A BIANNUAL PUBLICATION OF THE ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK

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**SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE NEWSLETTER!**

To submit an article for the next issue of our student newsletter, please contact the ISPOR Student Publications Committee at ns0067@mix.wvu.edu or studentnetwork@ispor.org
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MEET THE NEW STUDENT NETWORK CHAIR

VASCO M PONTINHA, MS
MEET THE NEW STUDENT NETWORK CHAIR

VASCO M PONTINHA

Hi ISPOR Students!
Firstly, I am very honored to serve as your ISPOR Student Network Chair for the 2020-2021 term. Before I introduce myself, there are a couple of things that I think are important to recognize... starting with our current situation. I think that regardless of where you are in the world, we are all living extraordinary times. The previous Chair did a wonderful job in positioning the ISPOR Student Network that allows us to more and more serve students in meaningful ways and, in some situations, lead the way towards a digitalization that is more inclusive and that has a local impact. Fortunately, this year we are counting on extraordinary student leaders that work to deliver on the strategic goals set for this year: transform the ISPOR Student Network into a content-creating machine by covering the most pressing issues in HEOR, while also providing opportunities to celebrate student research and other achievements! Even with COVID, I trust the entire leadership team, committee chairs and members to keep this goal in sight and as a basis of everything we do. “Shop talk” aside, here’s me in a nutshell: my name is Vasco Pontinha, I was born in beautiful Lisbon in Portugal.

When I was a kid, I dreamt of becoming a scientist, but for a brief period of my life I didn’t think it was going to be possible. After graduating from the University of Lisbon as a pharmacist, I started working as a Regulatory Affairs consultant, moved into consumer marketing and went on to get a masters in management at Catolica-Lisbon School of Business and Economics. Little did I know that I was about to embark on a program with great mentors, who provided research exposure, which resulted in my first author publication. A “few” miles later and I am now a 3rd year PhD candidate at the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Pharmacy.

Now based in Richmond, I enjoy the outdoors in yet another historic city. In fact, since moving to the United States, I have started a tradition of visiting a major National Park every year. So far, I have visited Sleeping Bear Dunes in Michigan, Rocky Mountain in Colorado, Haleakalā Mountain in Hawaii, and Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Like everybody, COVID-19 changed almost every aspect of my life. Honestly, I miss hanging out with my colleagues and faculty at VCU, I miss the camaraderie that graduate students develop when they work in the same room. Despite being in the second half of my program, I hope to be back in the office with all my colleagues sometime soon. While that does not happen, I will continue working on my dissertation and prepare for what comes next.
MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS
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STUDENT NETWORK COMMITTEE UPDATES
Committee Updates

Machine Learning in HEOR

The ISPOR Student Network Education Committee & Staff present an educational webinar on:

"Machine Learning in HEOR"

Presenters:
Dr. Bill Crown, Brandeis University
Dr. Bill Padula, University of Southern California

Tuesday, September 22, 2020
1-2 p.m., EST

Speakers:
1) Dr. William Crown, PhD, Distinguished Research Scientist, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA, USA
2) Dr. William Padula, PhD, Assistant Professor, Leonard D. Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, University of Southern California School of Pharmacy, Los Angeles, California, USA

Organizer: Education Committee
The webinar provided an overview of applications of machine learning and data science techniques to facilitate and improve HEOR methods.

Student Internship and Fellowship Experiences

WANT TO KNOW ABOUT HEOR INTERNSHIP/FELLOWSHIPS?
JOIN US!
The ISPOR Staff and Education Committee presents webinar on:
"HEOR Internship and Fellowship Experience"

Invited Speakers
Dr. Rodrigo De Antonio, Cevaxin Research Center, Panama
Felix Wolfurm, TH KÖLN Institute, Köln, Germany
Aakash Gandhi, University of Maryland, Baltimore

October 21, 2020
12-1P, EST

Speakers:
1) Aakash Gandhi, BPharm
PhD Candidate, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD, USA and RWE Predoctoral Fellow, Sanofi, Cambridge, MA, USA
2) Felix Constantin Wolfurm, BSc, MSc
PhD Candidate & Research Assistant
TH KÖLN - University of Applied Sciences, Cologne, Germany
3) Rodrigo De Antonio, MD, MSc, DrPH
Executive and Scientific Director - Researcher
CEVAXIN Research Center, Panama

Organizer: Education Committee
The aim of this webinar was to provide internship/fellowship experience to the attendees in terms of the role, key learnings, suggestions, application process, etc.
Committee Updates

'ADOPT-A-CHAPTER' MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

Organizer: Membership Engagement Committee

This initiative is a valuable opportunity for chapters to share experiences and expand their network. This year, the committee received a strong response from individual student chapters.

The committee has successfully matched 24 student chapters as either a mentor or a mentee. The matched chapters are expected to work together throughout the year to grow and meet goals of this program initiative.

The committee is also reaching out to new ISPOR student chapters to provide support by developing and sharing helpful guidance in the first, sixth, and eleventh months after their establishment.

VIRTUAL ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK ROUNDTABLE

Organizer: Meeting Planning Committee

Speakers for the virtual ISPOR Student Network Roundtable event have been identified and invited based on the areas of students' interest.

A published online google form was shared on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn to receive questions from the students for the speakers.
FELIX WOHLFRUM  
TH KÖLN UNIVERSITY (GERMANY)

What did you expect to gain from the webinar?
“I decided to join the webinar to give myself more knowledge about machine learning ... so that if I encounter someone who is working with machine learning, I have a first glimpse of what machine learning can be and (it allows me) to broaden my perspectives.”

What key points did you take away from the webinar?
“The basic approach of how machine learning begins, what the structures are, and the literature that was recommend by Dr. Padula and Dr. Crown. It will allow me to dig in deeper into machine learning.”

How will you use the information you learned from the webinar?
“Mostly I will start to inform myself a little bit more about machine learning. I am doing my PhD in behavioral economics, so maybe there is a field in which I can benefit from machine learning, big data, and could analyze or carry out empirical models and studies.”

