, he joined Lacoon Mobile Security where he led the threat intelligence and threat modeling initiatives. In his last position before founding Kovrr, he led cyber threat intelligence and modeling efforts at Deep Instinct, developing a commercial detection engine product from scratch based on advanced artificial intelligence technology. Shalom holds a B.A. from the Open University of Israel.

SUZANA CAMARGO  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Dr. Suzana J. Camargo is the Marie Tharp Lamont Research Professor at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University. Dr. Camargo has been working at Columbia University since 1999. She is an expert on extreme events, in particular tropical cyclones. She is also an editor of Geophysical Research Letters and a member of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Expert Team on Climate Change Impacts on Tropical Cyclones.

GLEN DARASKEVICH  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
KAREN CLARK & CO

Mr. Daraskevich has extensive experience in catastrophe modeling, pricing, and risk management. As the head of KCC’s consulting practice, Mr. Daraskevich has conducted comprehensive reviews of catastrophe models and catastrophe modeling processes for regional, national, and global insurers. These reviews have entailed detailed model evaluations, peer review studies, and M&A due diligence. Prior to joining KCC, he was the Vice President of the Research and Modeling team at AIR for six years, where he led the development of several of the company’s key catastrophe models. He has also directed several post-disaster damage surveys over numerous years.
JOSH DARR
HEAD OF NORTH AMERICA PERIL ADVISORY & METEROLOGIST
GUY CARPENTER

Josh leads a team of ten scientists and engineers to assess and deploy solutions for the evolving risk landscape of catastrophe analytics. Josh co-leads Guy Carpenter’s efforts on understanding the impact of weather and changing climate for clients. In addition to responsibilities at Guy Carpenter, Josh is currently an Adjunct Professor at Northern Illinois University in the Department of Geography and is active member of the American Meteorological Society.

Prior to being in the reinsurance brokerage sector, Josh was a member of the corporate hedging team for Chesapeake Energy while leading a weather and agribusiness consulting firm, CHK Weather. Josh’s career began at catastrophe modeler Risk Management Solutions, where he held titles of Global Manager of Analytical Services and Director of North America Climate Hazards.

He received his BS degree from Cornell University and his MS degree, both in Atmospheric Sciences, from the University at Albany, New York.

IOANA DIMA-WEST
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR – HEAD OF MODEL RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
WILLIS RE

Ioana joined Willis Re in 2014, as the Lead Atmospheric Scientist and later became the Head of Model Research and Evaluation (MR&E). The MR&E team is mainly responsible for developing the ‘View of Risk’ across all international territories and all nat-cat perils. Prior to Willis Re, Ioana worked in model development at AIR Worldwide.

Ioana has a PhD in Atmospheric Sciences from University of Washington and is heavily involved with the Willis Research Network and the application of scientific findings within the (Re)Insurance industry.

NICHOLAS DIMUZIO
AXA XL & ISCM IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Nick oversees enterprise natural catastrophe exposure modeling and reporting process at AXA XL. He also leads the planning and implementation of IT infrastructure, system and methodology changes for internal cat models.

Nick has over 15 years of extensive Catastrophe management and Re(insurance) experience with focus on modeling methodology, implementation, simulation methodology, pricing and enterprise catastrophe risk management. Nick attended Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, CT with a Major in Computer Science with a focus on Management Information Systems. Nick is the past-president of the International Society of Catastrophe, served on the board of the ISCM since 2008, an active member of the RAA Cat Conference Planning Committee since 2010 and sits on the ISCM/iCAS Cat Risk Credential Advisory Committee.
V. J. DOWLING  
MANAGING DIRECTOR  
DOWLING & PARTNERS  

Mr. Dowling is Managing Partner of Dowling & Partners Securities LLC (D&P). He began his career with A.J.B. Zunser and Co. in 1982 as a junior insurance stock analyst and joined Fox-Pitt Kelton, Ltd. in 1983. He was admitted to the FPK partnership in 1986. Dowling co-founded Dowling & Partners in 1990.

Dowling & Partners Securities is a Hartford based institutional stock brokerage firm specializing in property/casualty (re)insurance, life (re)insurance, as well as title, mortgage, and financial guarantee (re)insurance.

Dowling & Partners property/casualty research team follows 40+ (re)insurers and writes the IBNR Weekly published each Thursday.

D&P has been consistently ranked # 1 in annual surveys of institutional investors by the Greenwich Survey and Best of Boutiques by Institutional Investor. The firm’s fundamental analysis pays particular attention to loss reserves, balance sheets, and areas of sustained competitive advantage.

Mr. Dowling is a graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Business School. He and his wife live in West Hartford, CT and he has three grown children.

STEVEN DREWS  
DIRECTOR AND METEOROLOGIST  
AON IMPACT FORECASTING  

Steve Drews is Director of U.S. Business Development and Meteorologist for Aon Impact Forecasting. Joining Aon in 2002 as the company's meteorologist, Steve pioneered many of Impact Forecasting’s catastrophe reports and developed client-customized modeling solutions for IF's hurricane and severe convective storm perils. Steve also developed Impact Forecasting’s SCS RePlay historical severe convective storm model. Currently, he manages several of Impact Forecasting's U.S. and international clients in their daily catastrophe modeling needs.

Steve has provided expert analysis on hurricane and tornado damage and was the keynote speaker at the 2005 Cayman Captive Forum and the 2008 Bermuda Captive Conference due to his role in assisting Grand Cayman Island's evacuation ahead of 2004's Hurricane Ivan and 2005's Hurricane Emily. He has also taken part in governmental panels discussing the effects of global climate change. Prior to his time at Aon, Steve was Manager of Meteorological Operations for WeatherData, Inc. based in Wichita, Kansas.

Steve earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Meteorology from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. He is a member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), serves on the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety (IBHS), and is a certified Skywarn storm spotter for Illinois’ Kane County.
WILLIAM CRAIG FUGATE  
FORMER ADMINISTRATOR OF FEMA  
CHIEF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER  
ONE CONCERN

W. Craig Fugate served as President Barack Obama’s FEMA Administrator from May 2009 to January 2017. Previously, he served as Florida Governor Jeb Bush’s Emergency Management Director from 2001-2007 and Governor Charlie Crist from 2007-09. Fugate led FEMA through multiple record-breaking disaster years and oversaw the Federal Government’s response to major events such as the Joplin and Moore Tornadoes, Hurricane Sandy, Hurricane Matthew, and the 2016 Louisiana flooding. Fugate set a clear and compelling vision, mission, and priorities for FEMA and relentlessly drove the Agency to achieve better outcomes for survivors. FEMA’s effectiveness in dealing with more than 500 Presidentially declared major disasters and emergencies under Fugate’s leadership restored the faith of the American people in the Federal Government’s ability to respond to disasters. Prior to his tenure at FEMA, Fugate was widely praised for his management, under Governor Jeb Bush, of the devastating effects of the 2004 and 2005 Florida hurricane seasons (Charley, Frances, Ivan, Jeanne, Dennis, Katrina, and Wilma). Craig currently provides senior level advice and consultation in the area of disaster management and resiliency policy through Craig Fugate Consulting LLC. Craig also serves as the Chief Emergency Management Officer at One Concern.

