



ISPOR STUDENT NEWS

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We hope you will enjoy reading the newsletter!

ISPOR Student News Editors:

Bijal Shah, B. Pharm, University of New Mexico Student Chapter President
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Please send your comments/suggestions to Bijal Shah (bshah@salud.unm.edu), Annesha White (anneshawhite@nettally.com) or Richard Hansen (hans0310@umn.edu)

NEW!!! Student Leadership Retreat

May 17th (Saturday): 12-5 PM; Dinner at 6 PM

The 1st Annual Student Leadership Retreat will be held on Saturday, May 17th from 12–5 PM at the Crystal Gateway Marriott. Student Chapter Presidents and President-elects along with the Student Advisor, Zeba M. Khan, Ph.D. will develop key strategies and deliverables for the coming year, discuss key issues for the development and expansion of students in ISPOR, share best practices, participate in leadership exercises, and network. Dinner will follow at 6 PM to a local restaurant. For more information, please contact ISPOR Student Network Chair, **Cher Beilfuss** at cher.beilfuss@pfizer.com

Student Icebreaker

May 18th (Sunday): 9-10 PM

The student icebreaker has been organized to promote student interactions within an informal setting. Many key ISPOR members usually make an appearance so this is yet another opportunity to network. Food, games, and prizes have been arranged to make this a fun-filled event.



Be sure to mark your calendars for this fun-filled event!!!

NEW!!! Mock Interviews

May 19th (Monday): 2:30-4:30 PM

The ISPOR 8th Annual International Meeting will provide students a unique career development opportunity with the new Mock Interview Session. The Mock Interview Session will enable students to enhance their interviewing skills and promote resume building. The Session will be held Monday, May 19th from 2:30-4:30PM and is free to all students registered for the ISPOR 8th Annual International Meeting. Mock interviews for sample positions will be conducted by experts in **academia, consulting, and industry**. Each interview will last for approximately 10-15 minutes. The interviewers will provide feedback on the Mock Interview Session during the Student Forum that

same day from 5:00-6:00PM. Students are also encouraged to email a copy of their CV, which will be forwarded to the interviewers.

FROM THE INDUSTRY WE HAVE:

- 1) Chris Castin (Pharmaceutical Recruiter)
- 2) Mohammed Omar (Novartis)
- 3) Sandeep Dutttagupta (Pfizer)



FROM CONSULTING WE HAVE:

- 1) Ron Ozminkowski (Medstat)
- 2) Bryan Luce (Medtap)
- 3) Rob Hauser (Geriatric Oncology Consortium)

AND FROM ACADEMIA, WE HAVE:

- 1) Karen Rascati (University of Texas)
- 2) Kem Krueger (Auburn University)

Any questions about registering for the mock interviews should be forwarded to Ritesh Kumar at the University of Michigan (rnkumar@umich.edu), Marcus Stavchansky at the University of Texas (mstav@mail.utexas.edu), or Jennifer Casillas of ISPOR (jcasillas@ispor.org)

Student Forum

May 19th (Monday): 5-6 PM

This forum is intended to provide students information regarding how to improve your resume/CV and how to enhance your job interview skills to get the job that you want. Feedback from the mock interviews will be provided by the interviewers. The session will close with a question/answer session.



Recognition section

Congratulations to Ritesh Kumar from the University of Michigan!

Ritesh has been elected Chair of the student council for next year. He is currently a doctoral candidate at the University of Michigan, College of Pharmacy. His research interests include the evaluation of clinical, economic, and humanistic outcomes of pharmaceutical products/services and the evaluation of factors that influence patient medication use behavior. He has presented his research at several conferences such as AACP, ACCP, APhA, and ISPOR. Additionally his work has been published in journals such as Disease Management and Health Outcomes, Expert Review in Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research, Journal of Managed Care Pharmacy, and the Journal of the American Pharmaceutical Association. Furthermore, manuscripts have also been accepted for publication in the Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine and the Advances in Skin and Wound Care. All the best Ritesh!!

Congratulations to Scott Baggarly and Tamica Blake May from the University of Louisiana at Monroe!

Scott and Tamica have successfully defended their Ph.D. dissertations. Scott's dissertation topic was "The Diagnosis/Treatment Technology Scale: Development and Analysis in a National Sample of Ambulatory Patients" and Tamica's was "The Adherence of Office Based Physicians to the National Cholesterol Management Guidelines for Patients with Diabetes from 1989-2000."