What aspects of the webinar contributed most to your professional development?
“It was the recommendation of literature. Now I know where to start and where to go from there. I have an introduction to a topic and now, ok!, it is interesting and I can go deeper and start my journey from there.”

Who would you recommend this webinar to? What level of experience?
“I would recommend this webinar to anybody who has finished a bachelor’s degree or higher so they can have a basic overview of what [machine learning] is and they could have another perspective for their future career.”
The Virtual ISPOR Asia Pacific 2020 took place between 14th and 16th September 2020. The virtual conference, “Next Generation Healthcare in Asia Pacific: Where Technology Meets Patients to Improve Care,” provided 25+ hours of dedicated content covering the latest trends and topics in HEOR in the Asia Pacific region presented in a variety of formats with real-time interaction with presenters via Q&A.

It featured plenary sessions, a spotlight session, issue panels, workshops, and symposia. The conference gave attendees the opportunity to engage with key stakeholders in the global healthcare community, including payers, decision-makers and innovators. This year’s conference studied all aspects of healthcare—issues that are paramount to the region, and globally.

- The ISPOR Value and Outcomes Spotlight team provided insightful daily updates from ISPOR Asia Pacific 2020.
- The ISPOR Student Network would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the ISPOR Asia Pacific 2020 that was held virtually for the first time.
- Summaries and updates from ISPOR Asia Pacific 2020 events can be found here.
Innovative Approaches to Pricing, Value Assessment, and Patient Access to High-Cost Interventions

This exciting session discussed how countries in the Asia Pacific region approach pricing and value assessment for high-cost drugs in order to ensure that they remain accessible to patients.

One of the most important take-away point was that creative solutions that payers or manufacturers are willing to develop would benefit from the inclusion of real-world evidence that requires fundamental infrastructure to handle large data sources.

“Healthcare needs will always exceed limited resource availability within a healthcare system and hence important choices need to be made. — Sarah Fitt, BPharm

SPOTLIGHT ON
VIRTUAL ISPOR
ASIA PACIFIC 2020
HELPFUL STUDENT INFORMATION
WEBINARS

The ISPOR Student Network Education Committee works to put together webinars during the school year that touch upon various topics of interest for those who are studying HEOR. If you missed any of the below webinars, or wish to repurpose any of them as a student chapter event, please peruse the link here to find all webinars that have been conducted. The archives are organized by topic for your convenience.

AN INTRODUCTION TO COST ANALYSIS METHODS USING LARGE/ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS DATABASES
Nov 11, 2020 (11-12pm EST)
Click to watch here

VIRTUAL ISPOR STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT
Jun, 2020
Click to watch here

MACHINE LEARNING IN HEOR
Sep, 2020
Click to watch here

UNDERSTANDING DRUG PRICING AROUND THE GLOBE
Apr, 2020
Click to watch here

STUDENT NETWORK PODCAST - HOW TO DEVELOP THE LEADER IN YOU
Apr, 2020
Click to watch here
HEOR Careers
ISPOR Career Center—The Job Site for HEOR Professionals

CREATE YOUR PROFILE!

- Upload your resume to be searchable by recruiters
- Set up job alerts

Click to set up now!

Fellowships & Internships
Learn about HEOR organizations that provide employment opportunities for students!

Access directory here!
Job Openings

SUMMER INTERNSHIP - STRATEVI
Remote/virtual
Info

2021 EXPERIENTIAL INTERNSHIP (HEOR) - ABBVIE
USA
Info

SUMMER INTERN (HEOR) - TAKEDA
USA
Info

POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW IN HEALTH ECONOMICS AND VALUE MEASUREMENT - TUFFTS
USA
Info

ICER HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT FELLOWSHIP
USA
Info

HEALTH OUTCOMES RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP - WESTERNNU
USA
Info
## Special Interest Groups

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**Additional Topics:****
- Open source models
- Precision medicine and advanced therapies
- Real-world evidence

**Click on each SIG title to find out more!**
Unlocking the Promise of Real-World Evidence

WILLIAM H. CROWN; LUCINDA ORSINI; NIROSHA MAHENDRARATNAM LEDERER; SHIRLEY WANG; DIANA BRIXNER

Authors shared their thoughts on the use of real-world evidence for both regulatory and assessment purposes, and discussed current challenges, future opportunities, and whether real-world evidence is truly achieving its goal—helping to ensure greater patient access to more effective treatments. Topics in article were: limits of randomized clinical trials, expanding regulatory support for real-world evidence, Need for Greater Transparency, Lessons From COVID-19, and the Payer Perspectives of Real-World Evidence.

Balancing Liberty and the Common Good During a Health Crisis

MICHELE CLEARY

This article examined how human behavior is complicating COVID-19 containment efforts (mask wearing, social distancing). Behavioral economists Kevin Volpp and Doug Hough shared their perspectives on citizen choices to comply with COVID-19 mitigation and how culture leads to significantly different experiences.
Willingness to Accept Trade-Offs Among COVID-19 Cases, Social-Distancing Restrictions, and Economic Impact: A Nationwide US Study

SHELBY REED JUAN MARCOS GONZALEZ F. REED JOHNSON

This study reported findings from a discrete-choice experiment with the objective to quantify Americans’ acceptance of COVID-19 infection risks for earlier lifting of social-distancing restrictions and diminishing the pandemic’s economic impact. Americans were reported to have diverse preferences pertaining to social-distancing restrictions, infection risks, and economic outcomes with the largest class (36%) representing COVID-19 risk-minimizers who were reluctant to accept any increases in COVID-19 risks. Political affiliation, race, household income, and employment status were all associated with class membership.

