

News from ISPOR Ethiopia Chapter

Since its first establishment in July 2017, ISPOR Ethiopia Chapter has been growing rapidly in terms of membership recruitment and impact. In the last 6 months only, the Chapter recruited more than 50 new diverse members from all professions, stakeholders, and policy makers across the country.

In September 2018, the Chapter established a research centre, in collaboration with School of Pharmacy, University of Gondar, named CORE (Centre for Outcomes Research in Ethiopia). The main objective of this research group/centre is to conduct, promote and disseminate scientific studies (original articles, policy document analysis and systematic reviews) to better inform policy and practice in the area of HEOR, HTA and healthcare decision making in Ethiopia. As of March 12, CORE has 6 academics or researchers from School of Pharmacy, all of whom are ISPOR full members and 2 master's students. The Chapter is planning to officially inaugurate the centre in April 29, 2019 with invited guests from Ministry of Health and other regulatory bodies.

ISPOR Ethiopia Chapter successfully held its second national symposium (from December 19-20, 2018) at Science Amba hall, College of Medicine and Health Science Gondar, University of Gondar, Ethiopia with a theme *“access to quality medicines in Ethiopia: the impact of counterfeit medications and the role of local pharmaceutical companies”*. In addition to more than 31 oral and poster abstracts that were presented at the symposium, two key note speech (*“improving medication-related outcomes for patients with chronic conditions: is Ethiopia ready for the digital era?”*) and one educational seminar (*“utility measures, preference elicitation methods and mapping: principles and application”*) were also held. Nearly 100 people attended the symposium including policy and decision makers, regulatory authorities, clinical researchers, public health experts, academicians, as well as representatives of local pharmaceutical companies. As part of ISPOR Africa Network, the Chapter recently took an initiative to conduct a research project on *“Availability, price and affordability of cancer medicines in Africa: implication for access”*. The Chapter is currently preparing the project proposal and reaching out to the ISPOR African Network members for possible collaboration and data collection in respective countries.

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