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From the President

Written by Stephen Goodall

President, ISPOR Australian Chapter

As we near the end of another successful year for the ISPOR-Australia Chapter, I would like to reflect on the activities of 2017. Our first workshop of the year “Preferences and Willingness to Pay”. This workshop provided an opportunity to explore community preferences and willingness to pay in relation to funding new medicines.

In August, a joint collaboration between ISPOR AU, Quality of Life office (USyd) and Cancer Research Economic Support Team (UTS) hosted the “Quality of life and utility measures in cancer research” workshop. I would particularly like to thank Prof. Madeleine King, Prof. Rosalie Viney, Brendan Mulhern and Dr Richard De Abreu Lourenco for delivering this educational workshop.

In December, ISPOR AC was lucky enough to have Prof. Mark Sulpher present in conjunction with Prof. Jon Karnon and Dr Hossein Afzali a 3 day modelling workshop. The workshop was an overwhelming success with 50 attendees.

I would like to thank you for your support in 2017, and look forward to seeing you at our next workshop in March 2018.

ISPOR-AC would like to wish its members a joyous holiday season and a most prosperous and healthy New Year.

Stephen Goodall



Quality of Life Workshop

Written by Brendan Mulhern

In August ISPOR-AC held a workshop in Melbourne about quality of life and developing utility measures for use in health technology assessment. The workshop was well attended with over 35 people from industry, consultancy and academia and was led by four presenters (Profs Rosalie Viney and Madeleine King, Dr Richard De Abreu Lourenco and Mr. Brendan Mulhern). Morning sessions included introductions to Quality of Life profile measures and measuring quality of life for use in health economics. In the afternoon, industry approaches to using quality of life data were discussed, and two further sessions introduced condition specific preference based measures (with a focus on the cancer specific EORTC QLU-C10D), and described the process for choosing and using an instrument to support health technology assessment.



Health Economic Modelling Workshop & Health Policy Forum

Written by Sopany Saing

In December ISPOR-AC held a 2.5 day Health Economic Modelling Workshop run by Prof Mark Sculpher, Prof. Jon Karnon and Dr Hossein Afzali. The practical workshop was sold out with 50 attendees. Topics covered included economic evaluation and policy, model structuring and model validation. The Excel based practical sessions included decision trees, state transition models and partitioned survival models. ISPOR-AC would also like to thank the tutors Laura Edney, Jodi Gray, Sopany Saing, Constanza Vargas and Rebecca Addo for their time.

The Health Policy Forum was a half day event held at The UTS Aerial Function Centre with around 80 attendees. The theme of the Forum was a 'HTA Ashes' series comparing the NICE HTA system to PBAC started by Prof Mark Sculpher. Additionally, the New Zealand perspective was presented by Assoc. Prof. Richard Milne. Andrew Wilson led the discussion regarding the challenges of funding decisions in Australia. The presenters provided views from a policy or industry perspective ending with a panel discussion (Prof. Rosalie Viney, Prof Mark Sculpher, Assoc. Prof. Richard Milne, David Granger, Prof. Jon Karnon, Mark Schultz).





ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress

Written by Hansoo Kim

The ISPOR 20th Annual European Congress in Glasgow was well attended with more than 5000 delegates. The theme of this year's congress was 'The Evolution of Value in Health Care'. The plenum sessions were dominated by talks on value-based health care and what the future holds. Especially policy challenges surrounding cross country collaboration on HTA with updates from EUnetHTA and various academic groups were interesting. Patient involvement was also a hot topic and work is still being carried out to build a process for patients to become equal partners with payers and industry. Other policy issues raised were divestments and financial sustainability. On the technical side a fair amount of presentations focussed on extrapolation of data beyond the clinical trial with fractional polynomials being the new trend. Presentations are available on <https://www.ispor.org/Event/ReleasedPresentations/2017Glasgow#workshoppresentations>.

There were two meetings of relevance for the ISPOR AC chapter. A round table discussion for the Asian Consortium, which Australia is a part of, where each country gave a quick update on HTA in their respective countries. We told the consortium about the different workshop we have been doing the past year and about the PBAC guideline update. China described how HTA is trying to find a foothold whereas Japan told the Consortium that the piloting of HTA is going well. Korea and Taiwan have active chapters and it sounded like they were tracking well. United Arab Emirates were also at the meeting and they made a pitch for the 2022 AP conference. Questions with respect to the location of the 2020 AP conference were asked however the ISPOR executive present at the meeting was not at liberty to share that information yet.

Finally ISPOR AC had an opportunity to meet with the CEO of ISPOR. It was a productive meeting where we explored possibilities of the Australian Chapter to be more actively involved with the global ISPOR organisation and it definitely seems like Australia is well regarded in the ISPOR community.



Australian Health Economics Doctoral Workshop

Written by Josh Byrnes

20 September 2017, Sydney: Forty attendees were treated to a great range of topics presented by health economic PhD candidates from across Australia at the 5th AHED workshop. The day provided a supportive forum for PhD students to present their recent research to an audience as well as having their research paper discussed by a senior health economic academic.

In addition to the fascinating research discussed on the day, presentations were also provided on the use of social media to promote research results and build profile, tips and tricks to publishing from an editors' perspective and an open and honest discussion on job opportunities and career pathways for health economists.

Australian Health Economics Society Conference

Written by Josh Byrnes

21-22 September 2017, Sydney: Over 140 attendees were treated to a great showcase of current research being conducted in Australia. The conference included fascinating keynote addresses provided by Prof. Maarten Lindeboom (VU Amsterdam) and Prof. Meredith Rosenthal (Harvard University). The range of research presented was varied and included some great presentations including on economic evaluation methods and a special session on the Medicare Benefits Schedule review. Abstracts for the conference can be found here (<http://www.ahes.org.au/2017-conference-abstracts/>)

COSA Annual Scientific Meeting

Written by Haitham Tuffaha

The Clinical Oncology of Australia (COSA) held its Annual Scientific Meeting (ASM) 13 - 15 November 2017 at the International Convention Centre in Sydney. COSA's ASM is Australia's premier cancer meeting, held over three days each year, inviting participation from doctors, nurses, allied health

professionals and scientists working in cancer care nationally and internationally. The meeting's theme this year was immunotherapy with a subtheme around implementing quality and safety in cancer care. In this subtheme there was a focus on the cost and value of cancer care and treatments as well as the implementation of evidence into practice and choosing wisely. COSA 45th ASM will be held 12-14 November 2019 in Perth.

10th Health Services and Policy Research Conference

Written by Haitham Tuffaha

The 10th Health Services and Policy Research Conference was held 1-3 November 2017 on the Gold Coast, Queensland. The theme of the conference was "Shifting priorities: balancing acute and primary care services". The conference focused on current and future priorities for resources in acute and primary care, in order to achieve a sustainable and functional health systems. Key topics discussed included integrated care, primary health, mental health, acute and emergency care, health systems policy, translating research into practice and disinvesting from low-value care



2018 ISPOR-AC Calendar of Events

Keep an eye on the website for updates. Registrations open in Jan 2018 at www.isporac.org/events/

Monday, 19 March 2018

Estimating the benefits of new treatments with Dr Nick Latimer
ISPOR Australian Chapter Annual General Meeting
CHERE, UTS, Sydney

[ISPOR 23rd Annual International Meeting](#)

Dates: 19-23 May 2018

Location: Baltimore, MD USA

[ISPOR 8th Asia Pacific Conference](#)

Dates: 8-11 September 2018

Location: Tokyo, Japan

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