Valuing Health State: An EQ-5D-5L Value Set for Ethiopians

ABRAHAM G. WELIE GEBREMEDHIN BEEDEMARIAM GEBRETEKLE ELLY STOLK CLARA MUKURIA MURRAY D. KRAHN FIKRE ENQUOSELASSIE TEFERI GEDIF FENTA

In the first EQ-5D-5L valuation study in Africa using international valuation methods (c-TTO and DCE) and the EQ-PVT protocol, the objective was to derive an EQ-5D-5L value set from the Ethiopian general population to facilitate cost utility analysis. A nationally representative sample was recruited using a stratified multistage quota sampling technique and face-to-face, computer-assisted interviews were undertaken. In the pilot study, the acceptability of the tasks was good, and there were no special concerns with undertaking the c-TTO and DCE tasks. The coefficients generated from a hybrid model were logically consistent. The availability of this value set will facilitate health technology assessment and health-related quality-of-life research and inform policy decision making in Ethiopia.
STUDENT CHAPTER AWARDS

1. West Virginia University

2. The University of Mississippi

3. The University of Arizona

UBC The University of British Columbia

Monash University

Best Collaboration Award
LUNGevity Foundation’s Breathe Deep Morgantown

**Date:** 24 October 2020  
**Event type:** Lung Cancer Awareness and Fundraiser  
**Key learnings:**  
LUNGevity Foundation is firmly committed to having an immediate impact on increasing the quality of life and survivorship of people with lung cancer. WVU ISPOR participated as one of the team for fundraising for Lung cancer research and a virtual walk/run. WVU ISPOR was able to raise $325 that was donated to the foundation for improving the lives of lung cancer survivors.  
**Attendees:**  
WVU-ISPOR Chapter Students and PSP faculty

RESDAC’S VIRTUAL INTRODUCTION TO MEDICARE

**Date:** 10-11 August 2020  
**Event type:** Educational workshop  
**Speakers:**  
Beth Virnig, PhD, MPH  
Nathan Shippee, PhD, MS  
Stephanie Jarosek, PhD, BSN  
**Key learnings:**  
- West Virginia University (WVU) ISPOR student chapter participated in the virtual workshop for Medicare Data training.  
- This was a two-day hands-on workshop to understand underlying structure, interpretation, strengths and limitations of the data.  
- Medicare administrative data is widely used in health outcomes research to answer relevant and important questions and therefore this workshop was very helpful for students.
All graduate students should start planning their post-PhD employment from at least one year before graduation. There are different types of academic positions. Almost all positions have both teaching and research components. Some schools expect their faculty to spend most of their time in classroom environments. However, research-focused universities expect their faculty to conduct more research. It is also very important to consider having long-term research goals. PhD students need to choose the setting of their future based on their passion. Each of these settings has its specific benefits. However, the income and workload in different settings are similar.

Attending different HEOR conferences (e.g. ISPOR annual meeting) can help students expand their network. Having a good network is very important for finding future academic positions.

Date: 31 January 2020
Event type: Guest lecture & Networking event
Speaker: Dr. Douglas Thornton
Key learnings:
All ISPOR student chapters can increase their collaboration with other chapters by inviting them to attend guest lectures virtually!

- All graduate students should start planning their post-PhD employment from at least one year before graduation.
- There are different types of academic positions. Almost all positions have both teaching and research components. Some schools expect their faculty to spend most of their time in classroom environments. However, research-focused universities expect their faculty to conduct more research. It is also very important to consider having long-term research goals.
- PhD students need to choose the setting of their future based on their passion. Each of these settings has its specific benefits. However, the income and workload in different settings are similar.
- Attending different HEOR conferences (e.g. ISPOR annual meeting) can help students expand their network. Having a good network is very important for finding future academic positions.

Date: 6 July – 2 August 2020
Event type: Public health awareness
Key learnings:
WVU ISPOR organized a daily physical activity program called “Miles to Fitness” to promote fitness and exercise during the quarantine. This program included any kind of physical activity such as jogging, hiking, at-home exercises, etc. Chapter members and faculty participated individually with a turnout of 20 individuals. The event allowed us to have a fun time and prioritize health during the stressful times of dealing with the pandemic.

My activities time shrink to zero for months. This is great. I went out last week to put some minutes on the google sheet. This definitely helps.

Yifan Zhang
During this meeting, Vasco presented a review of major topics that were discussed at the ISPOR Asia Pacific meeting. The topics ranged from the role of health technology assessments (HTAs) across countries, real-world evidence, and how it relates to HTAs, the use of biosimilar medications, and what economic evaluations of medications look like outside of the USA. Our conversation focused on several of the Value & Outcomes spotlights written during the ISPOR conference. A great discussion centered on innovative solutions to help meet patient affordability challenges, such as risk-sharing, financial incentives, and performance-based agreement frameworks.

**VIRTUAL ISPOR ASIA PACIFIC 2020 MEETING RECAP**

**Date:** 17 September 2020

**Event type:** Special ISPOR Asia Pacific 2020 Event during one of our bimonthly meetings

**Speaker:** Vasco Pontinha, MPharm, MA (ISPOR Student Network Chair)

**Key learnings:**
During this meeting, Vasco presented a review of major topics that were discussed at the ISPOR Asia Pacific meeting. The topics ranged from the role of health technology assessments (HTAs) across countries, real-world evidence, and how it relates to HTAs, the use of biosimilar medications, and what economic evaluations of medications look like outside of the USA. Our conversation focused on several of the Value & Outcomes spotlights written during the ISPOR conference. A great discussion centered on innovative solutions to help meet patient affordability challenges, such as risk-sharing, financial incentives, and performance-based agreement frameworks.

**Tyler Wagner**
VCU ISPOR Chapter President

Being able to recap ISPOR Asia Pacific presentations from the ISPOR student network chair was really beneficial! Vasco’s ability to attend the conference resulted in meaningful conversations between chapter members about the state of HTAs around the globe and challenges that both patients and insurers face when it comes to medication pricing and costs.