Congratulations to Annesha White from Florida A & M University

Annesha recently published a paper; "Dicken, J., Agarwal, R., Dirosa, R., Kirksey, B., Rivera-Lowitt, C., and [White A](#). Federal Employees' Health Benefits: Effects of Using Pharmacy Benefit Managers on Health Plans, Enrollees, and Pharmacies. GAO-03-196. US General Accounting Office. January 2003."



University of Tennessee Student Chapter

Student Name	Degree Pursued	Advisor	Project	E-mail
Yi Yang	Ph.D.	Richard Faris, B.S.Pharm., M.Sc., Ph.D	Epidemiology of Childhood Type 2 Diabetes	yyang7@utmem.edu
Cameron James	Ph.D.	Richard Faris, B.S.Pharm., M.Sc., Ph.D	Medication Error and Patient Safety Technology	cjames@utmem.edu

Dundee Student Chapter

Student Name	Degree Pursued	Project	E-mail
George Buliotis	PhD	Application of conjoint analysis in dental health services research	gbouliot@dux.dundee.ac.uk
Arlene Kerr	MRPharmS	Cost of a smoking cessation program in secondary care	Arlene.kerr@tuht.scot.nhs.uk
Andrew Radley	MPH	Outcomes of pharmaceutical care interventions	andrew.radley@tuht.scot.nhs.uk
Ben Ofori	PhD	Cost and Outcomes of anticoagulant therapy in Tayside	ben.d.ofori@tuht.scot.nhs.uk



NETWORK WITH STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ISPOR DISCUSSION BOARD

Welcome to the ISPOR network!
Bienvenue au reseau d'ISPOR!
Willkommen zum ISPOR netz!
Benvenuto alla rete di ISPOR!
Recepcion a la red de ISPOR!
Welkom op het ISPOR studenten netwerk!

ISPOR HAS A NEW STUDENT DISCUSSION BOARD!

You can now...

- Post messages
- Contact other students
- Network
- Learn about ongoing student research
- Set up peer discussion groups

Join this global village of students either as a *member* or a *guest*.

Visit www.ispor.org

For more information contact jcasillas@ispor.org



***Interview with Dr. Sean Sullivan,
University of Washington.***

Interviewer: Bijal M. Shah, University of New Mexico



1. Please give a brief background of your education and training.

I received my B.S. in Pharmacy from Oregon State University, a M.S. in Pharmacy Administration from the University of Texas and a Ph.D. in Health Economics and Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. I have also held a fellowship in Health Services Research from the Institute for Health Policy Studies, University of California, San Francisco.

2. How did you plan your career in terms of training and goals?

I'm not sure there was a lot of planning. ☺ I was intrigued by pharmacy from an early age and got my B.S. in Pharmacy and a M.S. in Pharmacy Administration. I knew I wanted to pursue a career in academics as a researcher and recognized the need for a Ph.D. I looked at a variety of programs and ultimately settled on the program at Berkeley.

3. What kinds of courses that you took in college helped you the most in your setting? Did you wish you had taken courses in other areas?

I took most of my courses in economics and quantitative methods and research design. Most of them were quantitative and that has enabled me to be comfortable with doing health economic research, large database analysis and those kinds of projects. Something I did have to learn on my own was clinical trial designs and clinical trial research. I would encourage students to take courses or gain some

experience in clinical trial research, although not many universities offer courses in this area.

4. What is the demand for health outcomes researchers in academia?

My assessment is that the demand for health outcomes and pharmacoeconomics research in academia has declined in recent years. A few years ago, there was tremendous demand and there weren't enough Ph.D.'s in this area to fill the positions that were available. As a result, Ph.D.'s with training in other areas were hired and they would spend the first couple of years acquainting themselves with this field.

5. How do you feel outcomes research has changed in the past decade and where do you see it going in the future?

Outcomes research has changed a lot in the last decade. We have had more standardization in the field and tremendous methodological advances and I think this is where we need to move in the future. We need to make our research more accessible and understandable to decision makers and clinicians. We have been accused of being "too academic" at times, like that is a bad thing. Academic research is important. It moves the field forward.

6. Why do you think we don't receive enough funding from the NIH, AHRQ or other funding agencies?

NIH has doubled its funding base over the past 7 to 10 years, with most of the funding directed to basic science and clinical trials research and not to applied or health services research. This makes it difficult for new or junior faculty to establish research programs in the field. Other organizations such as AHRQ/RWJ are providing some funding but not at adequate levels to support a vibrant research base for outcomes and cost-effectiveness studies. Industry funding decisions for outcomes research are not typically peer-reviewed and, more importantly, are not sufficient from a resource standpoint to support career development.