DAVID GAGNE  
SCIENTIST  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

David John Gagne is a Machine Learning Scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado. His research focuses on developing machine learning systems to improve the prediction and understanding of high impact weather and to enhance weather and climate models. He received his PhD in meteorology from the University of Oklahoma in 2016 and subsequently completed an Advanced Study Program postdoctoral fellowship at NCAR in 2018. He has collaborated with interdisciplinary teams to produce machine learning systems for hail, tornadoes, hurricanes, and renewable energy. In order to educate atmospheric science students and scientists about machine learning, he has led a series of interactive short courses and hackathons.

JEFFREY GALL, PhD  
HEAD OF HAZARD RESEARCH  
VALIDUS RESEARCH

Jeffrey S. Gall joined Validus in 2010 as a Research Scientist and is currently Head of Hazard Research within Validus Research. He leads internally generated scientific research initiatives on all weather-related perils within Validus to guide both the Catastrophe Modeling and Underwriting groups. This work directly shapes the Validus View of risk, Validus’ proprietary view of global risk for the various weather perils. Additionally, he frequently gives external presentations within the insurance industry on a wide range of topics relating to weather risk.
JEFFREY GALL, PhD (continued)

Prior to joining Validus, Jeffrey received his B.S. in Atmospheric Science from Cornell University (1999-2003) and M.S., PhD in Meteorology from the Pennsylvania State University (2003-2009). From 2009 to 2010, he was a Postdoctoral Research Assistant at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in conjunction with the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island where his research efforts focused on the intra-seasonal forecasting of hurricane activity. His background is in tropical meteorology, with a particular emphasis on the numerical and statistical modeling of tropical cyclones.

CHRISTINE GOULET, PhD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR APPLIED SCIENCE
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE CENTER
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Christine Goulet is the Executive Director for Applied Science at the Southern California Earthquake Center (SCEC). In that role, she acts as the science lead and technical integrator for large-scale collaborative projects involving diverse disciplines related to earthquake hazard and risk. Her research interests are in geotechnical earthquake engineering and applied seismology in the context of performance-based design, with a focus on ground-motion modeling, structural response and seismic hazard analysis. Dr. Goulet obtained her PhD in Civil Engineering from UCLA where she developed a graduate course on ground-motion characterization for engineers. Before joining SCEC, she co-led the NGA-East program at the Pacific Earthquake Engineering Research (PEER) Center and also consulted for engineering and seismology projects. Dr. Goulet serves on the Board of Directors for the Seismological Society of America (SSA) and as past President for its Eastern Section. Dr. Goulet recently co-developed the new “Communicating Science” column in Seismological Research Letters for which she is a regular contributor.

DAVID GREGORY
SENIOR PROFESSIONAL, PRODUCT MANAGEMENT
CORELOGIC

David Gregory is a Senior Professional in the Insurance and Spatial Solutions group at CoreLogic and is responsible for managing the global earthquake product suite, including the U.S. Earthquake model. He has been with CoreLogic since 2013. Prior to that, he accrued 5 years of experience working in cat modelling.

David holds a master’s degree in Geophysical Hazards from UCL and a bachelor’s degree in Risk Analysis from CASS Business School. He is currently working on his PhD in Seismology at UCL, focusing on Coulomb Stress transfer. He holds an Associateship of the Chartered Insurance Institute (ACII). He is based in London.
JAYANTA GUIN, PhD
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER
AIR WORLDWIDE

Dr. Jayanta Guin is Executive Vice President and AIR's Chief Research Officer, responsible for the strategic direction and management of the Research and Modeling group. Under his leadership, the group has developed a global suite of models for assessing and managing extreme risk from both natural and man-made perils, continually pushing the boundaries of the state-of-the-science. Of late, he is leading the development of a set of solutions for analytics in casualty and cyber risks. Jayanta has more than 20 years of experience in probabilistic risk analysis for natural catastrophes worldwide and is well recognized in the insurance industry for his expertise in the financial risk posed by natural perils. He received his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Jadavpur University in India and his M.S. and PhD in Civil Engineering from the State University of New York, Buffalo.

MARYAM HAJI, PhD
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST
TRANSRE

Maryam Haji is a Senior Research Analyst at Transatlantic Reinsurance Company. Her responsibilities include catastrophe model evaluation and validation, identifying model uncertainty, addressing climate change concerns and parametric product initiatives. She has extensive experience in the area of catastrophe modeling. Prior to TransRe, she was with Impact Forecasting, Aon Benfield as a Senior Scientist and Catastrophe Model Developer. She holds both a PhD in Industrial Engineering and Operations Research and a M.S. in Industrial Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She also holds a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from Sharif University of Technology in Tehran.

CARL HEDDE
PRINCIPAL
CGH CONSULTING LLC

Mr. Hedde is the Principal of CGH Consulting, LLC, an organization founded to provide strategic consulting services to organizations focused on Catastrophe Risk Mitigation and Risk Transfer strategies. He has dedicated his professional career to the study of catastrophic risk analysis methodologies that promote efficient resilience, risk mitigation and risk transfer strategies.

Mr. Hedde retired from Munich Reinsurance Company as SVP, Head of Risk Accumulation. In this role, he managed the Risk Accumulation Department, which included the catastrophe management, risk accumulation and geo research functions within the US operation of Munich. Currently, Mr. Hedde serves as the Insurance Practice Head at One Concern, a California based organization dedicated to using artificial intelligence and machine learning to better understand inter-dependency risk from natural perils.
CARL HEDDE (continued)

Mr. Hedde received a Bachelor of Science Degree from the State University of New York – Albany and holds the CPCU Designation. He has over 40 years’ experience in the insurance industry. He has served as the Chair of the Board of Directors of the Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety (IBHS) and is a founding Board Member of the International Society of Catastrophe Managers (ISCM). He currently serves on the National Institute for Building Science (NIBS) Board as Vice Chairman.

KELLY HEREID, PhD
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR RESEARCH SCIENTIST
CHUBB

Kelly Hereid is a Senior Research Scientist with Chubb Corporate Catastrophe Solutions. Dr. Hereid joined the organization on the reinsurance side with Chubb Tempest Re in 2012 and moved to the primary side natural catastrophe unit in 2018. She specializes in climate change, non-modeled perils, and emerging risks.