**Rotana Radwan**
VCU ISPOR Chapter Vice-President

It was so interesting to learn and discuss medications’ value proposition across the globe and the unique differences between the United States, Europe, and the Middle East!
The goal of this activity was to raise awareness among junior and senior PharmD students who are either interested in joining ISPOR, or the PharmD/MS dual graduate program in Pharmacoeconomics, epidemiology, pharmaceutical policy and Outcomes Research (PEPPOR).

**ISPOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER EDUCATIONAL EVENT**

**Date:** February 2020

**Event type:** Educational seminar

**Speakers:**
- Yazan Barqawi (UNM ISPOR Chapter President)
- Cheng Chen (ISPOR Chapter Secretary)

**Key learnings:**
The goal of this activity was to raise awareness among junior and senior PharmD students who are either interested in joining ISPOR, or the PharmD/MS dual graduate program in Pharmacoeconomics, epidemiology, pharmaceutical policy and Outcomes Research (PEPPOR).

**Attendees:**
PharmD students.

**SUMMER INTERNSHIP**

Yazan Barqawi (UNM ISPOR Chapter President) has done a Global Real-world evidence (RWE) summer internship with UCB pharmaceuticals, Raleigh, NC. He was part of the neurology patient value unit, epidemiology team.

He was involved in a variety of tasks and trainings which include:

1. A variety of systematic and targeted literature review
2. Protocols development
3. Clinical practice research datalink (CPRD) training
4. US commercial insurance database study input

**Speakers:**
- Yazan Barqawi (UNM ISPOR Chapter President)
- Cheng Chen (ISPOR Chapter Secretary)
AMCP/ISPOR Social Networking

Date: 2 May 2020

Event type: Networking

Key learnings:
Our chapter hosted a networking event with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy student chapter at University of Washington. This was an opportunity for students from both organizations to meet, discuss common research interests, and cultivate professional and research relationships.

GOOD PRACTICES IN FORMULATING A GOOD RESEARCH QUESTION

Date: 16 April 2020

Event type: Educational webinar (moved to Zoom due to COVID-19)

Speaker: Dr. Mark Bounthavong, PharmD, PhD

Key learnings:
Dr. Bounthavong discussed aspects of compelling research questions, shared his formulating process, presented best practices, and provided recommendations for students at all stages of their career. The ISPOR Student Chapter at UW invites others to view the webinar on our blog: click here.
Members of our chapter had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Jens Grueger, a University of Washington affiliate professor and then-President-Elect of ISPOR. We discussed opportunities for students to get involved with the larger ISPOR organization and potential activities that our chapter could organize.

LANDING AN HEOR INTERNSHIP

Date: 10 July 2020
Event type: Webinar
Speakers:
Dr. Ryan Hansen, PharmD, PhD
Enrique Saldarriaga, MS
Shuxian Chen, MA

Key learnings:
Dr. Hansen provided an overview of industry internships, applications, and resources that students should be aware of. Mr. Saldarriaga shared his experience applying to and completing a Health Economics Internship at the Institute for Disease Modeling (IDM), part of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Ms. Chen shared her experiences landing positions as a Global Health Economics Intern at Amgen, a Quantitative Science Intern at Flatiron Health, and a Data Scientist Intern at Facebook. The online format allowed our chapter to extend the invitations to external organizations and ISPOR chapters. We had students from AMCP and AcademyHealth at University of Washington as well as other ISPOR chapters attending this webinar.

LUNCH WITH ISPOR PRESIDENT-ELECT JENS GRUEGER

Date: 2 December 2020
Event type: Networking
Speaker: Dr. Jens Grueger, PhD

Key learnings: Members of our chapter had the privilege of getting to know Dr. Jens Grueger, a University of Washington affiliate professor and then-President-Elect of ISPOR. We discussed opportunities for students to get involved with the larger ISPOR organization and potential activities that our chapter could organize.
The ISPOR chapter at the University of Pittsburgh is growing quickly and gaining interest from PharmD students! Our last event was an introductory outcomes research talk led by Rudi Safarudin, a current 4th year PhD student in health outcomes research at West Virginia University. This event gave PharmD students a great introduction to HEOR topics and the opportunities that arise with experiences in HEOR. We hope to continue to increase interest in PharmD students and establish a successful ISPOR chapter at the University of Pittsburgh School of Pharmacy.
Virtual ISPOR Orientation for New Students

Date: 4 July 2020
Event type: Virtual Lunch and Learn Event
Speakers: Swarnali Goswami, Dr. Yi Yang

Key learnings:
New students got a chance to understand what ISPOR stands for. Students got acquainted with the different opportunities within ISPOR and how they can contribute. Past presidents and council members of the ISPOR student council shared their experiences on how ISPOR has helped them develop as professionals. New students got a chance to ask questions and get to know the chapter members.

CASE STUDIES FROM HEALTHCARE CONSULTING

Date: 2 August 2020
Event type: Virtual Guest Lecture
Speaker: Dr. Amod Athavale, Senior Manager of Quantitative Research at TRINITY
Key learnings:
- University of Arizona and University of Florida student chapters also attended the event
- Students learned about the scope of application of primary studies in healthcare consulting
- Research techniques demonstrated were discrete choice experiments, medical chart abstraction and in-depth interviews
- The cross-university collaboration really enriched the discussion session
ISPOR Chapter Members from the University of Florida, West Virginia University and University of Arizona attended the event.

An overview of Smart Innovation, including the decision framework, clinical and executive committees was presented by the speaker.

A contrast of implementations of hospital-based Health Technology Assessment (HTA) and payer HTA in Washington State was provided.

Students were able to interact with the speaker and get advice and lessons learned from a real-world application of hospital-based HTA.
Online Farewell for Graduating Members

**Date:** 7 August 2020  
**Event type:** Prospecting  
**Organizer:** ISPOR student committee  

**Key points:**  
An online farewell was organized for the graduating members of ISPOR-UH chapter. Everyone changed their background to acknowledge the event.

