Dear readers,

The ISPOR Student Network Newsletter Committee wishes you all a very Happy New Year!

We hope you enjoy reading the second issue of the 2017-2018 year. We are grateful to all our members who provided updates and inputs for this edition of the newsletter.

Sincerely,
The 2017-18 Newsletter Committee Members

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Professional Development Opportunities

Upcoming Webinars

Topic: **ISPOR Student Webinar — Preparing to Defend your Dissertation**
Date: Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 12:30-1:00pm EDT
Presenters:
Eman Biltaji, MS, PhD, Post-Doctoral Research Associate, University of Utah, Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research Center, Salt Lake City, UT, USA
Oresta Piniazhko, MSc, PhD, Assistant Professor, Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University, Member of Expert Committee of MoH, Lviv, Ukraine

Topic: **My ISPOR Story — Lou Garrison**
Date: Wednesday, February 7, 2018, 11:00-11:30am EDT
Presenter:
Lou Garrison, PhD, Professor, Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research and Policy, School of Pharmacy, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA

Topic: **ISPOR Student Webinar — Drug Pricing**
Date: Wednesday, February 21, 2018 12:15-1:30 pm EDT
Presenters:
Bill Padula, MS, MSc, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Health Policy & Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Baltimore, MD, USA
Julia Slejko, PhD, Assistant Professor, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Baltimore, MD, USA

Student Resources

**BestColleges.com** is an online, college planning resource for current and prospective students. Designed to be the first stop for students planning the next step in their education and offering information on college programs and financing options. They recently published two college guides for economics majors which are ranking of the best online master's in economics programs in the U.S. The guides outline the employment outlook for common careers taken post-college, and list financial aid and professional organization resources. For more information, the resources can be found here:

http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-masters-in-economics-programs/
http://www.bestcolleges.com/features/top-online-economics-programs/

Resources for Global Internships and Fellowships:
ISPOR Global Internship & ISPOR Global Fellowship Directory
Harvard University Professor, Ankur Pandya delivered an ISPOR Student Educational Webinar called “Disease Model Calibration” on December 19, 2017. Students can stream the 1-hour recording or find it on the Student Educational Webinar page. To access the excel files with the corresponding tutorials and VBA code, email studentnetwork@ispor.org.

The session introduced the science and art behind disease model calibration methods. In the context of disease modeling, “calibration” refers to the systematic adjustment of model inputs such that the resulting model outputs better reflect setting-specific observed disease outcomes. This course encompasses theoretical and practical aspects of model calibration methodology, including: 1) identifying calibration targets; 2) determining model inputs to be calibrated; 3) selecting goodness-of-fit criteria; and 4) implementing an appropriate parameter search approach.

Here is a simple example of a Nelder-Mead search
ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress Meeting Recap
Stuart Wright, University of Manchester Vice-President

Between the 4th and 8th of November this year, over 5,000 delegates descended on the city of Glasgow for ISPOR’s 20th Annual European Congress. During the event, themed around the evolution of “value” in healthcare, ISPOR student members were given the chance to present their work to a diverse audience from academia, consultancy, government agencies, and the pharmaceutical industry.

Other opportunities for students included a wide variety of training courses educational symposia, and career advice focusing on academic publishing. The ISPOR women in HEOR/science open meeting, led by current ISPOR president Professor Shelby Reed, also proved extremely popular.

On the first day of the main conference, three students were given the opportunity to present their research. Fanni Sooikkeli from the University of Eastern Finland presented on using Bayesian methods to convert efficacy data into effectiveness data using real world evidence. Omar Ben-Aharon from Bar-Ilan University, Israel presented on the value framework suggested by ASCO where durable survival gains from cancer drugs are given additional weighting. Finally, University of Utah student Junjie Ma presented on the link between neutrophil to lymphocyte ratios in cancer and prognosis and used log-rank tests to choose an optimal cut-off value.