Prior to starting with Chubb, Dr. Hereid obtained a PhD in geological sciences from the University of Texas – Austin, focusing on climate science, and a bachelor’s degree in geology and biology from Carleton College in Minnesota.

MIKE HOFERT
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF INSURANCE SOLUTIONS
PITNEY BOWES

Mike Hofert believes that decisions should be made by the people with the best data, not the loudest voices. He’s spent the last quarter of a century working at analytics software companies putting that theory into practice. The last half of that tenure has been working with health and P&C insurers, most recently as the managing director of insurance solutions at Pitney Bowes. When not thinking about data – OK, who are we kidding, he thinks about data all the time. He’s managed to remain married in spite of that fact, however, and currently resides in Michigan with his wife Lysa.

SUSAN HOUGH, PhD
SEISMOLOGIST
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Susan Hough graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in geophysics in 1982 and received a PhD in Earth sciences from UC San Diego in 1988. Since 1992 she has worked as a research geophysicist at the US Geological Survey in Pasadena, and currently serves as the USGS Pasadena Earthquake Response Coordinator. Her research interests include earthquake ground motions, induced earthquakes, historical earthquakes, and seismic hazard. She led deployments of portable seismometers following a number of damaging earthquakes including the 1989 Loma Prieta, California, and 2010 Haiti earthquakes.
SUSAN HOUGH, PhD (continued)

She has co-authored over 120 articles, including 10 on the New Madrid Seismic Zone, and was elected Fellow of the American Geophysical Union in 2009. She is now serving as President of the Seismological Society of America. In addition to technical articles, she has long-standing interests in science communication, having authored five books on earthquake science for a non-specialist audience as well as numerous popular articles. She has also led USAID-supported capacity development projects in a number of countries including Nepal, Haiti, and Myanmar. In 2019 she won the American Geophysical Union International Award for her contributions to science and international capacity development.

DR. MATTHEW JONES
HEAD OF MODEX PRODUCT
NASDAQ

Matthew Jones is the Head of Catastrophe Risk Product at Nasdaq, leading the product development of Nasdaq’s multi-vendor catastrophe risk modelling platform.

Before joining Nasdaq, Matthew founded Cat Risk Intelligence, a UK based company providing catastrophe risk management consultancy to the (re)insurance industry. Prior to this, Matthew served as Global Head of Catastrophe Management for Zurich Insurance Group, leading the organisational change required to establish a global team with consistent processes to provide catastrophe knowledge, systems, models and services across Zurich’s general insurance lines of business. Matthew worked for Zurich for fourteen years, filling various roles in the actuarial pricing and catastrophe risk management fields. Before this, he was a reinsurance pricing actuary for St Paul Re in London.

Matthew graduated from the UK’s University of Nottingham in 1993 with a degree in Physics. He then completed a PhD in Oceanography and Remote Sensing from University College London, whilst being based at the UK’s National Oceanography Centre in Southampton. He is a Fellow of the UK Institute of Actuaries and a co-author of ‘Natural Catastrophe Risk Management and Modelling: A Practitioner’s guide’.

MARTIN KADLEC
FLOOD MODEL DEVELOPER
AON IMPACT FORECASTING

Martin works as catastrophe model developer and leader of a team of engineers and scientists, who are focusing on introducing fresh ideas to cat models. This includes application of computational fluid dynamics (CFD) in terrorism modelling, development of continental scale flood event set for the IF Pan-European flood model, application of advanced statistical methods and development of efficient algorithms and tools for handling big datasets. Martin also coordinates research activities with academia and leading engineering companies.

Martin holds PhD in geosciences. His hobbies are footbike sport and skiing.
BRANDON KATZ  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT, MEMBER  
KATRISK LLC

Brandon specializes in engineering natural catastrophe risk models for a wide range of clients including those from the insurance/financial industries and government. He is currently involved in developing and deploying probabilistic flood models and risk maps. Once such client, The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), uses KatRisk flood models to price their reinsurance policies and is the only model of record for all NFIP inland flood catastrophe bonds.

Previous to KatRisk, Brandon spent 5 years working for Risk Management Solutions (RMS) within the model development department where he contributed to the China typhoon flood model, the North American hurricane model, the inland European/US Flood models, and the exposure database/products development team. Upon leaving RMS, Brandon then spent 3 years working for the reinsurance brokerage arm of Jardine Lloyd Thompson (JLT Re) where he led the research and development team in all of its flood related projects.

Brandon holds a B.S. and M.S. in Meteorology and Climate studies from the Pennsylvania State University.

DAVID KEETON  
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
AVOCA RISK UNDERWRITING SERVICES

David Keeton is currently Executive Vice President of Risk & Capital Management at Avoca Risk Underwriting Services. As part of Avoca’s leadership team, he is responsible for providing guidance in steering Underwriting, Risk Assessment and Portfolio Management within the company. David is also, responsible for creating a new initiative to support innovative and cost-effective wind mitigation technologies including AeroEdge, to the construction and insurance industries. With over 30 years of professional experience, Mr. Keeton’s expertise as a licensed structural engineer specializing in forensic building science has proven a good foundation for his underwriting, risk management, loss assessment and insurance pricing experience. He also serves as an executive board member of the International Society of Catastrophe Managers (ISCM) which promotes improved understanding of catastrophe and risk management issues.

Prior to Avoca, David worked in wide variety of capacities at Salient Risk Advisors, Weather Predict (a Renaissance Reinsurance Affiliate) and Willis Re. He started his (re)insurance career at Underwriters Re which continued with Swiss Re as an Underwriter, Actuarial Associate, Property Pricing Manager and the Division Americas Catastrophe Risk Manager. Specializing in catastrophe loss assessment, capital allocation and catastrophe risk management, David’s expertise led to thought leadership roles across each of these companies.
DAVID KEETON (continued)

Mr. Keeton has performed numerous structural field surveys following catastrophes most notably including the Loma Prieta and Northridge earthquakes as well as Hurricane Irma. David has also leveraged his structural engineering expertise and experience in developing loss estimations following major catastrophes including the terrorist attack on New York (9/11), Hurricane Katrina and the Tōhoku, Japan earthquake.

David obtained his Bachelor of Science degree in Architectural Engineering from California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo. After obtaining his Civil and Structural licenses in California, David became the chief structural engineer of a consulting firm where his expertise in seismic / wind design led to further specialization as a forensic expert. David also served on a national board of Structural Engineers responsible for managing their risk retention group for professional liability.

HOWARD KUNST
CHIEF ACTUARY
CORELOGIC

Howard began his actuarial career at a Wisconsin based insurance company in 1984. After holding a full range of actuarial roles with increasing responsibilities across multiple companies, Howard joined CoreLogic as Chief Actuary in June 2012. As part of the Science and Analytics team, Howard provides a variety of analytic services to insurance industry and other clients. He also provides market and industry insight in support of product development, sales, marketing and thought leadership content.