**Attendees:**  
All graduate students and faculty from the department

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**ISPOR Alumni Talk**

**Date:** 24 July 2020  
**Event type:** Prospecting  
**Speaker:** Dr. Sweta Rao Pall  

**Key learnings:**  
- Another session was delivered by our alumnus working in the pharmaceutical industry.  
- It was an open discussion forum where the members were informed and guided on the current trends going on in real-world settings, recalling experiences from both consultancies and industry perspectives.

**Attendees:**  
All graduate students and faculty from the department
PHOP SEMINAR SERIES - GUEST WEBINAR

Date: 20 October 2020
Organizer: ISPOR Student Committee

"Cancer Simulation Modeling: Epidemiological and Economic Applications"

Ashish A. Deshmukh, Ph.D., MPH
Assistant Professor,
Management, Policy and Community Health
UTHealth School of Public Health

11:00 AM Tuesday, Oct. 20, via Zoom
Register at https://tinyurl.com/phop-seminar-102020

Co-hosted by the UHCOP ISPOR Chapter,
Graduates and Alumni in Pharmacy Administration, and the
Department of Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy
UMB Fall Fest

Date: 4 September 2020
Event type: Promotional
Speakers:
Kayleigh Majercak
Tsung-Ying Lee
Jaclyn Masket
Sydney Yuen

Key learnings:
The UMB ISPOR Chapter Executive Board promoted the chapter through a virtual organization fair, engaging with students across campus in highlighting our local chapter’s initiatives, goals, and activities. UMB Fall Fest is an annual event that is held during the start of the Fall semester to allow students to learn about campus organizations. Due to campus restrictions from COVID-19, the event was held virtually this year. We have expanded our promotional efforts through different channels such as the UMBCconnect event platform, USGA Campus Life Weekly, the Graduate Student Association, as well as promoting through the pharmacy school social media pages.

REVAMPED UMB ISPOR STUDENT CHAPTER WEBSITE

Date: 24 August 2020 – Present
Event type: Promotional
- Our local UMB ISPOR student website underwent many changes to accommodate for the new virtual setting this semester.
- Updates included live updates of upcoming events, documentation of past events, access to webinar recordings of past events, hyperlinks to register for virtual events, and “meet the e-board” section. We are looking to expand the content to include a section dedicated to student achievements as a way to showcase successes and great work students are doing.
- Current achievements from the Fall semester include the following publications: [Link 1] [Link 2]
ALUMNI CAREER EXPERIENCE EVENT

Date: 2 October 2020 (upcoming)
Event type: Educational Seminar
Speakers:
Dr. Sarah Dutcher
Dr. Rahul Khairnar
Dr. Patience Moyo
Dr. Juan-David Rueda
Dr. Jillian Cordero

Key learnings:
• The UMB ISPOR chapter collaborated with the International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE) Student Chapter to host a virtual Alumni Career Experience Seminar.
• Speakers included alumni who currently work at the FDA, Genentech, Brown University, AstraZeneca, and Merck.
• Panelists discussed their roles, experiences, day-to-day tasks, as well as their job search/interviewing/negotiation processes.

Attendees:
32 attendees including pharmaceutical health services research graduate students and post-docs, pharmacy students, and students from other UMB graduate programs.
The University of Arizona ISPOR Student Chapter had a very successful start to the 2020 year. It was an absolute pleasure to conduct a student-led workshop on "Cultural Competency In Healthcare". This was an interdisciplinary student-led and facilitated workshop aimed at developing the necessary leadership skills in an increasingly global workforce. We intended to create a safe environment where students across the health sciences campus (pharmacy, medicine, nursing, and public health) can discuss relevant and challenging topics. We discussed cultural competency as it relates to patient care. We also aimed to understand the interplay of implicit bias and its implications when multitasking or working under time-pressured high stakes environments like patient care.

Our guest speaker, Dr. Laura Hunter, from the UA Initiatives for Organizational Inclusion, provided an address about the power of diversity and innovation and introduced implicit bias. This was then followed by a workshop-style discussion using real-world evidence from healthcare practice. This event was open to all students at any level who are interested in learning more about this topic. Additionally, certificates of participation were available after the successful completion of the workshop.
We successfully held one Lunch and Learn event for our members to learn about the basics of cost-effectiveness analysis (CEA). All our chapter members and two other undergraduates who were interested in the topic attended the event. We set up a WebEx videoconference to two connected campuses of our department. Our speaker, Gediwon Milky, was a senior PhD student experienced in CEA and was our previous chapter president. After about 1-hour presentation, we had a Q&A session for another 30 min. The introductory contents were very beneficial to students in our department since it is an important skill if one is interested in health economics and outcomes research in the pharmaceutical industry.
Although COVID-19 has lent its fair share of challenges throughout 2020, one thing it has taught us is that humans are made to adapt. Although human interaction is few and far between these days, one way that the Mercer-ISPOR chapter has worked to overcome that challenge is by creating a webinar series aimed at educating our members on topics related to HEOR and the pharmaceutical industry. The webinar series strays away from highlighting career paths and professional development and instead offers an opportunity to educate members about the “tools of the trade”. In the first installment of the series, Dr. Jason Gaines provided an overview of the pharmaceutical industry and an introduction to the marketing of pharmaceuticals throughout the product lifecycle. During this presentation, he provided foundational information on key concepts used to market drug products as well as introduced concepts to ponder when bringing new drugs to market. This meeting proved to be exceptionally informative and laid the foundation for what’s to come in the webinar series where we will transition into learning more about the drug supply chain, market access, drug pricing, and various other topics related to the HEOR field.

