

Review and Improve: Essential Elements of ISPOR's Continued Growth and Impact on Health Science Policy

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ISPOR's vast array of products and services are created through members' expert contributions. Much of this content results from the work of Task Forces, Special Interest Groups (SIGs), Councils, and regional groups (including Consortia, Networks, and Chapters). Throughout ISPOR's history, thousands of members have served on hundreds of ISPOR groups, creating a body of knowledge—and much of the scientific foundation of the Society—for the larger discipline of health economics and outcomes research (HEOR). And all of this knowledge is a global public good, as I have emphasized previously.

As any good architect or homeowner would tell you, regular review and maintenance of any structure's foundation is an investment well spent. Our ability to realize our mission of improving health globally rests largely on the Society's ability and commitment to developing the science and methodology that advances the field of HEOR. To that end, as part of ISPOR's Governance Initiative led by Past President Adrian Towse, a review of all ISPOR groups is underway to ensure that all of our groups and committees are healthy and active and performing to the Society's standards to:

- Support streamlined decision-making processes, flexibility, and efficiency
- Align all ISPOR groups and staff with the Society's vision, mission, and strategy
- Establish clear responsibilities and accountabilities for the ISPOR Board, staff, volunteer leaders, and members
- Review documents and practices for compliance with US laws and standards, and where appropriate, regional practices and laws
- Provide a global framework for continued growth and evolution
- Promote global consistency in structure and process of ISPOR organizational entities
- Ensure that all volunteer roles are high impact and provide value to the member, the Society, and the discipline

The focus of my message in this issue of *Value & Outcomes Spotlight* is to review the process and the outcomes of the Board's evaluation of ISPOR's Health Science and Policy Council (HSPC). As you may know, the HSPC's mission has always been to advise the Society on key science research and policy issues in HEOR. The HSPC, currently composed of past ISPOR Presidents and Donebedian award winners, has been primarily focused on recommending new Task Force groups.

Recognizing the great unrealized potential for the HSPC, ISPOR's Board of Directors asked Chief Science Officer Dick Willke, current HSPC Chair Scott Ramsey, and our CEO Nancy Berg to review our approach to the HSPC. Based on their report and recommendation, the Board has approved expanding the role of the Council and enhancing the structure and composition of the group to actualize the mission more clearly. The Board agreed that the mission is solid, but roles and responsibilities should be expanded to include:

- Overseeing Task Forces and SIGs, including making recommendations to the Board for approval of new groups
- Suggesting scientific and policy-related meeting content
- Advising on and assisting in scientific and policy-related initiatives and collaborations
- Producing white papers on selected strategic topics, when deemed necessary

The ISPOR Board has approved expanding the HSPC to include other experts and regional leaders. In addition to the Past Presidents and Donebedian award winners, ISPOR's CSO, together with 5 experts with significant professional and publishing experience will be added as members of the HSPC.

Council Committees

The HSPC will still report to the ISPOR Board. As the Figure on page 5 depicts, the HSPC is composed of three distinct Committees:

Science/Research Committee

Responsibilities

- Suggests scientific content
- Conducts horizon scanning
- Advises and assists in scientific initiatives and collaborations

Task Force and SIG Review Committee

Responsibilities

- Reviews initial Task Force and SIG proposals
- Makes recommendations on final proposals to full HSPC
- Advises on topics for development

Policy Outlook Committee

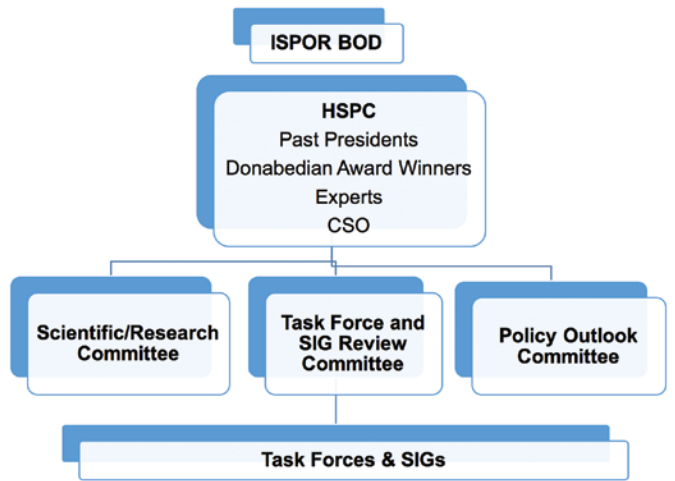
Responsibilities

- Monitors policy issues through horizon scanning
- Reviews regulatory and policy comments drafted for submission to governments or related groups, including those from Regional Chapters
- Advises (prospectively) on plenary and issue panel topics
- Advises and assists in policy and stakeholder-related initiatives and collaborations
- A subcommittee of the Policy Outlook Committee (including the HSPC Chair, CSO, and CEO) reviews and recommends Special Task Forces for Board approval

The newly restructured HSPC will meet in early spring to begin planning and work on these new responsibilities. A key objective will be to do all we can to engage the full breadth and considerable energy of ISPOR's membership in these important health science policy activities.

These individual groups are truly the building blocks of ISPOR's foundation, and it is inspiring to see how well the pieces fit together to provide the fortification to us as individual members and to the

Figure. New Structure



BOD indicates Board of Directors; CSO, Chief Science Officer; HSPC, Health Science Policy Council.

Society as a whole. I encourage you to get involved and to take an active role in all the good works the Society is doing. Many thanks to all the members who drive and support our mission:

To promote health economics and outcomes research excellence to improve decision making for health globally.

Sincerely yours,
Lou Garrison, PhD

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New Data Available for Research

With access to IBM® Explorys® data, Truven Health Analytics® researchers have even more choices for studies we perform for you, to align your research questions with the data suited to the analysis. This rich and growing clinical data set contains implantable device data; microbiology data, including antimicrobial susceptibility testing; patient report outcomes; vitals and biometrics; and other clinical and lab tests, including cardiac lab results, such as ejection fractions. **The Explorys data set, now available to Truven Health researchers, is a smart choice for your clinical insight needs.**

For more information, please complete our [Contact Me](#) form, email us at lifesciences@truvenhealth.com, or visit www.truvenhealth.com/life-sciences.

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