

Evidence and Value in a Time of Social and Policy Change

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We cordially invite you to the 22nd Annual International Meeting of ISPOR at the Sheraton Boston Hotel and the John B. Hynes Veterans Memorial Convention Center on May 20-24, 2017. Given enormous change in the US health care landscape, this year's theme, "Evidence and Value in a Time of Social and Policy Change," is especially timely. Upheavals in the political landscape, combined with transformation in health insurance, payment and delivery systems, and data infrastructure, raise vital questions that will be addressed in plenary sessions, issues panels, workshops, and research presentations.

The first plenary on Monday, May 22, will comprise four leading health economists in the United States (two who have advised Democrats and two who have counseled Republicans) to discuss key topical health policy issues facing the United States and the world. The panelists will address what worries them the most about health policy going forward. The discussion will touch upon several key topics: the future of Obamacare and health insurance in the United States; drug pricing; health spending trends; and payment and delivery reforms.

The second plenary on Tuesday, May 23, will feature an innovative presentation by Nicholas Christakis of Yale University. Dr. Christakis will discuss social networks and their influence on health. Dr. Christakis' research shows that the health of individuals is influenced through their connections with other people in their social networks. As a result, health is not confined to an individual's actions or his or her interaction with the health care system; it also can be influenced in surprising ways through interactions with others. These results have important implications for patients, health care providers, policy makers, and researchers.

On Wednesday, May 24, the third and final plenary will examine how big data

are changing the strength of evidence from observational studies. How does the ability to link data from multiple sources (such as medical claims, electronic medical records, and sociodemographic data) affect our confidence in drawing causal inferences from observational data? What is the evidence that observational studies can replicate the average treatment effects from randomized studies conducted on similar populations to answer similar questions? How do considerations of study cost, speed to answer, feasibility, sample size, and other factors influence study design? A panel of leading researchers and

We are honored to co-chair the 22nd Annual International Meeting, which marks the first time ISPOR has come to Boston, our hometown. Boston is one of the oldest cities in the United States, and is also a leader in higher education, health care, biotechnology, innovation and entrepreneurship, and, of course, sports! The city offers a great variety of things to see and do. Stroll the free walks and take in the historic sites, visit the many fine museums and world-class restaurants, board a paddleboat at the Public Garden Lagoon, or climb the 294 steps of the Bunker Hill Monument for a great view.

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policy experts will provide state-of-the-art viewpoints on the usefulness of big data for health care policy decisions, as well as the challenges remaining.

These plenaries, along with our outstanding short course program, topical issue panels and workshops, and research presentations provide many good reasons to attend.

We look forward to meeting with all of you to rededicate ourselves to ISPOR's mission to promote health economics and outcomes research excellence to improve decision making for health globally.

See you in Boston!
– Bill and Peter