**ISPOR INDUSTRY WEBINAR SERIES**

**Date:** Recurring every 3 weeks throughout the duration of the semester (9/9, 9/30, 10/21, 11/11)

**Event type:** Educational webinar

**Speakers:** Dr. Jason Gaines, PharmD, HCP Marketing Associate at Eli Lily and Company

Although COVID-19 has lent its fair share of challenges throughout 2020, one thing it has taught us is that humans are made to adapt. Although human interaction is few and far between these days, one way that the Mercer-ISPOR chapter has worked to overcome that challenge is by creating a webinar series aimed at educating our members on topics related to HEOR and the pharmaceutical industry. The webinar series strays away from highlighting career paths and professional development and instead offers an opportunity to educate members about the “tools of the trade”. In the first installment of the series, Dr. Jason Gaines provided an overview of the pharmaceutical industry and an introduction to the marketing of pharmaceuticals throughout the product lifecycle. During this presentation, he provided foundational information on key concepts used to market drug products as well as introduced concepts to ponder when bringing new drugs to market. This meeting proved to be exceptionally informative and laid the foundation for what’s to come in the webinar series where we will transition into learning more about the drug supply chain, market access, drug pricing, and various other topics related to the HEOR field.
ISPOR Social Event

Date: 2 October 2020
Event type: Virtual social event

Key learnings:
First virtual social event organized by UT ISPOR. Had a virtual games event that required members to work as teams. Interaction among senior and first-year students.

"Great event and was able to interact with other graduate students virtually."

Attendees:
Yogesh Vohra, Yi Lian, Andrew Wash, Elham, Emma Gugala, Elizabeth Ibiloye, Rana Zalmai, Nidhi Shukla, Shiyu Zhang, Karen Rascati
Virtual UIC ISPOR Alumni Panel Event

Date: 14 October 2020
Event type: Virtual Webex ISPOR Student Chapter Event

Speakers:
Sruthi Adimadhyam, BPharm, MS, PhD, Research Scientist, Harvard Medical School & Harvard Pilgrim Health Care Institute
Rachel Harrington, PhD, Research Scientist, National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA)
Ernest Law, PharmD, PhDDirector, Global Health Economics & Outcomes Research (HEOR), Breast Cancer Pfizer
Ruixuan Jiang, PharmD, PhDAssociate Director, Center for Observational & Real-World Evidence (CORE), OncologyMerck

Key learnings:
Recently graduated UIC PSOP PhD alumni shared their experiences with different career paths related to HEOR that they pursued after completing their PhD. Our panelists discussed their career paths, current positions, and research interests, as well as provided advice for students to help them pursue their career goals. Some topics that were covered included: which graduate skills contributed to their success in their roles, how they searched for jobs, how they adapted from the graduate student role to their new positions and what advice they would share with current students.

“I think it was a great event. It was very well organized, and I definitely learned a lot from our alumni. I have always been interested in learning non-Pharma people’s experiences, and this event provided me a great chance to learn those career possibilities!”

STUDENT NETWORK NEWSLETTER
Dr. Chiuve talked about her career path, from getting the PhD, the beginning of her academic career, all the way to her transitioning to the pharmaceutical industry. Having transitioned from academia to industry, Dr. Chiuve talked about how she applies her epidemiology background to her current work role, about differences between working in academia and industry, and about the overlaps and differences. She also talked about how working in academia can complement the industry skillset and the unique skillsets needed for industry.

UIC PSOP PhD students and fellows talked about the PhD program in Pharmacy, Systems Outcomes and Policy, their research, and why they decided to pursue a PhD degree or fellowship program. They also talked about research opportunities within the PhD program that are available to UIC PharmD students and how students can prepare for applying to such PhD and fellowship programs. They touched upon different career paths that students take upon completing this PhD program.
STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES
ASAIA-PACIFIC
The event is newly designed with many interesting rounds where students actively and enthusiastically participated. They are able to stay up-to-date with the current advancements through logical and statistical questions. A total of 52 teams from 7 different pharmacy colleges in and around Guntur actively participated. 10 teams were chosen based on the results of the preliminary round. 5 teams were eliminated after 3 rounds of questions on current affairs, pharma subjects, and pharmacoeconomics. The remaining 5 teams competed for over 3 rounds of rapid-fire, participant-selected questions, and a jackpot round. Cash prizes were awarded to the top 4 teams.

**PRECISION MEDICINE AND ADVANCED THERAPIES**

**Date:** 2 February 2020  
**Event type:** Webinar

The webinar generated awareness of precision medicine and stressed the importance of health care decision. This was a new topic for students to learn and updated student knowledge.

**ISPOR NATIONAL PHARMA QUIZ – 2020**

**Date:** 15 February 2020  
**Organizer:** Chalapathi Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and ISPOR – ANU Student Chapter

The event is newly designed with many interesting rounds where students actively and enthusiastically participated. They are able to stay up-to-date with the current advancements through logical and statistical questions. A total of 52 teams from 7 different pharmacy colleges in and around Guntur actively participated. 10 teams were chosen based on the results of the preliminary round. 5 teams were eliminated after 3 rounds of questions on current affairs, pharma subjects, and pharmacoeconomics. The remaining 5 teams competed for over 3 rounds of rapid-fire, participant-selected questions, and a jackpot round. Cash prizes were awarded to the top 4 teams.
HEALTH ECONOMICS

Date: 8 August 2020

Speaker: Dr. Bob Shultz, Senior Manager of Outcomes Research, Takeda Pharmaceuticals, Chicago

Event type: Webinar

Dr. Bob Shultz elaborated on the topic of Health Economics. He also touched upon the effect of COVID-19 on the healthcare system.

INTRODUCTION TO PHARMACOECONOMICS

Date: 10 October 2020

Speaker: Mr. Varun Ektare, Senior Scientist of Heath Economics and Outcomes Research, Pharmerit, India

Event type: Webinar

Mr. Varun Ektare introduced the topic of pharmacoeconomics and elaborated on the process with examples. He also discussed public health and the career opportunities in both the fields of pharmacoeconomics and public health.
HOW TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN HEOR?

**Date:** 1 September 2020

**Speaker:** Dr. Sandipan Bhattacharjee

**Key learnings:**
- How to form a career in HEOR
- Critical approaches required in HEOR
- The role of real-world data

“In order to build something big, you have to make the basic foundation correct. It was a wonderful talk, indeed a quality stuff and as it touched the base.”