On Tuesday night a mixer was held for students and new professionals to help improve connection and collaboration between members working in HEOR field. There was a great turnout at this event and special credit goes to Jason Cohen and Blythe Adamson for organizing and hosting the mixer. Congratulations to all of the attendees who won prizes, ranging from ISPOR binders to conference registration or training course fees, in the raffle.
There were many ISPOR student members who presented posters at the European Congress. The posters and podiums presented were high in quality and the students reported to have received valuable feedback.

We now look forward to meeting up again with our student network members at the 21st Annual European Congress in Barcelona, Spain.

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Career Advice Across The Globe— “The Art of Getting Published”

Building on the success of the first “Career Advice Across The Globe” event that took place in Boston at the 22nd Annual International Meeting, the second “New Professional” event was hosted for the first time during a European Congress. The event highlighted the topic of good practices and opportunities to get your research published. Speakers provided global perspectives on how to stand out from your peers in the highly competitive world of having your research published.

Students and new professionals fill the room to hear perspectives on how to increase the likelihood of getting your research published.

Speakers included: Lyn Beamesderfer, Associate Director, Publications & Communications, ISPOR; Dan Mullins, PhD, Professor & Chair, University of Maryland School of Pharmacy, Baltimore, MD, USA; Diego Rosselli, MD, Associate Professor, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia; Dan Greenberg, PhD, Associate Professor & Chairman, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer-Sheva, Israel

Do you think we should offer this workshop again? What are some other challenges that young HEOR professionals face?

Send your suggestions for future events to studentnetwork@ispor.org
Survey and Evaluation Committee Update

Rhys Axon, Co-chair, University of Arizona
Ruixuan Jiang, Co-chair, University of Illinois
Gulsim Adilgozhina, Nazarbayev University
Kaustuv Bhattacharya, University of Mississippi
Gediwon Milky, Purdue University

The survey and evaluation committee has had a productive 2017. During our regular conference calls we have strategized which surveys we would like to work on this year, what revisions we would like to make, and when we would like to launch the survey. The committee has decided to focus on two surveys this year:

1) The Student Member Interest Survey
2) The Student & New Professional Membership Benefits Survey

The member interest survey has historically been conducted annually, and we wanted to continue this tradition. However, we decided that it could do with some updates and revisions to reduce the burden on respondents’ time. Therefore, we decided to reduce the number of questions and add in a greater number of response options, with skip logic wherever possible. Although we had a few technical issues to overcome, we hope that this survey provides better-targeted questions and is less burdensome, yet still capable of providing a sufficient level of detail to inform the future direction of ISPOR. The member interest survey was launched in November 2017 and will remain open until February 2, 2018. Please encourage all colleagues to complete the survey if they have not yet done so!

In early 2018, ISPOR will be launching the first ever New Professional Interests Survey, and the Committee was helpful in working with ISPOR staff to test the survey which will be administered to only New Professional Members.

The Committee has a plan to launch a new survey this year of their own, the Student & New Professional Membership Benefits Survey. Through this survey, we hope to evaluate which aspects of membership would be most important and useful to students and new professionals. We would like to gauge these interests to help prepare members for a smooth transition from student to professional and set them up for a successful career.

We look forward to sharing the findings of the Student Interest Survey with you at the 23rd Annual International Meeting in Baltimore in May 2018!
CHAPTER UPDATES

University of Maryland of Baltimore
President: Aida Kuzucan

The ISPOR chapter at UMB has been busy this semester. We focused on education and having more inclusive events open to other fields such as medicine, pharmacy, and law.

Event 1: Educational Webinar: Introduction to Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR). Current PharmD, PhD, JD, and MD students came together to view the ISPOR educational webinar Introduction to Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR). This provided the opportunity for students from the PharmD program and the PhD program to meet each other and learn about the basics in HEOR.

Event 2: International Society of Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Presents the Student Research Hour. Current PharmD students, PhD students, and faculty gave an interactive presentation regarding research and internship opportunities in pharmaceutical outcomes research.

