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FROM THE EDITOR

A common refrain is that “getting old sucks, but it beats the alternative.” Strictly speaking, those of us in the HEOR community know this to be not quite true, as there is the possibility for certain living health states to have negative utilities, meaning they are in fact worse than death and its utility of zero.

Healthcare is all about increasing the length and quality of life—in other words, making the process of getting old a little bit longer and a little less ... well, *sucky*. On a macro level, innovations in medicine and advances in healthcare provision have certainly contributed to increased life expectancies, but whether or not these have improved comfort and well-being among the elderly remains a subject of hotly contested debate. (Don't *EVEN* get my Mom going on this issue!)

Ageing presents a whole host of additional challenges to health systems when examined at the population level. This is the theme of this issue of *Value & Outcomes Spotlight*. Our feature article highlights some of these challenges, including changes in case-mix faced by healthcare providers (tilting towards conditions primarily affecting the elderly, such as dementia), shifts in settings/mechanisms for care delivery (increasing demand for home healthcare workers), and difficulties in healthcare financing (arising from a shrinking working-age population having to fund care for a growing population of retirees). We also include thought pieces on this issue from various parts of the world, including Asia and Latin America. We have a by-the-numbers infographic and, to cap things off, our Q&A section features long-time ISPOR contributor Isao Kamae PhD, MD, of the University of Tokyo in Japan, a country with demographic trends that are particularly daunting.

In addition to the population-aging themed content, we include a variety of material that is relevant to our Society. We have 3 HEOR articles on the topics of drug disinvestment, European HTA submissions, and data quality in real-world evidence generation. Our ISPOR Central section features a profile of Marc Berger MD, who we congratulate for this year's Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement award, ISPOR's highest honor. Finally, we include background materials for upcoming ISPOR conferences, including the ISPOR Europe 2019 meeting, which will take place in Copenhagen this November.

See you in there!



David Thompson, PhD
Editor-in-Chief,
Value & Outcomes Spotlight

