

# ISPOR Student Network: Tomorrow's Future Today

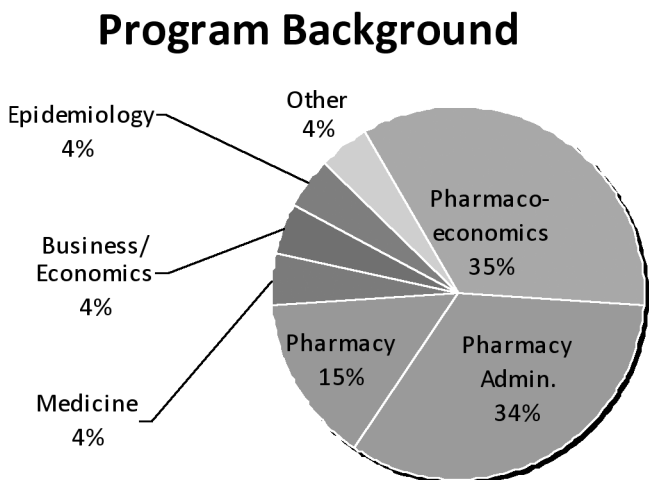
Jay Duhig, MA, President, UIC ISPOR Student Chapter 2008-2009, UIC, Chicago, IL, USA

The ISPOR Student Network contains a diverse membership with varied backgrounds and interests. Each year, the Student Network Survey Committee distributes a student interest survey to all local chapters and additional surveys to student participants at ISPOR conferences. Results from this survey are used to help decision making in providing events that are in line with our membership's interests. This year, a total of 92 members from 16 local chapters responded to the student interest survey. In the following paragraphs, the key findings of this survey will be summarized to give you a better idea of what kinds of students make up our Network.

## Schooling and Background

The majority of the respondents had last completed a masters (36%) or bachelors (30%) degree. At the time of the survey, students were currently pursuing a masters (35%), doctoral (53%), or PharmD (3%) degree. Respondents primarily described their backgrounds to be in Pharmacoeconomics, Pharmacy Administration or Pharmacy (Figure 1). Clearly, the diversity of the members provides many opportunities for learning from each other within the Network and fostering collaborations across fields, particularly in the earlier stages of their education.

Figure 1. Student Membership Background



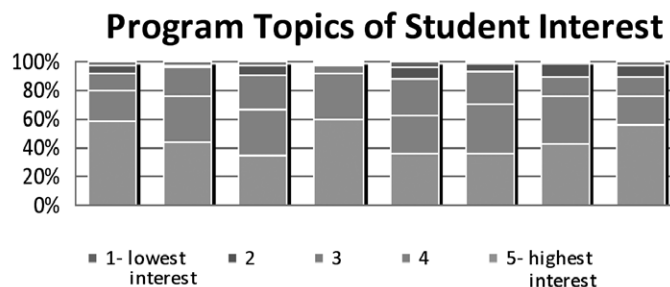
## Involvement with ISPOR Student Network

The majority of chapter members have been in their ISPOR student chapter for less than two years, with 47% having less than one year in their chapter and 22% having between one and two years, which is indicative of students joining in the first or second year of their graduate program. This year's survey also captured a larger than previous number of students at schools that do not currently have ISPOR chapters; for these students, the most common reason cited for not starting an ISPOR student chapter was difficulty in finding other interested students (69%). This represents an opportunity for the Student Network to provide guidance on recruitment at the peer level.


## Interest in Program Topics for Student Forum

The greatest interest was expressed for programs focused on outcomes research (59% very much interested) and career skills (56% very much interested), concerning career planning, options, and networking strategies (Figure 2).

Figure 2. ISPOR Student Member Interest in Various Program Topics



There was high interest in a variety of topics for teleconference, with Health Economics and Outcomes Research being the most desired topics by chapter members. Students preferred the presentation of topics as case studies as opposed to lecture or discussion style. This fits in well with the recent addition of case studies as presentations at the ISPOR International Meetings/Congresses, which many students attended.

By sharing with you these fun facts about our student membership, it is my hope that all ISPOR members will gain an insight into the future leaders in the field of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research. ISPOR is reaching students early in their education and sparking interest in related topics. By providing an avenue for students with similar research interests to express themselves and participate in chapter and Network level activities, we are bringing more students into the discipline and equipping them with tools necessary for success. 



## 2010 ISPOR INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP AWARDS

**NOMINATIONS DUE BY NOVEMBER 30, 2009**

ISPOR is seeking nominations for the 2010 International Fellowship Awards. This award was established in 2006 to recognize key individuals who would contribute to the development of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research or the use of outcomes research in health care decision in their own country/region.

For nature of the award, requirements, selection criteria, and selection process, see: <http://www.ispor.org/awards/IntlFellowship.asp>

Please submit materials via email to: [awards@ispor.org](mailto:awards@ispor.org).