Event 3: ISPOR UMBSOP Journal Club. The event featured meaningful discussions about pharmacoconomics and outcomes research among PharmD, PhD, JD and MD students. It also provided students with avenue to discuss various research topics with faculty and peers.

University of Illinois at Chicago
President: Ruixuan Jiang
Vice-President: Kellyn Moran
Treasurer: Christopher Saffore
Secretary: Alemseged Asfaw

The UIC ISPOR-SC had a very productive Fall 2017 semester. We began the semester with a kick-off event in conjunction with the UIC student chapter of International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology (ISPE). Followed up with a graduate student speaker, Nathan McClure, from the University of Alberta, who presented on his research on “Minimally Important Difference (MID) in the EQ-5D-5L”. He gave the presentation as a webinar, and both him and the UIC students enjoyed the format. We enjoyed having a peer speaker as it allowed for a free discussion on the topic.

The next organized event was Decision Modelling in R workshop in October for some of our interested students. The session was streamed in our small conference room in the Department Office, and the workshop was well-received by the attendees. Another event in October was a presentation and discussion on Primary Data Collection. We hosted student speakers who discussed primary data collection methods, best practices, as well as their own experiences conducting several types of primary data collection.

In addition to events we hosted as ISPOR-SC, we also attended several webinars put on by the ISPOR Midwest Chapter. We’ve been working with the ISPOR Midwest Chapter to further develop our working relationship to benefit both chapters. We’ve also developed our relationship with UIC Alumni by beginning a Spotlight Series on notable alumni for them to provide sage career advice to our students and for the students to get to know the alumni. We are also planning on closing out Fall 2017 with a student mixer next week. We are looking forward to another productive Semester for Spring 2018.
Kadi Sarva Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gujrat, India

President: N Anand Menon

National Pharmacy Week was celebrated from 21st November, 2017 to 29th November, 2017 at K. B. Institute of Pharmaceutical Education & Research, Gandhinagar. The chapter is committed to achieve the goals and activities which have planned for the year. In line with this, the chapter has successfully organized and completed elections, body meetings, and policy matters with new commitments.

The chapter had organized a seminar lecture on generic drugs. The flagship activity was the celebration of “National Pharmacy Week” based on the theme – “Know Your Medicine: Ask Your Pharmacist” at KBIPER campus. On 21st November a Blood Group Detection Camp was organized at Manekpur High School. 284 students from class 6th to 12th and educational staffs were screened using ABO typing. On 22nd November, a Thalassemia detection camp was set at KBIPER, Gandhinagar. 154 students from B. Pharm, M. Pharm and Pharm. D were screened for the condition. The camp was conducted in association with Red Cross Society, Ahmedabad who addressed the importance of detection of thalassemia.

On 23rd November a COPD Camp was organized at Manekpur village. Villagers were screened and checked for their common health parameters and risk for COPD including body mass index, blood pressure and respiratory function - FEV1 with on site counselling on their current health status by the student pharmacist. Various services were provided to benefit the welfare of all villagers in the community. On November 24, 2017, a guest lecture was organized at KBIPER. A total 200 student members were present. Dr. Manoj Bhai Gadhvi, Senior Drug Inspector, Food and Drug Control Department, Gujarat gave a key note on healthcare aspect and the importance of health care professionals especially pharmacist in present time. A Short Film Making Competition was the highlight of the event. 20 entries were received and 3 short self-directed movies were viewed/evaluated. On November 25th a Health Screening Program was organized on occasion of Pharmacist’s Refresher course.

