KEY CONTACTS

Trevor Maynard  Exposure Management  Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7327 6141  trevor.maynard@lloyds.com

Alexandra Vincenti  Exposure Management  Telephone: +44 (0) 20 7327 6926  alexandra.vincenti@lloyds.com

Science of Risk  Central inbox  scienceofrisk@lloyds.com

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The history of Lloyd’s has been defined by the ways it has tracked, managed and protected communities, businesses and individuals from emerging risks. The exceptional natural catastrophes of 2011 clearly demonstrated both the impact of unexpected events on societies and the importance of adapting the way we live to minimise their effects.

To protect ourselves from emerging risks we need to understand them. In search of that knowledge, Lloyd’s has always been proud of its relationships with scientists, academics and researchers. It was the aim of fostering and strengthening these relationships that led us to launch our first ever Science of Risk prize in 2010. The range of entries we have since received across a number of scientific fields has been truly impressive. Indeed, given the diversity of subjects covered, choosing an overall winner was extremely difficult.

To develop even closer relationships with university leaders in their fields and encourage a more targeted conference this year we are further defining the risk categories in future competitions. This year, the Science of Risk prize 2012 will be seeking entries which reflect the risks of the natural world; natural hazards and climate change. In 2013, we will be looking at behavioural, biological and technological risk.

We are confident that honing the risk categories will allow us — and those entering the competition - to spend more time on these specific and important subject areas.

Last year showed us what a wealth of imagination, innovation and scientific endeavour exists in the academic world, and how current ideas can provide the practical applications we need to tackle the problems our world faces both today and in the future.

I strongly encourage applicants researching ways in which we can protect ourselves from the hazards of the natural world and the increasingly severe impacts of climate change to apply for this year’s Lloyd’s Science of Risk prize.

We look forward to reading your submissions.

Dr Richard Ward
Chief Executive Officer
Lloyd’s
LLOYD’S RESEARCH PRIZE

The aim of this competition is to capture your thoughts on how various risks will affect the insurance industry. By better understanding risk, we can ensure we can deliver a superior return to our investors and create the financial strength to give us the best chance of being there to help our policyholders when they need us. Additionally, we can also ensure that our insurance pricing fairly reflects the risks posed by various sectors or perils. If we get this right we can incentivise companies or individuals to better manage risk.

We want to hear as much about risks that are reducing, for example through the intelligent use of technology, as about risks that are rising. Please do speculate! We want to hear about what might happen, not just what you’re sure about. However, please be clear about the level of speculation.

For examples of entries to the 2011 Science of Risk prize please see the 2011 conference summary report available at www.lloyds.com/scienceofrisk.

THE DETAILS

> In an accompanying letter of no more than 1000 words you must summarise the key findings of your paper, why you think your research is relevant to the insurance industry and why you think your paper is of high quality research.

> Papers must be peer reviewed and have already been published in a journal. Papers accepted for future publication by a journal are admissible. However, you must obtain express written permission from the publishing journal to enter the prize and for us to use your summary for promotional means.

> The paper must have been published on or after 28 September 2007.

> Jointly authored papers are acceptable: but you must have carried out the majority of the research.

> Academic papers and the accompanying summary must be in English.

JUDGING CRITERIA

The applications will be shortlisted based on your summary and then reviewed by a panel of judges including leading academics and senior staff within Lloyd’s. The criteria for judging will include:

> Relevance to the insurance industry.

> Writing style: clear, plain English will impress us.

> Financial significance – risks that might translate into large profits or losses are clearly important and will be ranked higher.

> Novelty – new risks will score well.

> Quality of research.

Last year, we received many excellent applications for the prize. Unfortunately, we can only select a few of them as winning entries and we reserve the right not to award a prize for some or all of the categories. We are sorry, but there will be no appeals procedure.

THE PRIZE

Entries for the 2012 Science of Risk Prize will be accepted under the theme of “Natural World”.

> We are offering prizes of £5,000 for the best research paper in each category.

> A prize of £1,000 for the best runner-up in each category will also be awarded.

> An awards dinner in Lloyd’s historic Adam Room will be held for the category winners and runners-up.

> The winners and runners-up are expected to present their work at a conference at Lloyd’s prior to the awards dinner. All entrants including shortlisted entrants are also expected to show their work on A1 portrait posters which will be shown at the event.

> Attendance at the dinner and conference is expected for all those receiving monetary prizes.

KEY DATES

> Closing date for entries: 28 September 2012

> Shortlisted entrants notified: Mid - October

> Winners notified: Week commencing 29 October 2012

> Awards conference and dinner date: 29 November 2012

ELIGIBILITY

We are keen to receive entries from researchers at every level in their career, so our competition is open to PhD students as well as qualified research staff.

You must be either working in a university department or at a government (owned or part-funded) research organisation.


OWNERSHIP OF WORK

You own your work. However, by submitting a paper to this competition Lloyd’s will have the right to reproduce an accompanying summary in whole or part on our website (www.lloyds.com) or in other Lloyd’s publications. You agree that we can attribute the work to you by name, department and organisation. We may seek to publish your research in more detail or engage a science journalist to summarise it; we will contact you and the relevant journal in this event.

ENTRY INFORMATION

Please go to www.lloyds.com/scienceofrisk for the application form. We'll also keep you updated throughout the process from this website page. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.lloyds.com/scienceofrisk.
RISK CATEGORIES

This year we are calling for published research on the theme of “Natural World” within the following categories:

- Natural hazards
- Climate change

We regret that we won’t be able to consider subjects outside of these themes. However, you are still welcome to draw our attention to any ideas for topics – we may consider them for future years.

We’ve listed a few questions below just to get you thinking. But don’t let these steer you too much. We are keen to hear about the questions you think we should be asking too.

NATURAL HAZARDS:

- What risks are faced by developing world countries and how could insurers help?
- Do climate models help us assess the level of climate risk in the coming year?
- What is the latest science for our critical perils (wind, flood, earthquake, and others)?
- What data should we be collecting and what could we do with it if we had it?
- Does the weather in one part of the world affect the likelihood of a catastrophe in another?

CLIMATE CHANGE:

- How might climate change impact critical perils for insurers (tropical cyclones, flooding, windstorms in Europe, wildfires, hail, lightning strikes, subsidence and heave for example)?
- How might political risk change around the globe due to climate change and other trends (water shortage or food security for instance)?
- After a large event, for example a flood, what materials should we use to rebuild sustainably?
- What does a “sustainable insurer” look like?
- How might the price of carbon change in the coming years?