-Ishfaq Rashid, PhD Scholar

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HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT WEBINAR

**Date:** 27 September 2020

**Speakers:** Mr. Aamir Bashir, Mr. Sanjo Simon, Mr. Rizwan Ameen

**Key learnings:**
- Types of health technology assessment (HTA)
- How to perform HTA
- Role of HTA
The chapter successfully planned and organized a webinar and various competitions under the event theme “Transforming Global Health”. Members of the student chapter delivered information on activities and events conducted every year. Dr. Shrikalp Deshpande, Principal, in-charge of K.B. Institute of Pharmaceutical Education And Research gave a brief introduction about World Pharmacist Day and opportunities in the field of pharmacy as a whole. He then introduced and welcomed Mr. Devang Chauhan (Sr. CRA II), Team Leader from Syneos Health, who presented a webinar on “Role of Pharmacist in Clinical Research” through YouTube Live Streaming which, has over 1100 views. The webinar came to an end with kind and inspiring words from Dr. Sandipkumar P. Bhatt, faculty advisor of the ISPOR KSV KBIPER Student Chapter.
As a mentee of Nirmala College of Pharmacy, I found the meeting extremely useful and it gave us new insights into the programmes that is conducted in Nirmala College of Pharmacy. Aby Paul, President of ISPOR KUHS Chapter detailed on the programmes conducted for the past year under ISPOR. The speakers of both the colleges gave talks focussing on HTA and Pharmacoeconomics. The students actively participated in oral presentations and e-Poster programs which was very informative. The speakers and the participants were awarded for their contributions.

-Ms. Queeni Sharoon

Our PharmD Interns offered telecounselling to patients during the COVID outbreak. It allows us to reach out and provide counselling or therapy services to a much larger pool of clients and their families regardless of location. Through online sessions, we were also able to provide senior home care services like guidance, counselling, and consultation.

- Ms. Anna Davice
The session provided a platform for gaining knowledge and experience in the field of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research as it has an important role in providing clinical development and market access decisions of new innovative medicines. Dr. Thomas also highlighted different areas of outcomes research like economic, clinical and humanistic outcomes broadly by setting examples from different perspectives of various nations. As a 4th year PharmD student, the webinar was exceptionally well prepared and very informative. The speaker was well versed and explained the topic thoroughly.

- Ms. Minnu Ann Mohan
Dr Rajan explained the need to measure adherence. Adherence to medications was explained as a three step process of initiation, implementation and discontinuation. The impact of various factors, measurement approaches, and various models including coin flip model were explained during the session. One of the author’s published papers, “Assessment of Demographic and Socio-Behavioral factors on Adherence to HIV Pre – exposure Prophylaxis using a Markov Modeling Approach”, was discussed and gave participants insight into medication adherence and its importance. The session was well appreciated by the audience.
Ms. Zoya explained about various scholarship schemes for Erasmus Mundus program and areas of specialization in Health Economics. Ms. Zoya oriented the participants to the concept of economic evaluation in Healthcare through a few examples of modeling techniques including the Markov model. The participants learned about use of menti.com in Health Economics, a tool that was new to the participants. The session was well appreciated by the audience and all the questions were cleared in the stipulated time.
Dr. Rosselli explained the importance of research and how to start oneself on the research path. We got together with chapter members from Argentina and Mexico, and learned their views on HEOR, economics and research which broadened our view of the current state of health systems in Latin America.

**ISPOR JAVERIANA STUDENT CHAPTER CUMBIA**

*Date:* 19 May 2020

*Speaker:* Dr. Rosselli

Dr. Rosselli put together a video in which our members danced to the sound of Cumbia. We learned that despite adversity, it is important to stick together, have fun and dance!

**QALY WORKSHOP**

*Date:* 19 May 2020

*Speaker:* Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Rosselli

Dr. Rodriguez and Dr. Rosselli provided a brief overview on QALYs along with a short workshop to practice what we had learned during the meeting via Teams platform.
CHAPTER ACHIEVEMENTS

- Student Chapter Constitution
- Established social media platforms (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn)
- Developing Chapter website
- Established 3 sub-committees with 14 student members from all 4 universities
- Planning for Student Chapter Symposium (May 2021)
- Student Chapter Communication Strategy and Plan
- Reporting for Value & Outcomes Spotlight for ISPOR Asia-Pacific 2020

ISPOR OVERVIEW

Date: 11 September 2020
Speaker: Dr. Nancy Devlin

We held our first online live event as a newly established student chapter on Friday September 11, 2020. We hosted Professor Nancy Devlin, the ISPOR Immediate Past President who provided a broad overview of ISPOR, the aims and the objectives of the organization, how ISPOR contributes to health economics and outcomes research and industry, as well as supporting the value of student engagement within the ISPOR network. Additionally, she highlighted the differences between ISPOR and other HEOR networks and opportunities available for leadership and member development. Finally she focused on her personal experience as president, encouraging students to get engaged and participate in activities.
ISPOR-Dayananda Sagar University Student Chapter was recently started on 22 September 2020. Our main motivation for initiating a student chapter was to create awareness among aspiring pharmacists (pharmacy students) in the field of pharmacoeconomics. We wish to encourage the members of our university to actively participate in ISPOR activities in order to gain research knowledge and learn for a better future. We are keen to give everyone an opportunity to explore the field of pharmacy research, particularly the pharmacoeconomics. Currently, we are under the mentorship of Amity University ISPOR Student Chapter. As student chapter officers, we are currently expanding our ISPOR student membership. We are keen to start activities as early as possible.
STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES

EUROPE MIDDLE-EAST AFRICA (EMEA)
Dr. Suhaib Muflih discussed the proper use of antibiotics, the role of healthcare providers in limiting antimicrobial resistance, and the cost-effectiveness of limiting the use of antibiotics and its impact on the patient’s health and wealth. The session ended with a short debate between pharmacy and dental students using different real-life scenarios.