Forty-six registered pharmacists and educational staff participated for evaluation health screening service by pharmacist. Health screening activity was welcomed and appreciated by all participant pharmacists with promise to expect same in future. November 27-29, 2017, a student-medicine awareness Program was organized with the motive of making high school students aware about the role of pharmacist and importance of medicines. Game based medicine learning activities and awareness were enjoyed by all attendees. We are looking forward to continue on our mission and activity of achieving new heights, value and development. We would like to place our gratitude to our Dean, faculty advisor, coordinator, members, media and community leaders for their inspiration, guidance and motivation.
Conference “Reimbursement programs in Ukraine: governmental program “Affordable medicines” for cardio-vascular diseases, diabetes and bronchial asthma. Real-world evidence in practice of pharmacists” was successfully held in Lviv (Ukraine) on September 26th, 2017. The meeting took place at the Department of Management and Economy of Pharmacy, Medicine Technology and Pharmacoconomics, Postgraduate Faculty at Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University and brought together over 60 pharmacists-interns, young specialists.

The participants got to know about the current use of pharmacoeconomics and HTA in the pharmaceutical policy in Ukraine. The conference began with an opening presentation of professor Olha Zalis’ka, PhD, DSci, Faculty Advisor of ISPOR Danylo Halytsky Lviv National Medical University Student Chapter, on the topic of “Reimbursement programs in Ukraine: governmental program “Affordable medicines” for cardio-vascular diseases, diabetes and bronchial asthma”.

Hryhoriy Irynchyn, PhD, delivered a presentation about randomized clinical trials data and use of real world evidence in decision making: case study in diabetes. Hryhoriy focus on the importance of RWE use currently for assessing the value of new drugs.

Oresta Piniazhko, PhD, presented the issues for HTA submissions of innovative medicines for inclusion on National List of Essential Medicines in Ukraine. Oresta shared outcomes of participation at Health economic conference for PhD students in Lausanne, 6-8th September, 2017 about scientific projects for young specialists after graduation.

Participants of the conference were involved in active discussion about outcomes of reimbursement in pharmacies where they have internship and work, implementation of the experience in Ukraine due to the current reforming vector of expanding reimbursement programs in the future, pharmaceutical care for patients.
University of Mississippi

President – Kaustuv Bhattacharya
Vice President – Sushmitha Inguva
Secretary - Siddhi Korgaonkar

On November 8, 2017, Dr. James Hoffman, Chief Patient Safety Officer and Associate Member of Pharmaceutical Sciences at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital visited Department of Pharmacy Administration, University of Mississippi (UM) as a part of the UM ISPOR Student Chapter activity. He provided a brief presentation on implementation of new concepts and ways to improve patient care at the hospital. He highlighted the need for development of proactive patient safety interventions which would give equal importance to the opinions of the leaders and the experiences of the frontline personnel to provide optimum patient care and safety. While talking about the evolution of cultural and organizational perspectives in patient safety, he introduced the novel concept of ‘High Reliability Organizations (HROs)’ and transforming the hospital into one. He explained the principles of HROs and put forth the initial plan for implementing the principles in the hospital, and sought feedback from the students and faculty members on the plan design and other aspects of implementation.

The interactive nature of the talk provided students with the opportunity to understand and provide their input for actual implementation HROs in a real-world setting.

Dr. John Bentley, Chair, Department of Pharmacy Administration introducing Dr. Amod Athavale to the audience On November 10, 2017, the University of Mississippi ISPOR Student Chapter conducted an interactive workshop led by Dr. Amod Athavale, consultant with the Trinity Partners, Boston and an alumnus of the Department of Pharmacy Administration on ‘Introduction to Choice Experiments’. Dr. Athavale explained the basic concept of choice experiments, different types of choice experiments and their applicability in research to understand how choices of consumers may vary based on different attributes of the scenarios presented. He presented various case studies for each type of choice experiment and went over different types of statistical analyses (including Bayesian) using SAS, to familiarize the audience with the concept and analyses. The workshop helped the audience to get acquainted with choice experiments and enabled the graduate students to learn something new beyond the normal coursework. Additionally, the students also had an opportunity to have one-on-one interaction with Dr. Athavale to understand the career prospects of consulting and receive guidance from him.