Howard is a Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society (FCAS), a member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA), and a Certified Catastrophe Risk Management Professional (CCRMP). He is currently a member of the Casualty Actuarial Society’s Ratemaking, Product and Modeling (RPM) Seminar Planning Committee, and is a member of the Academy’s Natural Catastrophe Subcommittee and Flood Insurance Working Group.

TOM LARSEN
PRINCIPAL, INDUSTRY SOLUTIONS
CORELOGIC

Tom Larsen is Senior Director & Product Architect of CoreLogic. Mr. Larsen has served as an Associate at EQECAT (now CoreLogic) and its prior operating companies since 1989. He is responsible for deeply understanding product requirements from the product management group and translating, guiding and directing CoreLogic's methodology and architecture to ensure they are aligned with client needs.
TOM LARSEN (continued)

Mr. Larsen has played critical roles in the development of tools to help insurance and government clients better measure and manage their risk from large-scale catastrophes at EQECAT. Leading a reconnaissance team after the Loma Prieta Earthquake, he helped refine financial models that helped banks estimate post-catastrophe mortgage default risk. He was part of the team which assessed building and critical infrastructure damage caused by Hurricane Andrew and led the team implementing the financial risk calculation for EQECAT's USWind® and USQuake® models, as well as the risk modeling platform WORLDCATenterprise™. He also has co-authored numerous reports and articles related to extreme-risk hazards and related computer modeling.

Mr. Larsen has experience in natural catastrophe modeling for the re/insurance industry and government dating back to 1989. He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Stanford University, and a Masters in Structural Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. He is based in Oakland, CA.

YAJIE LEE
DIRECTOR, CATASTROPHE MODEL DEVELOPMENT
IMAGECAT, INC.

Yajie Lee is the Director of Earthquake Risk Services at ImageCat, Inc., a risk management technology company specializing in the development and use of advanced technologies for risk assessment and reduction. Before joining ImageCat in 2011, Yajie worked for 12 years at the URS Corp. (now AECOM), a leading global engineering and infrastructure firm, where he provided innovative earthquake risk assessment solutions. Yajie is an expert in modeling earthquake hazard and risks to high-value assets in the U.S. for lenders, brokers, insurers and property owners, as well as performing seismic resilience assessments of large lifeline network infrastructures for public utilities.

For 20 years, Yajie has led the development of analytic frameworks to support the integration of seismic hazard models, a host of vulnerability models, and financial models required for probabilistic seismic risk assessment. He has adapted the USGS nation-wide seismic hazard models for stochastic loss assessments since its first release in 1996 and all subsequent updates. His latest accomplishments include the creation of a robust estimation framework to characterize epistemic uncertainty in risk modeling. Yajie holds double Master’s Degrees in Geophysics (strong motion seismology) and Computer Sciences from the University of Nevada, Reno.
DAG LOHMANN, PhD
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER & CO-FOUNDER
KATRISK

Before co-founding the risk modeling company KatRisk LLC, Dag was a Vice President of Model Development at Risk Management Solutions in Newark, CA leading a team of modelers and software engineers building and implementing catastrophe models. He worked for 7.5 years on the development of continental scale flood risk models in RMS and RMS' Next Generation risk modeling methodology. From 1999 to 2004 he was with the National Weather Service, NOAA/NCEP/EMC in Camp Springs, MD, where his main interest was data assimilation with real-time data, forecasting and hydrological modeling. He received a Physics Diploma (Masters) from the Georg-August University in Goettingen (Germany) and a PhD from Hamburg University (Germany) before working for 2 years as a postdoc at Princeton University. He received the 1999 Tison Award of the IAHS and has published numerous papers on risk modeling, hydrological modeling, model uncertainty, forecasting, data assimilation, and climate change.

WILLIAM P. MAHONEY III
DIRECTOR, RESEARCH APPLICATIONS LABORATORY
NATIONAL CENTER FOR ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH

William (Bill) Mahoney is the Director of the Research Applications Laboratory (RAL) at the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR), in Boulder, Colorado. He has led weather related research and development programs at NCAR for more than 34 years on a variety of topics including aviation, surface transportation, social sciences, intelligent forecast systems, wildland fire behavior prediction, and renewable energy. His experience includes scientific research, program development, strategic planning, communications, facilitating inter-disciplinary science, technology commercialization, system design, moving research-to-operations, administration, project management and budgeting, science advocacy (federal, state, international), education and outreach, and extensive community service.

Bill received his M.S. degree in Atmospheric Science from the University of Wyoming in 1983 and received his B.S. degree in Aeronautics from Miami University of Ohio in 1981. He has written or co-authored more than 50 papers and frequently presents NCAR’s work at national and international conferences and seminars. Bill is a member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS), American Geophysical Union (AGU), Intelligent Transportation Society of America (ITSA), American Wind Energy Association (AWEA), and the Energy Systems Integration Group (ESIG).

Bill served as the Chair of the AMS Board on Enterprise Economic Development, was a member of the AMS Economic Development Committee, is the past Commissioner of the AMS Commission on the Weather, Water and Climate Enterprise, and is an AMS Fellow.
MINCHONG MAO
MANAGING DIRECTOR
AON

Minchong Mao is Managing Director at Aon Reinsurance Solutions. She is a Fellow of Casualty Actuarial Society (FCAS) and a member of American Academy of Actuary (MAAA). Previously, she worked at State Farm where she managed the Catastrophe Modeling function. Minchong was a member for Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology (FCHLPM) from Jan. 2015 to Sept. 2018, representing the property and casualty insurance industry to review and accept models for use in ratemaking in the State of Florida.

KIRSTEN MITCHELL-WALLACE
HEAD OF RISK AGGREGATION
LLOYDS

Kirsten Mitchell-Wallace is the Head of Risk Aggregation at Lloyd’s, the world’s leading insurance market. She is responsible for leading the strategy and day to day activities of Exposure Management (EM), Lloyd’s Catastrophe Model (LCM) and Outwards Reinsurance (ORI) teams. In her previous role as Regional Cat Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa at SCOR, she was responsible for leading cat teams based in Zurich and Paris. Before this she was Head of Cat Pricing and Methodology and responsible for coordinating the development of SCOR’s own view of risks, as well as managing the Zurich-based cat team. She also worked for Willis as a Senior Catastrophe Risk Analyst for almost five years and spent two in model development for RMS after a couple of years as a risk management consultant.

Kirsten has a PhD in Atmospheric Physics from Imperial College, London and a Master’s in Meteorology from Reading University, as well as a degree in Chemistry from the University of Bristol. She also has an International Diploma in Risk Management from the Institute of Risk Management.

