A View of the Importance of the Development of Pharmacoeconomic Analysis in Making Decisions in Public Health Policies in Brazil

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I am a pharmacist from Brazil and I work in management in the Pharmaceutical Assistance in Brazilian Public Health System (SUS). Brazil has a public policy that ensures the public free access to a list of medicines. Spending on medicines has been growing and pharmacoeconomic studies are becoming very important when making decisions. In this context, I submitted a financial impact study at the ISPOR 17th Annual International Meeting to share my experiences, improve my knowledge in pharmacoeconomics, and contribute to the studies in my country. With great honor, I was awarded a Meeting Travel Scholarship award by ISPOR and I had the opportunity to become a member and participate in an ISPOR meeting for the first time. This meeting was also the first professional event I attended out of my country. I was impressed by the magnitude of the meeting and number of professionals from around the world who attended the event. In the first two days of the meeting, I attended three short courses about financial impact and statistical considerations in Health Economic Evaluations. Besides the theoretical aspects covered in the course, I also learned the views from colleagues working in different areas. During the event, I attended several plenary sessions, workshops and forums where I learned the trends in pharmacoeconomics studies. My main interests were methods in evaluation of financial impact, the use of pharmacoeconomic analysis in decision making, and issues related to public health.

As a health professional active in the government, I was interested in learning about pharmacoeconomic analysis in decision making of the health regulatory agencies. The vast majority of participants were from the USA, although there were many participants from Latin America and emerging countries. I felt the responsibility to absorb all the information that could contribute to the expansion of pharmacoeconomic studies for the public health policies in my country. ISPOR provided me with a great opportunity to develop my professional network and foster collaboration among researchers in pharmacoeconomics from around the world. The papers presented at the meeting disseminated the latest research conducted by the academia and the industry. On the last day of the meeting, I presented my poster and shared my study findings for Brazil with other professionals. It was interesting to see the different points of views from colleagues with different academic backgrounds. I believe I received great professional development. I learned from research conducted by my colleagues in other countries. This experience will help me perform more rigorous analyses for my future studies. After attending the meeting, I believe I have achieved my goals. I returned to Brazil to further my studies and promote pharmacoeconomic analysis. The public health system is still very much focused on the supply, storage and distribution of drugs. The grant gave me the opportunity to become a member of ISPOR. I’ll make the most of this opportunity to keep myself updated as well as contribute and participate in courses and events organized by ISPOR. I would like to collaborate with the ISPOR Brazil Regional Chapter and seek the opportunity to get involved in studies in this scientific community.

Pharmacoeconomics Awareness and Outcomes Research Implementation in Egypt: Past, Present and Better Hope For the Future

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I would like express my thanks and appreciation for ISPOR’s Meeting Travel Scholarship award, which gave me the opportunity to actively learn and enhance my knowledge base in pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research methods.

Pharmacoeconomics is in the growing phases here in Egypt, interest is spreading and we established our first ISPOR Egypt chapter one year ago. Our main goal was raising awareness regarding the importance of adopting pharmacoeconomics principles cross all stakeholders, which is why we focused on conducting several workshops and conferences, and invited renowned experts in the field to help spread the message.

This was my first time participating in an ISPOR meeting, and my experience at ISPOR’s 17th Annual International Meeting in Washington, DC was positive and informative.

I had the opportunity to attend short courses on topics including: statistical considerations and an introduction to pharmacoeconomics implementation, which will help me to better determine the economic impact of clinical outcomes, and conducting decision and sensitivity analysis.

The plenary sessions offered deep insight into health policies and regulations and their economic impact. The dynamic background of the speakers offered a broad perspective as they discussed the issues from more than one angle.

Egypt needs to optimize its health care spending and utilize outcomes research. Being in a policy-making position allows me to use what I learned from this meeting to better serve the health care system in Egypt.

I had the opportunity to give a presentation on the pros and cons of pricing and reimbursement in Egypt; the presentation was part of a one-hour Arabic forum, which allowed me to better understand what other countries in the region are implementing.

Egypt’s current health care system is under major reform in this post-revolution era. As a member of the newly formed Pharmacoeconomics Unit Advisory Committee, I am looking forward to applying what I have learned to better allocate our health care resources to improve health care access to our population. I also intend on strengthening our regional involvement in ISPOR particularly in research.

The dedication and sincerity of ISPOR’s staff throughout the year and during special events like annual meetings was one of the cornerstones for making this event a complete success.