

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Written by Hansoo Kim

President, ISPOR Australia Chapter

Some of you might have been invited to participate in the global ISPOR survey last month. We, the Australian Chapter of ISPOR would like to do something similar so we can ensure that what our events address are relevant for our members.

Please take the time to fill out the [survey](#) attached to this newsletter and feel free to add any ideas you might have for workshops and seminars.

Moreover, we would like to encourage you to nominate for the committee as our ability to do events is limited by the number of people on the committee.

Lastly, as the year is quickly approaching an end we would like to thank everyone who has been supporting us and participated in this year's events.

WORKSHOPS

Women in Health Economics and Outcome Research



Written by Sopany Saing

Student Member, ISPOR Australia Chapter

ISPOR-AC hosted the “ISPOR-AC Women in Health Economics & Outcomes Research Initiative” on the 8th of April 2019. This initiative seeks to foster diversity in HEOR— with the knowledge that diversity in the field will result in better research and better healthcare decisions.

Jo Coast presented the first plenary session and provided insights into developing a life-course approach to assessing capability wellbeing for use in economic evaluation.

The morning began with an encore of presentations given

at ISPOR conferences in 2018. Speakers for the encore session included Jodi Gray, Rosalie Viney, Lara Petelin, Sheena Arora, Mendel Grobler and Franz Pichler. The presentations highlighted the high quality work conducted in health economics and outcomes research.

The second plenary session was provided by Nancy Devlin who presented on the resource allocation and opportunity costs in the public sector in the UK. The “ISPOR-AC Women in Health Economics & Outcomes Research Initiative” comprised of presentations from Rosalie Viney, Kim Dalziel, Phillipa Delahoy and Nancy Devlin discussing career progression, grant submissions and applying for fellowships. The speakers then joined a panel and discussed the challenges and opportunities for women in academia and industry and was chaired by Jane Hall.

Budget Impact Modelling Workshop



Written by Dominic Tilden

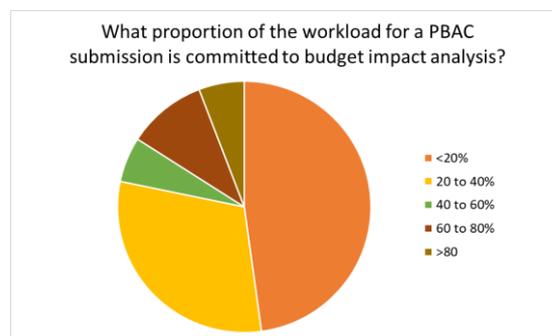
Member, ISPOR Australia Chapter

Often budget impact analysis can be considered a poor cousin to health technology assessment and economic evaluation. So on the 23rd July this year, over 100 stakeholders across the PBAC process came together to discuss what we can be doing better and what the different stakeholders need from these analyses.

We heard from the analysts who are putting together these analyses (Madeline Valeri, Will Sierakowski, Adrian Peacock and Irene Deltetto), that even the most simple budget impact analyses can have a number of idiosyncrasies. Evaluators informed us about how these analyses are assessed and their importance to the submission as a whole (Constanza Vargas, Dinusha Vithanachchi). Nicole Patten of BMS provided her perspective on how and when these analyses are put together and how they are scrutinised within a pharmaceutical company. Associate Professor Tracey Laba informed the audience about how these analyses are reviewed and researched by DUSC. Christopher Deane shed light on the infamous Section 4 template, how it is used within government and why there is a preference from the

department for such a highly structured template.

Throughout the day, the audience remained engaged with the presenters via an interactive app (with thanks to app developers, Master Eventist and app sponsor, Griffith University). We were able to estimate how much the industry engages with Section 4 of the PBAC Guidelines (see Figure).



Source: Data collected via survey of 69 attendees at the workshop

Thanks to all our presenters and to all those who contributed to an informative and enjoyable (as enjoyable as budget impact modelling can be anyway) day!

Presentations from the day will soon be up on our Members Site.

CONFERENCES



Written by Brendan Mulhern

Communications Member, ISPOR Australia Chapter

ISPOR-AC was represented at the ISPOR International conference in New Orleans, Louisiana in May 2019. The conference was attended by just under 4,000 healthcare stakeholders from 65 countries. All sectors of healthcare were represented, including policy makers, academics, the pharmaceutical industry, consultants, healthcare providers, and patient engagement organisations. The theme of the conference was “Rapid. Disruptive. Innovative. A New Era in Health Economics and Outcomes Research.” The plenary sessions covered innovative technologies, medical device innovation and revolutionising drug pricing. Alongside the plenaries, there were many short courses, workshops and issues panels covering the full range of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research topics. The 2020 ISPOR international conference takes place in Orlando, Florida between the 16-20 May. The theme of the conference is “HEOR: Advancing Evidence to Action”.

PHD STUDENT CONTRIBUTIONS

Student Spotlight



Written by Michelle Tew

PhD Candidate, University of Melbourne



Title of thesis

Maximising the use of longitudinal data in health economics: Implications for extrapolation in economic evaluations

Background/previous work experience

Prior to my research role, I have worked as a pharmacist in the UK where I gained extensive experience in the safe delivery of medications, patient care and in the provision of various pharmacy services. In 2015, I began my role as a research assistant at the Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health at the University of Melbourne and have worked on numerous projects including economic evaluations for the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) and Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) at the Department of Health to inform decisions about listing of new Medicare items and pharmaceuticals.

Why you wanted to a PhD?

I had been working in research for about 2 years when the opportunity to do a PhD came up. I took it up because I realised it would be a great way for me to progress and an opportunity to learn to do something really well. I was keen to use this time to improve my skills and knowledge in economic evaluations.

Project summary

My PhD project builds on existing research specifically focusing on the health economics of infections in cancer patients and patients undergoing lower limb arthroplasty. It represents a unique opportunity to analyse patterns of health outcomes and health service use, and to develop, test and validate economic evaluation methods thus providing valuable input and to better inform health policy decisions in these vulnerable populations. This project is a collaborative effort between a multidisciplinary team of clinicians and researchers at St. Vincent's Hospital, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre and the Melbourne School of Population and Global Health.

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HEOR trends

ISPOR (global) compiled a list of the top 10 HEOR trends based on a survey of members. We would like to replicate this survey in Australian ISPOR members and HEOR professionals to determine what trends may be unique to Australian HEOR.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/6VD3VKC>