



# Global Presence and Global Influence: ISPOR on the World Stage

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Dear Colleagues,

My term as ISPOR' President has begun with a full and exciting agenda that reflects the Society's global presence and influence in health economics and outcomes research. In addition to our major conferences and meetings, I am planning to visit members in as many ISPOR chapters as I can. I met with ISPOR Beijing Chapter members in June, met with the President and other officers of the Capítulo Regional ISPOR México in September, and will visit the Hungarian chapter in November.

### ISPOR in Action in Asia-Pacific and in Europe

It was an honor to welcome nearly 1,300 delegates to the 7th Asia-Pacific Conference in Singapore. The theme of the meeting, *Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research in Asia-Pacific: Challenges, Opportunities, and Future Direction*, was expertly explored in three outstanding plenary sessions that focused on health technology assessment, big data, and universal health care in the region. Dr. Isao Kamae of Japan and Dr. Tony Tarn of Taiwan deserve our congratulations for a job well done in chairing this provocative meeting.

By the time you read this column, ISPOR's 19th Annual European Congress, *Managing Access to Medical Innovation: Strengthening the Methodology-Policy Nexus*, will likely be underway in Vienna Austria (October 29-November 2). I hope to see many of you in Vienna, where I will be moderating the Second Plenary session on **Differential Pricing of Medicines in Europe**. Improving access to medicines in lower-income countries, while providing optimal incentives for innovation, is a critical global issue and remains an important challenge in Europe. The scientific program for the European Congress will cover many other key issues facing our global health care system, including timely sessions that address approaches to improving the efficiency of drug development and the efficient use of medicines.

### Initiative on US Value Frameworks

In addition to the three large meetings ISPOR hosts each year, the Society recently hosted a one-day conference on ISPOR's Initiative on US Value Assessment Frameworks. On September 23rd, ISPOR held an open meeting in Washington, DC, USA, to bring together stakeholders across all segments of health care to invite input and help to guide the scope of work for the initiative's Special Task Force. The Stakeholder Conference was a groundbreaking event that featured a number of notable speakers, including keynote speaker Mark B. McClellan, MD, PhD, Director of the Duke Robert J. Margolis, Center for Health Policy. There is tremendous interest in this initiative, as evidenced by the 250+ engaged participants at the DC meeting.

Broadly speaking, the Initiative was created to inform the shift towards a value-driven health care system by promoting the development and dissemination of high-quality, unbiased value assessment frameworks. The stakeholders at the conference supported the aims of the Initiative and helped refine the scope of work of the Special Task Force. Speakers represented different perspectives and provided valuable input and suggestions, including the need to address the issue of value-based payment as one of the assessment issues, the importance of incorporating the patient perspective, the need for more cost-effectiveness evidence, the challenge of rewarding innovation, and the necessity of broadening the definition of value while recognizing that not all important elements may be quantifiable.

Importantly, the interest and dialogue generated at this meeting not only helps to introduce ISPOR to the broader policy community in Washington, but also distinguishes ISPOR as an important global convener of such a diverse and influential group of stakeholders. To further the discussion, an Issue Panel session on the Initiative will review potential lessons from and for European value assessment frameworks at the 19th Annual European Congress in Vienna, Austria (Tuesday, November 1, 2016). Together we can develop a set of standards that are robust, transparent, methodologically sound to guide the development of value assessment frameworks for health care decision making around the world.

Exciting developments and new challenges continue for those of us lucky enough to be working in this important and dynamic science of HEOR. Many thanks to all the members who drive and support our mission:

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

Sincerely yours,  
Lou