ROBERT MUIR-WOOD
EVP & CHIEF RESEARCH OFFICER
RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Robert Muir-Wood is the chief research officer of science and technology at RMS. He leads the branch of the company that’s responsible for identifying models for new areas and novel applications of risk. Based in London, Robert has more than 20 years of experience in developing probabilistic catastrophe models across a wide range of perils and has most recently focused on models for the clustering of catastrophic events, insurance loss amplification, time varying activity rates and “mega” catastrophes. He was the lead author on insurance, finance, and climate change for the 2007 and 2011 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Assessment Reports and has written seven books – most recently published in 2016 “The Cure for Catastrophe”, along with numerous papers and articles in scientific and industry publications.
ROBERT MUIR-WOOD (continued)

Robert is the Chair of the High-Level Advisory Board of the OECD International Network on Financial Management of Large-Scale Catastrophes. He is also a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction at University College, London. Robert holds a first-class degree in natural sciences and a PhD in earth sciences from Cambridge University.

ANDY NEAL
BRANCH CHIEF OF ACTUARIAL AND CATASTROPHE MODELING FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Andy Neal joined FEMA in 2008 as an Actuary for the National Flood Insurance Program. He leads the annual rate setting process and was a contributor to the NFIP Reform initiative. Prior to joining FEMA, Andy worked as a retirement plan consultant for Towers Watson providing actuarial expertise to Fortune 500 companies.

He is a Fellow with the Society of Actuaries and has a M.M. in Bassoon Performance from the University of Cincinnati’s Conservatory of Music, and undergraduate degrees in Music and Math from the Florida State University.

FRANK NUTTER
PRESIDENT REINSURANCE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Frank Nutter has been president of the Reinsurance Association of America (RAA) since 1991. He held the same position with the RAA from 1981-1984.

In the interim, he was president of the Alliance of American Insurers and the Property Loss Research Bureau, which have now merged to be part of the PCI (Property Casualty Insurance Association of America).

Mr. Nutter currently serves on the Board of the International Hurricane Research Center; the Advisory Board of the Center for Health and the Global Environment, an adjunct to the Harvard University Medical School; the Council of the American Meteorological Society; and the Board of the University Center for Atmospheric Research, a consortium of universities managing the National Center for Atmospheric Research sponsored by the National Science Foundation. He currently serves on the Advisory Board of the OECD’s International Network for the Financial Management of Large-Scale Disasters and has served on the Board of the Bermuda Institute for Ocean Sciences.

Mr. Nutter has a Juris Doctorate from the Georgetown University Law Center and a bachelor’s degree in economics from the University of Cincinnati. Mr. Nutter was an officer in the U.S. Navy and is a Vietnam veteran. He is listed in Who’s Who in America.
DON PARKES  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT, CORPORATE CAT SOLUTIONS  
CHUBB

DON PARKES joined Chubb in July of 2013. In his position Mr. Parkes is responsible for Chubb’s global catastrophe risk management function. He has been involved in catastrophe risk management for almost 30 years, serving in previous capacities as Vice President of Global Sales for RMS, Chief Risk Officer for ICAT and Vice President of Insurance Solutions for CoreLogic. Mr. Parkes holds a B.S. degree in Industrial Engineering/Finance from Drexel University.

JOHN PHIPPS  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR  
U.S. FOREST SERVICE

John Phipps began his role as Deputy Chief for State and Private Forestry of USDA Forest Service in 2019. John has had a very distinguished career with the agency, beginning in 1976 as a Forest Planner, District Silviculturist, and Resources Assistant on the Mt. Baker–Snoqualmie and the Willamette National Forests. In 1983, he became a District Ranger on the Sawtooth National Forest and then a Deputy Forest Supervisor on the Olympic National Forest in 1988. In 1992, he became the Forest Supervisor of the Eldorado National Forest and then went on to become the Forest Supervisor of the Mt. Baker–Snoqualmie National Forest in 1999, all prior to becoming the Eastern Region Deputy Regional Forester in 2005. From 2008-2015, John served as Associate Deputy Chief and Senior Advisor for State & Private Forestry, providing leadership in implementing an Agency-wide safety culture, and in transforming Fire and Aviation Management operations to be more effective and efficient. John then served as the Station Director for the Rocky Mountain Research Station from 2015-2019 before coming to the National Office in his current position. John is a graduate of the University of Washington with a B.S. and M.S. in Natural Resources Management.

ADAM PODLAHA  
HEAD OF IMPACT FORECASTING  
AON IMPACT FORECASTING

Adam is the head of Impact Forecasting at Aon, a 100-strong team of catastrophe model and software developers. Impact Forecasting model suite includes over 100 models spanning 12 perils and 60+ countries and through embracing collaborating with various governmental and non-governmental institutions strives to deliver the best quality models. The ELEMENTS catastrophe modelling platform is used to run Impact Forecasting models as well as third party models either from existing vendors or (re)insurers own models. Adam is committed helping clients to find the right solution for their challenges and needs by making sure that the right model is made available through the right channel being it the ELEMENTS platform or other modelling or underwriting tool. Adam joined Aon in Prague as a flood model developer in 2003 and holds a PhD in Physical Geography from Charles University in Prague. Adam has 4 boys and in his spare time also enjoys his hobbies including diving with rebreathers (ask him what it is) in the Galápagos Islands, fly-fishing for trout in London's river Wandle, taking lessons in flying and occasionally drives his late 1980's Lancia Delta Integrale.
KIMBERLY ROBERTS  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT  
GUY CARPENTER

With an academic background in hurricane wind and storm surge, Kimberly has brought her expertise in atmospheric perils into the business and (re)insurance industry. As a senior member of the North America Peril Advisory team at Guy Carpenter, she works with colleagues to provide analytical solutions to complex issues surrounding natural catastrophe. She is committed to assisting clients to bridge the gap between science and solutions.

DAIL ROWE  
SENIOR SCIENTIST AND REGIONAL MANAGER  
WEATHERPREDICT CONSULTING

Dr. Rowe is responsible for leading a team of WeatherPredict scientists focused on risk assessment and forecasting, and works closely with clients managing their exposure to meteorological risk. Dr. Rowe joined WeatherPredict’s predecessor organization as a senior research scientist in 1999 and has assumed positions of increasing responsibility since that time, including serving as an integral part of WeatherPredict’s atmospheric and oceanic research and development efforts. Dr. Rowe is a principal contributor to many WeatherPredict initiatives including realtime weather prediction, evaluation and construction of risk assessment models, and research into climatological control of catastrophic weather.

