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# **I Have a Better QALY than You:** *How to Make Sense of Alternatives to the QALY for Research and Policymaking*

ISPOR 2024 – Atlanta, Georgia USA

May 7, 2024 1:45PM – 2:45PM

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# 1

## Welcome and Session Objectives

Dan Ollendorf, PhD

## Today's Panel



### **Dan Ollendorf (Moderator)**

Chief Scientific Officer and Director of HTA  
Methods and Engagement

*Institute for Clinical and Economic Review  
(ICER)*

Assistant Professor

*Center for the Evaluation of Value and  
Risk in Health (CEVR), Tufts Medical  
Center*



### **Darius Lakdawalla**

Quintiles Chair in Pharmaceutical  
Development & Regulatory Innovation  
Professor, School of Pharmacy & Price  
School of Public Policy

Director of Research, Leonard D.  
Schaeffer Center for Health Policy &  
Economics

*University of Southern California*



### **Mel Whittington**

Senior Fellow

*CEVR at Tufts Medical Center*

Principal

*Valusphere, LLC*



### **Anirban Basu**

Stergachis Family Endowed  
Professor and Director  
Comparative Health Outcomes,  
Policy, and Economics (CHOICE)  
Institute, School of Pharmacy  
*University of Washington*

## Session Objectives

- Understand concerns with the QALY and its applications in health
- Present the pros and cons of major QALY alternatives
  - Equal value life year (evLY)
  - Health years in total (HYT)
  - Generalized risk-adjusted QALY (GRA-QALY)
- Discuss implications for health technology assessment and future research

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# Setting the Stage for Today's "Contest"

Dan Ollendorf, PhD

# Disclosures

- **Current employee of the Institute for Clinical and Economic Review, which employs one of the measures under discussion**

# The Poor QALY



## Morning Briefing

*Summaries of health policy coverage from major news organizations*

THURSDAY, FEB 8 2024

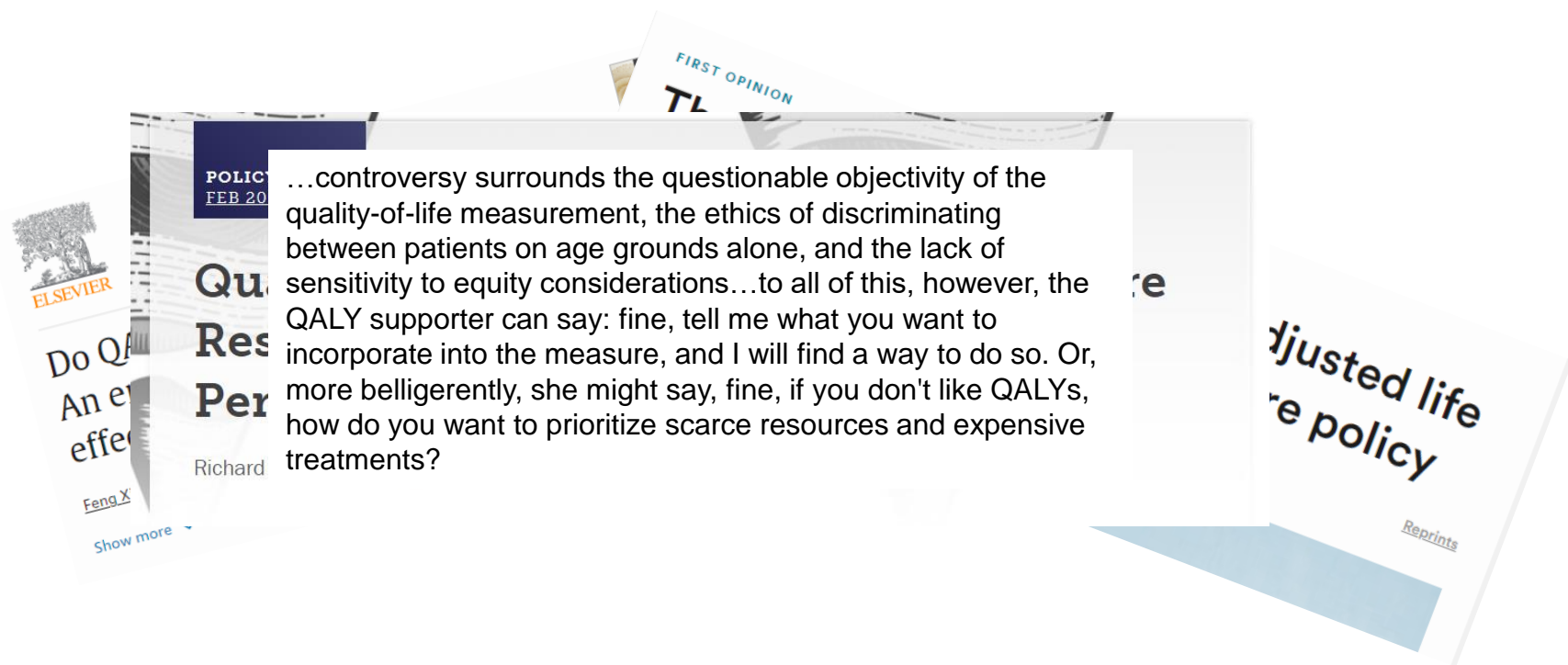
FULL ISSUE

### House Passes Bill Barring Use Of QALY Metric In Federal Health Programs

[View full issue](#)



## There Have Been Attempts to Save it (Here)





# POLL QUESTION #1

# QALY Alternatives: A Shot Across the Bow

- HYT
  - “can violate the ‘independence of irrelevant alternatives’ (IIA) axiom”
  - “produce counterfactual QoL after death”
  - “constant proportional tradeoff assumption provides no support for the notion that quality and quantity of life are separable...”
- evLY
  - “can result in decision instability”

# Let the Games Begin!



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# 2

## The equal value Life Year (evLY)

Mel Whittington, PhD

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# 3

## Health Years in Total (HYT)

Anirban Basu, PhD

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# 4

## Generalized risk-adjusted QALY (GRA-QALY)

Darius Lakdawalla, PhD

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# 5

## Discussion



## **POLL QUESTION #2**



## Potential Discussion Questions

- We have talked about methods/use limitations of the alternatives. What are any political implications for their use?
- How would use of these measures impact patterns or trends in technology development?
- Some may view the alternatives as “bolt-ons” or reimaginings of the QALY. Is there merit in scrapping the whole enterprise and building something new from the ground up, or have we been there before?