Angela Witzany, CIA, QIAL, CRMA, is 2016-2017 chairman of The IIA’s Global Board and head of internal audit for Sparkassen Versicherung AG Vienna Insurance Group, a large life insurance provider in Austria.

Witzany has an impressive record of volunteer service with The IIA, including numerous leadership roles over the past nine years. She has served as chairman and senior vice chairman of IIA-Austria’s board, and leads the permanent working group of private insurance companies as a contributor to numerous internal audit guidelines, model audit charters, and audit engagement programs. In Europe, she served as a board member of the European Confederation of Institutes of Internal Auditing (ECIIA) and completed her term as vice president in 2015. A member of The IIA’s Global Board of Directors since 2013, Witzany served most recently as senior vice chairman, as well as chairman of the Finance Committee and the Professional Guidance Advisory Council. She was also a member of the Professional Certifications Board.

Witzany has been an internal auditor in the insurance sector since 1997, when she developed Sparkassen Versicherung’s new internal audit function. She has served there as head of internal audit since 2001, and now has responsibility for internal audit activities in Austria and Central Eastern Europe. Further, Witzany serves as the Austrian Insurance Association’s vice president of the Committee of Internal Audit and Control. She has been an active member of that organization since 1997.

Witzany earned her master’s degree in commercial science at Vienna University of Economics and Business, and is a certified accountant. She is a frequent speaker and moderator at internal audit conferences and has written about internal audit-related topics for a number of publications. She is a lecturer and trainer on internal auditing in the insurance industry at Johannes Kepler University Linz in Austria.

Witzany chose “Audit Never Sleeps” for her theme as IIA global chairman. “Internal auditors have sought to add value to their organizations by working tirelessly and passionately to meet the evolving expectations of stakeholders, and to become trusted advisers and partners to boards, audit committees, and management,” Witzany says. In her travels to institutes, chapters, and other organizations around the world, Witzany plans to share her message that internal auditors must be credible, reliable, and have strong relationships to ensure their organizations are well-positioned to meet the challenges of a dynamic and complex business environment. She says she will draw on her experiences and challenges to encourage others to use an integrated way of thinking, so that their work will help to ensure organizational success.