Dr. Rowe has over 20-years experience as an oceanographer and meteorologist including several years on the research faculty at the University of Hawaii, where his research focused on air-sea interactions in the western Pacific warm-pool that are essential for understanding the ENSO phenomenon. Dr. Rowe holds a B.S. in Physics from Guilford College and a PhD in Physical Oceanography from the University of Rhode Island.

FARHAD SEDAGHATI  
MODEL DEVELOPER  
AON IMPACT FORECASTING

Farhad Sedaghati is a seismologist with several years of experience in the structural engineering field, capable to fill the gap between the structural engineers and seismologists.

He has published several peer-reviewed journal papers and has had many poster presentations and talks in national and international meetings in the field of earthquake engineering and engineering seismology.

He has been working as a Senior Scientist at AON Impact Forecasting since August 2017. He is responsible for the development of the U.S. earthquake catastrophe model.

Farhad holds a PhD in civil engineering focusing on engineering seismology from the University of Memphis. He received his master's degree in civil engineering specializing in earthquake engineering from the University of Tehran.
ANDREW J. SIFFERT  
VICE PRESIDENT, SENIOR METEOROLOGIST, CATASTROPHE ANALYTICS  
BMS RE U.S.

Andrew Siffert is an Assistant Vice President and Senior Meteorologist with BMS Group Catastrophe Analytics team. He works closely with clients to help them manage their weather-related risks by adding value through catastrophe response, catastrophe modeling, product development and scientific research and education. He has 14 years of industry experience having worked in the energy and insurance industry focusing his meteorological knowledge on helping companies manage their weather risks.

Prior to joining BMS, Andrew worked for FlagstoneRe as a CAT Project Manager / Meteorologist and was responsible for developing LiveCAT products, frontline research, and analytics used in the underwriting process. He has also worked at ACE Group with the development of ACE Global Weather Insurance products and helped pioneer the weather derivatives market and energy trading markets while working at Aquila Energy Corp.

Andrew has educational background that spans the sciences with a master's degree in meteorology from the University of Utah and was member of the 2002 Olympic weather support team.

DAVID SINGH  
HEAD OF EXPOSURE AND PORTFOLIO MANAGEMENT  
MS AMLIN

David Singh is currently the Head of Exposure and Portfolio Management at MS Amlin. In this role he is responsible for natural and man-made catastrophe exposure reporting and cyber analytics across the group. While in his current position David has managed the innovation of new exposure and risk management techniques, working closely with Underwriters, CROs and Actuarial teams to develop solutions for property, casualty & liability and cyber. David chairs MS Amlin’s Catastrophe Risk Management Committee as well as co-chairing the Cyber Strategy Group.

David frequently liaises with experts from the Regulators on exposure management related proposals and oversight areas, including emerging risks that impact the re/insurance market. He regularly champions the role that modelling plays in exposure and aggregation management including scenario design, exposure and probabilistic analyses. Prior to MS Amlin, David worked for the Corporation of Lloyds in the Exposure Management Team. David co-chairs the Lloyd's LMA Exposure Management Working Group, and is also a member of the LMA Cyber Risk and Strategy Group as well as being involved in other market working and sub-groups.
MIKE SMAJSTRLA  
MANAGER OF CATASTROPHE MODELING AND EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT  
PROGRESSIVE HOME

Michael Smajstrla is the Manager of Catastrophe Modeling and Exposure Management for Progressive Home Insurance. Michael's team uses catastrophe modeling software, GIS platforms, statistical software, and various data sources providing solutions to various business units within Progressive. Michael's team works closely with Pricing and Product Management, Reinsurance and Finance, Claims, Underwriting, and R&D.

Prior to Progressive, Michael worked at American Integrity Insurance and Tower Hill Insurance Companies.

DAVID SMITH  
SENIOR LEADER, SCIENCE & ANALYTICS  
CORELOGIC

Mr. David F. Smith is Senior Leader in the Science and Analytics group at CoreLogic. He joined CoreLogic through the acquisition of EQECAT in 2013 and is responsible for the modeling implementation of CoreLogic’s catastrophe risk models worldwide, including models for earthquake, flood, severe convective storm, storm surge, tropical cyclone, tsunami, wildfire, windstorm, and winter storm in 98 countries covering about 90% of global GDP.

Mr. Smith has been a major contributor to the development of catastrophe risk assessment software for CoreLogic, including RQE (Risk Quantification & Engineering). His primary roles have been in the areas of weather peril model design and probabilistic simulation. He led the development of the hazard portion of CoreLogic’s US Flood model first released in 2016 and has played a leading role in the development of CoreLogic’s new US Severe Convective Storm and US Wildfire models released in July 2018. Mr. Smith has also played a significant role in the development of CoreLogic’s North Atlantic Hurricane model, and he led the development of CoreLogic’s basin-wide Asia Typhoon model, which was first released in 2010 and significantly updated in 2017. He manages CoreLogic’s annual submittal to the Florida Commission on Hurricane Loss Projection Methodology, through which the firm’s model has been successfully certified since the process began in 1997.

Mr. Smith’s prior experience includes work in financial software development and consulting. He holds an MS in Geophysics from Yale University and a BS in Mathematics from the University of Chicago. He is based in Oakland, California.
PETER SOUSOUNIS
VICE PRESIDENT AND DIRECTOR OF CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH
AIR WORLDWIDE

Dr. Peter Sousounis is Vice President and Director of Climate Change Research at AIR Worldwide. His current responsibilities include ensuring that current and future catastrophe model development at AIR accounts for climate change, identifying products and tools to help clients address their climate change concerns, assisting with global resilience projects, and providing thought leadership in various forms of oral and written communication. He has been responsible for overseeing all global atmospheric model development, including hurricanes, extratropical cyclones, and severe thunderstorms, as well as for building the first numerically based storm surge model and the first ever tsunami model. Peter has graduate degrees in Meteorology from MIT and Penn State and has authored nearly 100 publications on various topics of weather, climate, climate change, and catastrophe modeling.

ROSS STEIN
COFOUNDER AND CEO
TEMBLOR

Ross S. Stein, PhD, is cofounder and CEO of Temblor, Inc., Adjunct Professor of Geophysics at Stanford University, and USGS Scientist Emeritus. He was 2018 International Distinguished Lecturer of the Geological Society of America (GSA), 2019 Centennial Lecturer of the American Geophysical Union (AGU), and 2020 Distinguished Lecturer of the Seismological Society of America. A Fellow of the AGU and GSA, Stein received the 2012 Gilbert F. White Natural Hazards Award from AGU, gave a 2012 TEDx talk, ‘Defeating Earthquakes,’ and received the 2000 Eugene M. Shoemaker Distinguished Achievement Award of the USGS. In 2003, the Science Citation Index reported that Stein was the second most cited author in earthquake science during the preceding decade; he was tenth most cited during 1900-2010.