As a graduate fellow in Responsible Conduct of Research Program, Dr. Muflih presented the ethical use of available resources to fight COVID-19 and the importance of pharmacogenomic evaluations of herbal products during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr. Muflih held an educational session to demonstrate the burdens of infectious diseases and the cost-effectiveness of available treatments and interventions.

Dr. Suhaib discussed the proper use of antibiotics, the role of healthcare providers in limiting antimicrobial resistance, and the cost-effectiveness of limiting the use of antibiotics and its impact on the patient’s health and wealth. The session ended with a short debate between pharmacy and dental students using different real-life scenarios.
JORDAN UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
JORDAN

CHAPTER UPDATES

- Events were attended by 45 to 135 students each
- Newly created JUST-ISPOR Chapter Facebook page
- Temporarily approved an ISPOR-JUST Chapter logo
- Designing JUST Chapter’s unified T-shirts

COMPLEMENTARY MEDICINE AND IMMUNE ENHANCERS TO FIGHT THE VIRAL INFECTIONS

Date: 22 June 2020
Speaker: Dr. Suhaib Muflih
Audience: members of ISPOR-JUST, JPSA, and Egyptian Pharmaceutical Students’ Federation (EPSF)

The session highlighted the role of the healthcare providers, especially the role of pharmacists in implementing evidence-based interventions that will impact overall morbidity and mortality rates associated with COVID-19. Key points:

- Immune system and how it works (innate and adaptive)
- Phases of pandemic and efforts to limit its spread
- Suggested therapies and most recent guidelines to treat COVID-19 patients
- Alternative medicine and its role in enhancing the immunity
- Raising awareness about immune enhancers, coronavirus, preventative measures that may generate cost savings and minimize healthcare costs
This event was a great occasion to meet and talk to other students in order to spread awareness of ISPOR and what events our Chapter has organized for the semester. We achieved this by distributing flyers, hanging posters on the walls, and talking to the attendees. We enjoyed speaking to students with no prior knowledge of HEOR and explaining the linkages to their programmes (Biomedicine, Medicine, Health Economics, Policy and Management). It was also good to hear other students’ HEOR-related questions and their specific interests within HEOR. The partnership was necessary to cover the expenses for the event and also to meet students from the union and network with them.

OUTCOMES RESEARCH AND RWE: KI AND THE INDUSTRY - LUNCH & LEARN WITH RICHARD COWBURN

Date: 5 October 2020

Speaker: Richard Cowburn

We learned about existing partnerships between our university and the pharma industry, which may lead to internship or work opportunities for fellow students in outcomes research or RWE. We organized this event in partnership with the Alumni office which supported us in reaching out to the speaker. Such a collaboration is very precious as it is providing us more contacts and support in organizing future events.

A CAREER IN PHARMACOVIGILANCE LUNCH & LEARN WITH HELOISA CONESA

Date: 12 October 2020

Speaker: Heloisa Conesa

We learned about pharmacovigilance, why it was started, which institutions and organizations carry it out currently. Students were particularly attracted by the focus on the career aspect of pharmacovigilance – the job opportunities and the daily tasks and activities involved.
A series of workshops have been conducted at 6 different universities around the country since July 2019, with the focus of fostering the role of health and pharmacoeconomics in health care system to disseminate culture of HEOR-based thinking and decision making among medical students. The collaborative workshops were inspired by the valuable workshop/book of Prof. Lieven Annemans (Health Economics for Non-Economists). The workshops introduced ISPOR and its mission, Improving Healthcare Decisions, for future leaders. More than 250 undergraduate students have been trained so far.

ONLINE SCHOOL

Event: Essentials of Pharmacoeconomics & Pharmaceutical Administration for the Future Leaders
Date: 10 to 16 October 2020
Speaker: ISPOR student chapter executive leaders
Organizer: ISPOR-TUMS and Iranian Pharmacy Students Association (IPhSA)

"Joint development of real cases in the context of parallel virtual workshops with multicultural teams."

A 14-hour online training of applied concepts of pharmacoeconomics and pharmaceutical administration to future leaders of the healthcare system was conducted. We had 75 participants from the 15 universities and postgraduates from the pharmaceutical industry.
LOLA REHEARSAL SESSION

Date: 17 September 2020

Presenters: Luca Janssen, Bram Ramaekers

This is an annual event organized by the Maastricht University ISPOR Student Chapter in preparation for the annual lowlands Health Economists’ Study Group (lolaHESG) conference. This group supports and promotes the work of health economists in the Netherlands and in Belgium. During the conference, the researchers submit their work, which is presented and discussed by another researchers from a different university. The event organized by the Maastricht University ISPOR Student Chapter is aimed to help the discussants prepare for their presentation at the conference. Despite the fact that it was an online event, it went very well and the discussants received helpful feedback from the attendees on how to improve their presentations.
ISPOR UNIVERSITY STUDENT CHAPTER PROSPECTING EVENT

Date: 28 January 2020
Speaker: Dr. Maxwell Adibe
Audience: ISPOR-UNN chapter members, staff advisors, invited guests and the entire university community
CHAPTER ACTIVITY
GRANT UPDATES
This was an educational webinar type of event. Two speakers from Xcenda, a company provides HEOR support to the pharmaceutical companies based in Palm Harbor Florida, gave us a lecture on budget impact analysis (BIA). This lecture covered the reasons why BIA is needed, basic principle and steps of conducting BIA and provides an example in oncology field.

As students at UF, we learned the process of conducting BIA from the perspective of the industry and had the opportunity to see an interactive excel spreadsheet for BIA.

In addition to the information related to BIA, several students interacted with the speakers by asking relevant questions which built up connections with fellows from the industry. Our speakers also mentioned it was a great experience and would be willing to participate in our future events. This event was the very first collaborative experience our ISPOR student chapter had with industry. Although the event was turned online due to the public health emergency, it turned out to be successful and we also built a strong tie with Xcenda.