Caption: Dr. James Hoffman during his talk
University of Arizona

President: Rhys Axon
Education secretary: Shannon Vaffis

The University of Arizona has had a very successful start to the 2017 academic year. Four new students have joined our revamped graduate program, now known as “Health and Pharmaceutical Outcomes”. To kick off the year, our chapter organized a bowling and happy hour afternoon at the start of the semester. These fun-filled events gave new and existing members the chance to catch-up and get to know each other. We were also thrilled to have one of our esteemed graduates, Dr. Ana Hincapie, join us for our social activities. Our chapter also attended the graduate student council “Welcome Back Percentage Night”, which provided another opportunity for socializing.

In the Fall, twelve of our members travelled to New Mexico to attend the Western Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Conference. Particular recognition goes to Mira Patel for organizing the trip, and to Chanadda Chinthammit who was awarded the best podium presentation award.

Meanwhile, UA Chapter President Rhys Axon and Professor Terri Warholak travelled to London to present their recent work on the quality of community pharmacy services at the International Society for Quality in Health Care Annual Conference.

For our philanthropic event this semester, our chapter volunteered at the “Walk to End Alzheimer’s”. This year, our team was tasked with manning the refreshments stall. This was a rewarding opportunity for our chapter to support this important cause.

In October, we hosted a CV and Interviewing workshop, led by our track director Dr. Terri Warholak. This was a valuable session to help students organize their academic achievements and prepare for their future careers. Also in October, we visited “Old Tucson”, a wild-west themed movie set town, for our Halloween social event.

Three of our members (Rhys Axon, Lea Mollon, and Lili Zhou) passed their comprehensive exams this semester, while Queeny Ip successfully defended her dissertation at the end of the year.

The chapter is currently planning our annual holiday party and events for next semester, which we hope will be as successful as those organized this year.
University of Minnesota

President: Julie Zhao
Vice-President: Christy Choi
Secretary: Summer Tran
Treasury: Arun Kumar

The ISPOR chapter kickoff seminar in the Social and Administrative Pharmacy Program was on September 14, 2017. The workshop title was “IRB Preparation and Process”.

The ISPOR/UMN team attended the Graduate Division of MinneMUDAC Data Analysis Competition hosted by MinneAnalytics. The competition which was held on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at Optum. It was the second-annual analytics event inviting teams of graduates and undergraduates to explore real-world data while enhancing and showcasing their skills.

Sirikan Rojanasarot, doctoral candidate in Social and Administrative Pharmacy, presented her research at ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress in Glasgow. Her study, "Real world data analysis of a patient-tailored, post-discharge support program for patients undergoing an ostomy surgery," completed as part of graduate traineeship with Coloplast, a global medical device company, was selected as a Research Presentation Award finalist at the Congress.

List of her presentations given at the meeting:

The University of Manchester

President: Martin Eden
Vice-President: Stuart Wright

Two recently-awarded PhDs were celebrated by the University of Manchester’s Student Chapter. Rachel Meacock’s thesis examined the economic impact of the introduction seven-day hospital services in the UK. Sean Gavan (Chapter President, 2016-17) completed an economic evaluation of a novel biomarker to stratify treatment for rheumatoid arthritis.

Eleven medical students chose to do their 3rd & 4th year projects at the Manchester Centre for Health Economics (MCHE). All our students passed and a number of them have since presented their work at national conferences.

At the European Meeting in Glasgow, chapter members from MCHE’s Precision Medicine Economics Team presented a total of four posters.
West Virginia University

President: Drishti Shah
Vice President: Jayesh Patel
Treasurer: Xiaohui Zhao
Secretary: Paul Cornelius

