

Another Remarkable Year for ISPOR

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It is proving to be another remarkable year for ISPOR in 2016. Thanks to a strong foundation set by the Board of Directors, Past President Adrian Towse, ISPOR's CEO and Executive Director Nancy Berg, and staff, the Society continues to thrive in terms of fulfilling its mission **to promote health**

economics and outcomes research excellence to improve decision making for health globally.

Students

As you know, I am especially committed to engaging students, who are the ultimate stewards of ISPOR's future. So, it gives me great pleasure to see that our Student Network is thriving. In fact, we recently approved 9 new Student Chapters at our board meeting this March. We welcome members of new student chapters from India, China, Colombia, Hungary, Canada, and the United States to our global community of 90+ Student Chapters.

We continue to explore additional membership benefits for students and are in the process of recruiting a full-time staff member to support ISPOR Student Chapters. One area of particular interest is to design and implement programs for "New Professionals" who are transitioning into the professional workforce. More information to come in future updates.

Collaboration

In keeping with the objectives of our new Strategic Plan, ISPOR has made notable progress this year in initiating collaborative relationships with like-minded societies. Our objective is to develop synergistic relationships that will allow us to share ideas and resources to enhance the value of membership for our members and member programs. Following are just a few noteworthy collaborations:

ISPOR and DIA. We are hosting a pre-conference workshop during DIA 2016 entitled, "*The Evolving Role of Payers in Drug Development: Pricing, Pharmacoeconomics, and Health Technology Assessment.*" The workshop will be held on Sunday, June 26, 2016, in Washington, DC, USA, and moderated by President-elect Lou Garrison.

ISPOR and FDA. Representing ISPOR, I recently participated in an invitational meeting on the US Food and Drug Administration Modernization Act (FDAMA) Section 114. The session addressed strategies to promote the use of health economic data to pharmacy and therapeutics committees and other health care decision makers.

ISPOR and EUnetHTA. CEO Nancy Berg attended the Kickoff Meeting for EUnetHTA Joint Action 3 in Amsterdam, The Netherlands. More than 125 government officials involved in the development or administration of HTA included ISPOR in their discussions, and recognized the Society for its role as a resource and a forum to exchange information regarding HTA decision making.

ISPOR 2016 Meetings

Planning for the Annual Meeting is well underway. I hope that

you will join us in Washington, DC, USA for our **21st Annual International Meeting**, "*Value, Affordability, and Patient Centeredness: Can We Have it All?*" taking place May 21-25, 2016.

Plenary sessions include:

- Accelerating Cures: Addressing Unmet Patient Need or Putting Patients at Risk?

This session will feature three different views on accelerated drug development efforts: the proponent, opponent, and patient perspectives.

- Making Medical Decisions in an Irrational World.

This plenary session focuses on emerging behavioral economic models and examines their potential to influence the future design of health plans.

- Contemporary Regulatory and Legislative Issues in Health Outcomes Research.

Speakers will address current issues surrounding health outcomes research, including patient-centered research, promotion of health economic claims, and the role of regulatory oversight in a dynamic health care environment.

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To help first-time meeting attendees successfully navigate our very comprehensive agenda, we are planning a one-hour orientation webinar in early May. Along with other ISPOR leaders, I will be sharing my thoughts on meeting highlights, must-attend sessions, and a brief overview of new short courses. Although initially intended for first-time attendees, returning participants are invited to participate and learn more about this year's meeting. Details on this webinar will be shared in the coming weeks and will be distributed to members and all meeting registrants.

I want to personally invite you to ISPOR's 2016 General Business Meeting of the membership taking place at the Annual Meeting in Washington, DC on Tuesday, May 24, at 1:00PM. We will discuss progress on implementing our new Strategic Plan, and present highlights from our recent Chapter survey and Member Study. ISPOR Board members and staff will attend and are looking forward to meeting you.

Hope to see you in Washington, DC! ■