7. Have we, as researchers failed to make our research understandable to the end users?

Yes we have. I think there is a lot more that can be done to help the scientist and end users of our research in terms of simplification and dissemination. For example, we might consider developing a standard way of presenting cost-effectiveness results. The Annals of Internal Medicine has moved toward a common approach for presenting the results of cost-effectiveness models.

8. What is the most rewarding aspect of your career?

Working with graduate students. That's where I do most of my learning and I find it very satisfying to spend time with them and learn from them.

9. What do you think are the main benefits/challenges of academia?

Being able to do what you like to do is probably the biggest advantage. I always wanted to be in academia for this reason and even today I would not select a different career path. The biggest challenge is finding good graduate students. They are out there but it's a constant challenge to find the best ones.

10. How do you prefer spending your spare time?

I spend my spare time in two ways. First, since I work a lot, I spend most of my spare time with my wife and kids. Secondly, I read history and science fiction.

11. What advice would you give to a student who is pursuing a career similar to yours?

I would advise them to interact more with the senior researchers in the field. Identify key people in your area and follow what they do. Identify a mentor who can help you out. Not just when you are in school, but also once you graduate. Keep up with the developments in your area and make it a habit to read and write on a daily basis, even after you graduate. Do a post-doctoral fellowship, in the area that interests you to gain more experience. Identify a mentor and spend a couple of years doing research and publishing papers, nothing else. At this point, you are probably not taking any classes, not teaching nor doing anything else but just focusing on research.

12. Describe a normal day in your life or are there no "normal days"?

I will describe what I call a "modal day" and modal is nowhere close to normal ☺ I wake around 5 AM and spend a couple of hours answering email or taking conference calls. I have breakfast with my family and then head to the university. I spend a lot of my time working on my projects, reading and writing during the day. I head home at about 5:30 PM and spend some time with the kids before they go to bed. I end my day with a nice glass of Italian red wine and a good book (not related to work) ☺

13. What is your vision for ISPOR's student members?

I think student members should be given more of an opportunity to interact with senior researchers in the field. One of the things I did when I organized the ISPOR meeting, a couple of years ago was to include the "Breakfast with the experts" session. The main purpose was to provide students with an opportunity to interact with experts in the field. Once again, I would encourage students to pursue a post-doc position although I do recognize the financial reasons that students have for not doing so.

Article of the month

Chiou CF, Hay JW, Wallace JF, et al. Development and validation of a grading system for the quality of cost-effectiveness studies. Medical Care. 2003; 41(1):32-44.

Abstract:

Purpose. To provide a practical quantitative tool for appraising the quality of cost-effectiveness (CE) studies.

Methods. A committee comprised of health economists selected a set of criteria for the instrument from an item pool. Data collected with a conjoint analysis survey on 120 international health economists were used to estimate weights for each criterion with a random effects regression model. To validate the grading system, a survey was sent to 60 individuals with health economics expertise. Participants first rated the quality of three CE studies on a visual analogue scale, and then evaluated each study using the grading system. Spearman rho and Wilcoxon tests were used to detect convergent validity and analysis of covariance (ANCOVA) for discriminant validity. Agreement between the global rating by experts and the grading system was also examined.

Results. Sixteen criteria were selected. Their coefficient estimates ranged from 1.2 to 8.9, with a sum of 93.5 on a 100-point scale. The only insignificant criterion was "use of subgroup analyses." Both convergent validity and discriminant validity of the grading system were shown by the results of the Spearman rho (correlation coefficient = 0.78, $P < 0.0001$), Wilcoxon test ($P = 0.53$), and ANCOVA ($F_{3,146} = 5.97$, $P = 0.001$). The grading system had good agreement with global rating by experts.

Conclusions. The instrument appears to be simple, internally consistent, and valid for measuring the perceived quality of CE studies. Applicability for use in clinical and resource allocation decision-making deserves further study.

Acknowledgements

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**thanks to Niranjan Konduri, Aditya Marfatia, Upendra
Abhyankar and Rupali Naik. Cheers!!**

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express their sincere thanks to Zeba Khan,
Cher Beilfuss and Jennifer Casillas for their
guidance and enthusiasm. Cheers!!*

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