Stein frequently brings insights to the public media interviews, public talks, and in IMAX and Discovery Channel films. In 2010, Stein cofounded the Global Earthquake Model (GEM Foundation), chairing its Science Board until 2015. Stein is a member of the Resilient America Roundtable of the National Academy of Sciences, and the Advisory Council on Catastrophes of Zurich Insurance.
ALEXANDRA DUNYA SYPHARD, PhD
CHIEF SCIENTIST
SAGE INSURANCE HOLDINGS LLC

Alexandra D. Syphard, PhD is chief scientist at Sage Insurance Holdings LLC and additionally serves as an affiliate of the Conservation Biology Institute and an adjunct professor in Geography at San Diego State University. Alexandra has spent more than two decades researching the ecological and social drivers and impacts of landscape change, particularly focusing on wildfire. Using a variety of mapping, statistical, and modeling approaches, Alexandra investigates how change has occurred in the past, how it is likely to occur in the future, and how different policy or management scenarios may impact resulting ecological and social well-being. For the last decade, Alexandra has concentrated intensely on wildfire risk to communities and identifying the best approaches for balancing fire risk reduction with biodiversity conservation. Her research also focuses on the interactions among wildfire patterns, land use change and urban growth, climate change, vegetation dynamics and biodiversity, invasive species, and species’ range shifts.

HJÖRTUR THRÁINSSON, PhD
MODELING EXPERT
MUNICH RE

Hjörtur Thráinsson is responsible for all non-life catastrophe risk models at Munich Re. With educational background in civil, structural and earthquake engineering, he has over 30 years’ experience in probabilistic catastrophe risk modelling. Before joining Munich Re in February 2001, Hjörtur was a post-doctoral researcher at Stanford University and he worked for a software developer in San Jose, California, designing software to quantify insurance risk from natural perils. Hjörtur has served on the Research Advisory Council of the Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety, and he helped develop the catastrophe module of the Standard Formula for Solvency II.

HJÖRTUR THRÁINSSON, PhD (continued)

Hjörtur did also contribute to a couple of industry good practices published by the Association of British Insurers: on Catastrophe Modelling and Non-Modelled Risks.

Hjörtur has earned the professional designations of Associate in Reinsurance and Associate in Risk Management from the Insurance Institute of America. He holds PhD and M.S. degrees from Stanford University, and a degree in civil engineering from the University of Iceland.

CHAD TROSPER
CATASTROPHE CLAIMS DIRECTOR
TOWER HILL INSURANCE GROUP

Chad Trosper is the Catastrophe Claims Director at Tower Hill Insurance. He has over 15 years of experience in the claims industry and a true passion for tracking weather. Chad graduated from the University of Florida with a degree in Business and Sociology and also holds a master’s certification in Business Process Management from the University of San Francisco. Prior to Tower Hill, Chad was a performance consultant with the University of Farmers.
KEVIN VAN LEER
SENIOR MANAGER, CUSTOMER SUCCESS
CAPE ANALYTICS

Kevin heads the Customer Success team at Cape Analytics, with a focus on maximizing the value delivered to customers from Cape’s aerial imagery-derived data products that enable effective risk differentiation and more efficient underwriting workflows. Prior to Cape, Kevin spent five years at Risk Management Solutions (RMS), where he drove the release of several climate-peril catastrophe models, including for wildfire, hurricane, and severe convective storm, alongside location-specific custom vulnerability analytics. Kevin holds a master’s degree in atmospheric sciences from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a bachelor’s degree in atmospheric sciences from Purdue University. Kevin is a member of the American Meteorological Society (AMS) and holds the Certified Catastrophe Risk Analyst (CCRA) designation from RMS.

BILL WALKER
SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER
AIR WORLDWIDE

Bill Walker is a Senior Product Manager in AIR's Product Management group. In this capacity, he oversees the full suite of Touchstone and Touchstone Re APIs and is responsible for the development of the API roadmap and for identifying and promoting API improvements. He works closely with the Business Development group and prior to joining the Product Management group earlier this year, he worked for 9 years in the Consulting and Client Services group. Bill earned a B.S. in Nuclear Engineering from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, an M.I.M. from Thunderbird School of Global Management, and an MBA from Case Western University.

DANIEL WARD, PhD
SENIOR ATMOSPHERIC SCIENTIST
KAREN CLARK & COMPANY

Dr. Ward has extensive studies and experience in atmospheric science and modeling. Responsible for the development of several of KCC’s atmospheric models, he has conducted significant research into the most accurate methods for producing stochastic catastrophe models for the re/insurance industry. Prior to joining KCC, Dr. Ward studied global wildfire variability using fully coupled Earth System Models at Cornell University and at the Geophysical Fluid Dynamics Laboratory in Princeton, NJ. This work included development of the terrestrial and atmospheric components of the global models to address questions about the impacts of fire emissions on trace gas and aerosol concentrations, radiative forcing, and climate. Dr. Ward also has experience using regional weather models (RAMS and WRF/Chem) in research with a focus on topics of cloud microphysics. He has authored or co-authored more than 30 peer-reviewed journal articles and was a contributing author on the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report.
JON WARD
ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT, RISK SERVICES
RLI & ISCM

Jon joined RLI 17 years ago and has worked in various roles related to risk modeling, exposure evaluation, and portfolio optimization. His current responsibilities include overseeing the Ceded Reinsurance, Robotics Processing, and Exposure Management departments. He is on the executive committee of the International Society of Catastrophe Managers (ISCM) and graduated from Bradley University with a degree in Business Management. Jon resides in Peoria, Illinois with his wife Nicole and 3 young children.

KATIE WARD
MANAGER
AIR WORLDWIDE

Katie Ward is a Manager in AIR’s Consulting and Client Services group. She serves as a project manager overseeing the execution of integration, customization, migration, and major model projects as well as software expansions with AIR. She has spent the last 7 years working with reinsurance clients to perform catastrophe analyses, interpret analysis results, optimize modeling workflows, and provide software training. Katie earned her B.S. in Environmental Science from Northeastern University.

EMMA WATKINS
HEAD OF EXPOSURE MANAGEMENT, RISK AGGREGATION LLOYDS

Emma Watkins is Head of Exposure Management, Risk Aggregation at Lloyd’s, where her team’s responsibilities are to understand and control catastrophe risk, at the individual Syndicate and Market levels. This includes oversight of cyber, terrorism, liability and natural catastrophe perils, as well as the development and implementation of Lloyd’s Catastrophe Risk Operational Framework.