WVU ISPOR student chapter prides itself in organizing a multitude of activities including, educational activities, community-service, fundraising, and social activities. This year WVU student chapter created a social media committee to better facilitate and communicate the agenda of the upcoming WVU ISPOR activities to ISPOR student members and other Pharm D students. We began our year with a community service activity in early February, where in ISPOR members (Doug Thornton, Xiaohui Zhao, Rashmi Goyat, and Chibuzo Ilaobuchi) volunteered at the 2017 WVU Science Bowl as science judges and time-keepers. As a part of our speaker series events, we invited two speakers from Pharma, Dr. Ifetekar Kalsekar, a Senior Director in Real World Research at Johnson & Johnson (in early April) and Dr. Kent Hunter, a Medical Outcomes Specialist at Pfizer (in November) to give a speech on job opportunities for pharmacy and doctoral students in HEOR within the pharmaceutical industry. These events were attended by more than 80 Pharm D and 13 PhD students.

Bhattacharjee, a faculty at the University of Arizona. For students interested in taking up leadership positions, we invited Blythe Adamson, the current Student Network Chair to discuss how to effectively manage leadership roles along with academic research and coursework. Additionally, for ISPOR members interested in applying for internship, ISPOR members (Drishti Shah and Pragya Rai) hosted a discussion forum with faculty and students to discuss their experiences of interning at Abbvie and Amgen respectively and to guide students in their internship application process. In early December, WVU- ISPOR in collaboration with our faculty, Dr. Usha Sambamoorthi organized a SAS boot camp for ISPOR members as well as students from other departments.

Besides these educational activities our chapter has been active in organizing social activities such as the new ISPOR member’s welcome picnic in early Fall (see attached picture) and the end-of-year Christmas potluck. This year the chapter began the tradition of “All in one WVU-ISPOR”, to promote cultural diversity by celebrating festivals or important days of members belonging to different ethnicities and cultures. Lastly, one of our most successful events of the year was the Halloween themed WVU-ISPOR Annual Bake Sale event, where we managed to raise $ 200 to donate food cans to the Morgantown Food drive, which gives food to children in need in the area of Morgantown, West Virginia.

ISPOR Bake Sale: The funds raised were used for donation of food cans to Morgantown Food-drive

ISPOR new members’ welcome party

Our chapter has been very active in organizing and participating in several ISPOR career and methodology focused webinars. In early November, we organized a webinar on “HEOR in Academia” with Dr. Sandipan

ISPOR Bake Sale: The funds raised were used for donation of food cans to Morgantown Food-drive
Healthcare technologies are continuously being developed with the aim to improve our healthcare system. Some of these technologies are developed because of challenges within the care pathway, others have a more commercial intent. The development process that each of these technologies has to go through consists of several steps. During this process, collaboration from multiple disciplines is crucial in order to bring new and promising technologies to the market and to enhance their rapid and efficient implementation in usual care. These different disciplines, and their accompanying expertise, is also represented in the different education programs that are offered by the University of Twente. These study programs are: Health Sciences, Biomedical Engineering, Technical Medicine, and Industrial Engineering and Management. However, the subdivision of the different roles within this technology development process, among the disciplines involved, is often difficult to distinguish for students. Therefore, the ISPOR University of Twente Student Chapter has recently organized a successful first activity a symposium entitled: “Developing, Evaluating, and Implementing Healthcare Interventions”. The aim of this symposium was to address the link between the methods taught within the different educational programs and the real world practices within the technology development process.

Several highly qualified speakers were very enthusiastic to speak at this symposium at the University of Twente. In order to highlight the different steps and disciplines involved in the technology development process, the development of point-of-care tests was used as an example. The symposium was opened by professor Dr. Ron Kusters and professor Dr. Maarten IJzerman from the University of Twente, who introduced the concept of point-of-care testing, and provided a general overview of the development process of technologies. Following, Dr. Olaf Such (head of the department for development of point-of-care tests at Philips) continued with a case study on the development of a point-of-care test for ruling out acute coronary syndrome in primary care. Subsequently, Rebecca Albrow from NICE explained how technologies are evaluated according to the guidelines of NICE and illustrated this using multiple case studies. At last, professor Patrick Bossuyt (University of Amsterdam) explained difficulties in the process of selling and accepting new healthcare interventions in clinical practice. During each of these highly interesting presentations specific job positions were highlighted in which each of the different educational backgrounds are desirable.

