

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR PHARMACOECONOMICS AND OUTCOMES RESEARCH –
NIGERIAN CHAPTER'S 2nd WORKSHOP

Communique

The second ISPOR-Nigeria workshop held on Thursday 24th to Saturday 26th March, 2011 in Valencia Hotels Abuja. The goal of this workshop was to sensitize and create awareness on the use and practice of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcome Research among the key stakeholders and policy makers in the Nigerian health care sector. To put it in another way, the workshop aimed to ensure that the meagre available resources devoted to healthcare in Nigeria is applied efficiently in order to achieve maximum health benefit through the use of research evidence. It is worthy of note that developed countries use economic evaluations in making health policies. Developing countries like Nigeria grappling with so many competing needs should also apply the same principles in making decisions in health care. ISPOR-Nigeria through this workshop sought to bridge this gap by bringing together policy makers, health care managers and providers, researchers and general medical practitioners to learn the basic tenets of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research.

ISPOR promotes the science of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research (the scientific discipline that evaluates the effect of health care interventions on patient well-being including clinical outcomes, economic outcomes, and patient-reported outcomes) and facilitates the translation of this research into useful information for healthcare decision-makers to ensure that society allocates scarce health care resources wisely, fairly and efficiently. ISPOR is an international, educational and scientific organization that fosters excellence in the core disciplines of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research and the use of this research information in health care decisions at all levels. Nigeria, is the second country in Africa (after South Africa) to launch a regional ISPOR chapter.

The workshop drew varied health professionals from different health institutions like Federal Ministry of Health (FMOH), National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS), Nigerian Institute of Pharmaceutical Research and Development (NIPRD), pharmaceutical industries, academic institutions, health management organisations e.t.c. The Honourable Minister of Health, represented by Chief J. Adagazu was the guest of honour.

The sessions were delivered by prominent experts in the health care industry. Dr Kenneth Ojo who is an accomplished Health Economist and a consultant to WHO and FMOH opened the workshop with his lecture on the concept and relevance of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcome research in developing countries. He also delivered another talk on the challenges of health care financing in Nigeria. In his second lecture, he stressed on the lack of use of research evidence in health policy formulation and the poor level of healthcare policy implementation in the country. He challenged health experts and researchers to generate evidences which could help policy makers in making wise decisions. Mr Adeboye Olabode of the NHIS, a Harvard trained expert on quality improvement in health care and a specialist in

health financing and risk pooling delivered a lecture on the experience and challenges of NHIS in implementing the community based health care financing models – a programme which enables the poor to have access to health care through a subsidized package. His section raised a lot of concern since people in this socio-economic cadre need to be supported in order to ensure equity in health care distribution. His presentation really showed the need of in-depth study in order to develop a feasible model to take care of the health of the poorer class like the Medicare in USA. Dr Isaac Odeyemi, a health economists and business administration expert of Astellas Pharma Europe, United Kingdom, shared the European experience on pharmaceutical pricing policies. He highlighted the fact that pharmaceutical prices are driven by evidence based science and not only by the act of negotiation as obtainable in Nigeria. He talked on the newly developed global pharmaceutical pricing policy that aims at offering products at a price not exceeding 20% of the average western world price – an opportunity that Nigeria can tap from. He encouraged ISPOR-Nigeria members to promote the evidenced-based pricing policy in Nigeria.

Other technical sessions bothering on concepts and application of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcome Research were also delivered by other health economists and academics. Dr John Alfa, a director of Pharmaceutical Services in National Assembly Hospital and the president of ISPOR-Nigeria delivered a session on the principles of pharmacoeconomics and outcome research. Mr Charles Ezenduka who is with the Health Policy Research Group, University of Nigeria introduced the concept of health technology assessment and systematic review/meta-analysis. Dr. Anthony Waka Udezi, a lecturer with the department of Clinical Pharmacy, University of Benin gave a lecture on the principles of economic evaluation in health care delivery systems and the basics of patient reported outcomes.

Other highlight during the workshop was the presentation of ISPOR Nigeria Scholarship Award for European Market Access Post graduate University Diploma in Paris. This Scholarship is supported by Dr. Issac Odeyemi, a Nigerian working with Astellas Pharma Europe Ltd. Another five scholarships would be offered by ISPOR-Nigeria over the next three years to ISPOR-Nigeria members to enable capacity development in Market Access - an applied Health Economics discipline in Paris, France.