Prior to joining Lloyd’s, Emma held leadership positions in EM and Catastrophe Modelling at Aspen Re, Liberty Syndicates, WRB Underwriting and The Channel Syndicate, including setting up the Exposure Management function at WRB and gaining Lloyd’s approval for this area of the Managing Agency. She began her career 18 years ago in Treaty Reinsurance Underwriting at Wellington, after gaining an MA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics from the University of Oxford. Emma is a Chartered Insurer and Associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute and holds the CCRA designation.
JOHN WELCH  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE, DOMESTIC MARKETS  
AXA XL RE

John is Chief Executive, Domestic Markets for AXA XL Re. In addition to having executive responsibility of the North American organization, he added the responsibility for the International organization as of January 1, 2020. He is in the process of relocating to Dublin, Ireland.

He is a Managing Director of AXA XL and a member of its Reinsurance Leadership Team.

John is a fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society (FCAS), a member of the American Academy of Actuaries (MAAA) and an Associate in Reinsurance (ARe). He holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Fairfield University and completed the Executive Education Program at Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Business.

He is the Chairman of the Reinsurance Association of America, a member of the Board of Trustees and Executive Committee of The Institutes, as well as a member of the Finance Advisory Committee of Fairfield University’s Dolan School of Business.

DICKIE WHITAKER  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
OASIS LOSS MODELING FRAMEWORK LLP

Dickie Whitaker has 30 years’ experience in the Re(In)surance business and for the last 20 years has specialised in risk and innovation, linking academia, government and finance. He co-founded The Lighthill Risk Network, Oasis Palm Tree Ltd, The Oasis Hub and is chief executive of Oasis Loss Modelling Framework Ltd. He provides advisory roles to: UK’s Satellite Applications Advisory Board, Expert Group for the Global Risk Assessment Framework (GRAF), UNISDR and Cabot Institute advisory board.

RICHIE WHITT  
CO-CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
MARKEL

Richard “Richie” R. Whitt is Co-Chief Executive Officer of Markel Corporation (NYSE: MKL). Headquartered in Richmond, Virginia, and founded in 1930, Markel is a Fortune 500 company with insurance, reinsurance, and investment operations around the world.

Richie assumed the Co-CEO role alongside Tom Gayner as of January 2, 2016. Richie is responsible for worldwide insurance and reinsurance operations, our insurance-linked securities fund managers, and the company’s shared service Teams. Markel has been very active over the past 20 years from a mergers and acquisitions standpoint, and Richie has been a central figure within the organization on all of its major transactions.
RICHIE WHITT (continued)

Richie is a graduate of Virginia Tech, where he earned a degree in accounting and information systems. He also previously held the CPA and CPCU designations. Richie serves on the board of overseers for St. John’s University School of Risk Management, Insurance, and Actuarial Science; the board of trustees for the Virginia Tech Foundation; the board of trustees for the Virginia Foundation for Independent Colleges; and the board of directors for the Richmond World Affairs Council.

HOLLY WIDEN
PRODUCT MANAGER, PRODUCT MANAGEMENT
RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Dr. Holly Widen is a Product Manager in RMS’ Product Management group. Holly is responsible for managing the U.S. flood product suite and is currently focused on the RMS U.S. Inland Flood HD Model.

Prior to joining RMS in 2016, Holly obtained a PhD in Geography from Florida State University, focusing on natural catastrophe risk and vulnerability. She also holds a B.S. and M.S. in Atmospheric Science from Indiana University and Ball State University and has (co-)authored more than ten peer-reviewed scientific journal articles.

ROY WRIGHT
PRESIDENT & CEO
INSTITUTE FOR BUSINESS AND HOME SAFETY

Roy Wright joined IBHS in 2018 with more than 20 years of experience in insurance, risk management, mitigation, and resilience planning. Convinced that the continuing cycle of human suffering that strikes families and communities in the wake of severe weather can be broken, Roy leads a team of scientists and risk communicators who deliver strategies to build safer and stronger homes and businesses. IBHS’ real-world impact enables the insurance industry and affected property owners to prevent avoidable losses.

Roy joined IBHS from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) where he served as the Chief Executive of the National Flood Insurance Program, led the agency’s Federal Insurance and Mitigation Administration, and directed the resilience programs addressing earthquake, fire, flood, and wind risks. In these roles, he guided several programs that promote a risk-conscious culture, enable faster disaster recovery, and address long-term vulnerabilities to life, property, and well-being in communities across the United States. Prior to joining FEMA in 2007, Roy worked in public and private sector roles with Coray Gurnitz Strategy Consulting and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

A native of California, Roy earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Azusa Pacific University and a Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University.
SHELLY YERKES
SENIOR PROFESSIONAL, PRODUCT MANAGEMENT
CORELOGIC

Ms. Yerkes is a Senior Professional in the Insurance and Spatial Solutions group at CoreLogic and is currently responsible for managing several of the CoreLogic Flood and Wind products, including the U.S. Flood Model. She has been a contributor to the development and adoption of geospatial data and hazard products within multiple catastrophe analytics platforms. Ms. Yerkes holds Bachelors and Masters degrees in Physical Geography from San Diego State University and is based out of the CoreLogic office in Oakland, California.

MICHAEL YOUNG
VICE PRESIDENT, PRODUCT MANAGEMENT
RISK MANAGEMENT SOLUTIONS

Michael Young is an expert in modeling catastrophic climate perils for the insurance and re-insurance industry. In his past 16 years at RMS, Michael has led teams the developed hurricane, convective storm, and flood models. He is currently the product manager of the RMS North America Wildfire models suite. He has also worked as a lead wind vulnerability engineer, a director of claims and exposure development, and as the head of the mitigation practice. Prior to RMS he worked in commercial wind-tunnel laboratories doing studies on wind loads for a variety of buildings. Michael has led studies of insurance mitigation programs for the state of Florida, as well as the World Bank.

Michael holds a BS in Civil Engineering from the University of Alberta and an MS from the Western University in Canada in Wind Engineering.

SHARI ZOLA
SMART MOBILITY OPERATIONS LEAD – INCUBATOR
MUNICH RE AMERICA SERVICES, INC.

Shari works on the Smart Mobility Team in the Mobility Domain, part of The Incubator within the Munich Re US Operations. The Incubator focuses on accelerating growth in new areas of risk management, with the goal of the Mobility domain to help society manage the new risks associated with the future of mobility. She also supports the Resilience Domain, designed to cover a range of topics related to natural or man-made risks.

Prior to this new role Shari was the Vice President/Deputy Head of Risk Accumulation for the Munich Re US Operations, and in the cat risk management space for 27 years.

Shari has been a Munich Re (formerly American Re) employee for 34 years. She received her undergraduate degree in Business - Management Information Systems from the State University of New York at Albany, and her Master of Business Administration from Rider University. Shari serves on the Executive Board of the International Society of Catastrophe Managers as Vice President. She is a Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) and has earned the Associate in Reinsurance (ARe), and Certified Catastrophe Risk Management Professional (CCRMP) designations.