“Organizing this symposium provided us with some nice opportunities to improve on our organizational skills. Furthermore, we created opportunities to strengthen our social-professional network by inviting all speakers to lunch before, and drinks after the symposium”.

-The ISPOR University of Twente Student Chapter Boardmembers
The University of Calgary

President: Hena Qureshi

The University of Calgary Student Chapter of the International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) in collaboration with the University of Alberta is pleased to announce the launch of a new Podcast series called "Health Economics and Policy". The goal of this podcast series is to present conversations to individuals interested in informing and understanding healthcare decision making in Alberta and abroad. The first podcast is titled: “Introduction to Health Economics: What is it?” and features Dr Mike Paulden, Assistant Professor at the School of Public Health, University of Alberta.

The second podcast is titled: “ISPOR: What is it?” and features Dr Deborah Marshall, Professor at the University of Calgary, Canada Research Chair of Health Services and Systems, and past president of ISPOR. This will be released Dec. 2017.

New podcasts will be uploaded on a monthly basis throughout the academic year.

For more information about the ISPOR student chapter, for more information about the podcast or to suggest a future topic, please contact: hep.ispor.podcast@gmail.com

http://healtheconomicspolicy.podbean.com/

Student Activity Grant Updates:

The University of Arizona
President: Rhys Axon

Thanks to support from an ISPOR Student Activity Grant, we were able to organize a two-day workshop on Item Response Theory (IRT) in November.

During the first day, Dr. Michael Edwards, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology at Arizona State University and co-founder of Vector Psychometric Group (VPG), presented the theoretical and methodological basis for psychometric analysis and IRT.

On the second day, Dr. Edward’s associate at VPG, Dr. Carrie Houts, presented dichotomous and polytomous data analysis techniques for item response theory and multidimensional IRT using flexMIRT software. Lively discussions took place over the two-day workshop and the participants were able to gain “hands-on” experience with data analysis using the flexMIRT software. The students and faculty participating in the workshop greatly appreciated the informative talks from both presenters and the generous time allotted for questions and further discussion.

UA ISPOR members volunteering at the Walk to End Alzheimer’s event
University of Texas-Austin
President: Landon Marshall
Vice-President: Chisom Kanu
Secretary: Nidhi Shukla
Treasurer: Som Ghosh

The student ISPOR chapter at UT-Austin has had a successful academic semester with regards to new member recruitment and member participation at UT-ISPOR sponsored events. The semester kicked-off with a welcome-back social event consisting of bowling and an evening dinner.

Based on input from the previous year, the student chapter explored its first ever event focused on skill development with an aim of fostering research ideas and collaboration within the program. The lunch-and-learn session benefited immensely from the ISPOR educational webinars available to all members. A follow-up event in the coming spring semester will incorporate hands-on skills for foundational knowledge relating to survival curve modelling with emphasis on tactical skills needed to construct, interpret, and apply such approaches to research questions.

Recently, the student chapter completed an internship roundtable discussion where members engaged with senior students to share suggestions on how to obtain summer internships to gain valuable experiences and explore career options after graduation. The semester wrapped up with a Friends-Giving event where members hosted an off-campus Thanksgiving dinner. Plans are currently being put in place for spring events to cap off a successful 2017-2018 school year. Looking forward to providing another update at the end of the spring semester.

ISPOR UNC Charlotte
President: Laura Clark

Advanced Decision Analysis in Healthcare
Guest Speaker: Philip Cyr

ISPOR student chapter at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte welcomed Philip Cyr from Precision Health Economics (PHE) on December 6th, 2017 for a hosted educational seminar in Advanced Decision Analysis in Healthcare. Phil serves as a Vice President, Evidence Strategy and Generation and brings over 20 years of health economics and outcomes research, health policy, and payer experience to PHE. His areas of expertise include evidence planning for commercial launches, payer-facing health economic models and observational research in neurology, psychiatry, cardiology, infectious disease, and oncology.

