At the ISPOR 3rd Latin America Conference in Mexico City, Mexico, I was interested in learning the basics of health technology assessment (HTA), which resulted in a great learning experience for me. I admit that in my country, India, the words “pharmacoeconomics” and “outcomes research” are new to health care practitioners, but we are determined to familiarize ourselves with these concepts and put them into practice. India has a developing economy similar to other Latin American nations and the Case Studies presented at the Conference were similar to that of India. In particular, Mexico and Peru bear a resemblance to the health care practice that is being considered in India.

One of the more interesting observations from the presentations at the Conference was that in most developing countries, the patients continue to suffer due to an ignorance about information, and practice and resources being overburdened. There is a universal need to optimize both, which is possible by adopting the practice of pharmacoeconomics, outcomes research, and HTA.

I attended the Budget Impact Analysis (BIA) Short Course on Thursday morning, and it was an eye-opening experience for me. I was very impressed by the Case Studies on BIA and I learned the basics needed to understand the deliberations and discussions presented in the course. The power of BIA in finding the hidden value of complex situations is quite amazing. In the afternoon Short Course sessions, I learned about HTA, which was very important for me.

The Educational Symposia, “Striking the Right Level: Micro And Macro HTA In Emerging Markets/Health Systems,” is very relevant to my current research program. I am working in the areas of breast cancer, sudden cardiac death, Rheumatoid Arthritis, and alternate biological resources for Asparaginase. The knowledge I gained in the Short Courses and Educational Symposia will help me guide my students in their PhD programs.

The Plenary Session on 9 September discussed the possibility of universal coverage of expensive new health care technologies. The debate explored the different modes of affordability and accessibility in public and private payers. Lack of economic resources compels one to enter a contract of risk sharing with the innovators as a way to deal with intellectual propriety rights. The next session on health policy on treatments discussed different models of payment of health products and practice. The Educational Symposium, “Health Economic Analysis In Latin America: Can Lessons Learned From Other Parts Of The World Be Applied?” explored the usefulness of available knowledge from developed countries in dealing with health care economic issues. The limitations and usefulness of existing HEA data in finding pharmacoeconomic solutions for new countries are basic and have yet to be accumulated. The following Educational Symposia, “High Cost Medicines: Do They Bring Value to Health Systems in Latin America and How to Ensure Appropriate Access?” made us think if it is necessary to change or adopt an expensive new product without evaluating its requirements in a scientific manner.

The risk sharing experiences discussed possibilities of signing contracts between innovators and payers, which could resolve the issue of funding for research. The discussion of reimbursement models in Latin America highlighted the disparities among Latin American countries in health care public funding.

On the final day of the Conference, the Plenary Session, “What Is The Value Of Health Outcomes Research To Decision Makers: A Candid Discussion with Public Decision Makers,” was quite educative and informative. The discussions questioning the value of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research to resolve issues were quite interesting and educational as well. The final discussion on formulary practice at different levels of health care administration and practice was excellent. The Poster Sessions gave an in-depth look into the practices of pharmacoeconomics, outcomes research, and HTA in my country. I thank ISPOR for supporting my attendance at the 3rd Latin America Conference in Mexico City.

The knowledge I gained in the Short Courses and Educational Symposia will help me guide my students in their PhD programs. I thank ISPOR for supporting my attendance at the 3rd Latin America Conference in Mexico City.