Editorial

This issue is published in honour of Professor F. De Vylder on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Professor De Vylder has been the Actuarial Professor of generations of Belgian and Dutch actuaries. In teaching he has the great capability of presenting very complicated problems in an elegant and elementary way. At the moment of his teaching the material would seem to be obvious and easy to grasp, but afterwards it would become clear how deep and fundamental (and difficult) some of the presented results were. Professor De Vylder is, in the first place, a brilliant researcher in the field of actuarial science and applied statistical techniques. He was one of the first to obtain outstanding results both in life and non-life insurance mathematics. His scientific output has been enormous and his impetus on the present generations of actuarial researchers is immense. He has contributed much to modern risk theory, ruin theory, optimization theory, ordering of risks, credibility theory, credibility theory in Hilbert spaces, IBNR methods based on credibility, and credibility in combination with an individualized parameter. Professor De Vylder has been the central driving force in many situations, such as his former university and this journal Insurance: Mathematics and Economics. Within Belgium he has overshadowed almost all of his colleagues by the depth of his scientific thinking and his real kindness. In many difficult occasions he has acted and reacted in an open and honest way. Although Professor De Vylder has reached the retirement age, we are happy to see that he remains active as a professor in Amsterdam and his output of papers and books has even increased recently. Etienne, we wish you all the best and thank you for your service to and support of I: M&E.

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