Before joining PHE, he served as Senior Director of Health Economics at PriceSpective and ICON plc, where he was integral in driving the cross-function integration of the health economic practice across ICON’s Pricing and Market Access, Payer Engagement and Peri-Approval practices.
Phil has also held research and strategy positions at the Massachusetts General Hospital, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Massachusetts, HCIA, Inc. and New England Medical Center. In addition, he has been an Adjunct Professor at the George Mason University School of Management (2004-2006) and is currently research faculty at University of North Carolina at Charlotte, College of Health and Human Services. He has coauthored numerous papers in leading journals such as the Journal Managed Care Specialty Pharmacy, American Journal of Health-System Pharmacy, Clinical Therapeutics, Cancer and European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO) Reports. He is also a peer reviewer for the American Journal of Managed Care. Phil received Masters of Public Health with concentrations in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the Boston University School of Public Health and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biology and History from Kenyon College.

Phil led an interactive presentation with UNC Charlotte faculty and graduate students regarding his implementation of quantitative management tools for medical decision-making in treatment of oncology patients with forms of lymphoma and leukemia. His presentation highlighted project development, study design, and troubleshooting in research including methodology such as real-world Markov models, Monte Carlo simulations and forecasting used to address the uncertainty in current medical decision-making.

Knowledge exchanged during his presentation contributed to the awareness and application of probability-based techniques for resolving healthcare decision problems from various perspectives (e.g., patient, payer, provider or societal) as well as the utilization of select software (i.e., Microsoft Excel and graphical interface programs) to display and communication the analysis and results of business decision problems.

Highlights of the seminar that resonated with the audience will be useful in their future analytical studies and research, which included the following:

- Models are structured in such a way that inputs (e.g., cost, probabilities, effectiveness measures, etc.) go into the model and outputs (e.g., safety, mortality, cost, life years gained, ICER, etc.) are produced.

What goes in will shape the result, so thorough and complete preliminary analyses must be conducted prior to building the model.

- Perspective is important and key perspectives relevant to healthcare include payers, patient, health care systems (e.g., US Veteran’s Affairs, Carolina’s HealthCare System, etc.). Models also have a time horizon, which is dependent on the perspective (e.g., payers may have a 1-2 year time horizon concerning a financial investment compared to patients at 10-20 years due to their investment quality of life and longevity).
• Models are also grounded in guidelines (e.g., clinical practice, payer guidelines etc.).

• The importance of quality of life scores such as QALYs and understanding cost per QALY when comparing two treatment methods or programs in public health.

• Applicability of survival analysis in examining time to event (i.e., the probability that a person will survive past a time specified point).

• All models are wrong but in healthcare decision-making our objective is to make them useful.

• Understanding the disadvantages of clinical trials and prospective cohorts, especially when one needs a long duration of time to gather data. Comparatively, modeling emerged as advantageous given its ability to provide some direction that guides decision-making.

Caption: Phil Cyr presenting a portfolio of his work with Precision Health Economics: decision analysis models concerning treatment alternatives in leukemia and lymphoma cancer populations.
1) What is the name of the event introduced for the first time at the Annual European Congress?

2) What is the name of the second survey newly developed by the Survey and Evaluation Committee?

3) What is the name of the week long event celebrated by the Kadi Sarva Vishwa Vidyalaya, Gujrat, India?

4) Which student chapter conducted the workshop titled “IRB preparation and process?”

5) Which student chapter has launched the new podcast series?

NOTE: Please send an email to ispor.newsletter@gmail.com with the answers to the above questions to be eligible for the $100 award to your chapter!

Submissions must be received within a week of the release of the Newsletter to be entered.
Submit an Article!

To submit an article for the ISPOR Student Network Newsletter, please contact the ISPOR Student Newsletter Committee

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