

ISPOR Student Interest Survey Results 2014-2015

Marwa Noureldin, PharmD, MS, Student Chapter President, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN, USA; **Ajinkya Pawar, MS**, Student Chapter President, University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI, USA; **Gilbert Queeley**, Student Chapter President, PhD Student, Dept. of Economic, Social and Administrative Pharmacy, Florida A&M University, Tallahassee, FL, USA; and **Ruchit Shah, MS**, Student Chapter President and Chair of the ISPOR Student Network Survey Committee, The University of Mississippi, University, MS, USA

Introduction

During spring 2015, the ISPOR Student Network Survey Committee conducted the annual Student Interest Survey to gauge the diverse needs and interests of student members and plan for the upcoming year's events. The objectives of the survey are to: 1) provide a platform for student members to express their preferences in various ISPOR activities, 2) identify members' interest in current and new activities, 3) generate ideas for the student network to improve existing resources for students, and 4) help with setting goals for the incoming student network committees.

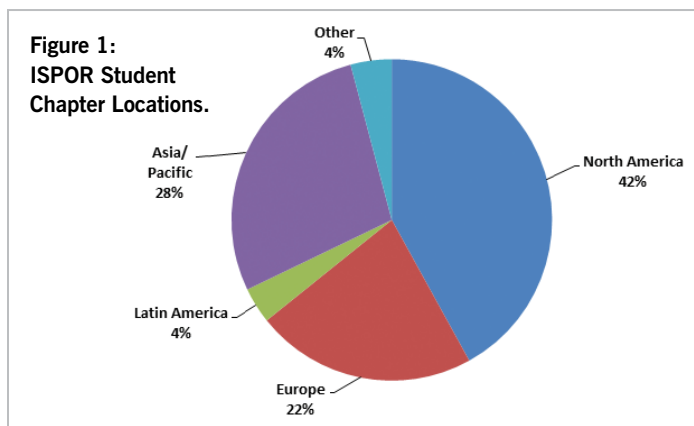
Methods

A 37- item survey was revised by the Survey Committee and distributed to all student chapter members via an email link. In addition, the survey was posted on the ISPOR website. Survey items included questions regarding members' institutions and programs, student interest in various ISPOR meetings, and students' awareness and involvement in ISPOR Student Network activities and resources. To increase response rate, the survey was advertised on the ISPOR Facebook page and reminder emails were sent to student members. Incentives including, complimentary student membership and meeting registration to any ISPOR 2015 meeting (i.e., Annual, European, Latin America/Asia-Pacific) were offered to promote participation in the survey. The survey was launched on April 9, 2015 and data collection was completed on April 24, 2015.

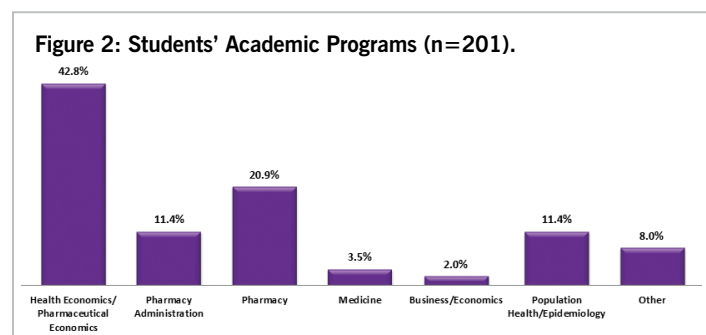
Results

Demographics

Approximately 900 students were eligible and contacted to fill out the survey. One hundred eighty-five students submitted their responses, delivering a response rate of 20.6%. This response rate was nearly twice that of last year's (10.6%), with an increase of almost 10%. Most of the respondents (42%) were from North America, followed by 28% from Asia/Pacific, 22% from Europe, 4% from Latin America, and 4% from 'other' regions (Fig. 1). The highest increase in response rate (8%) was seen from Europe region which had a response rate of 14% last year.

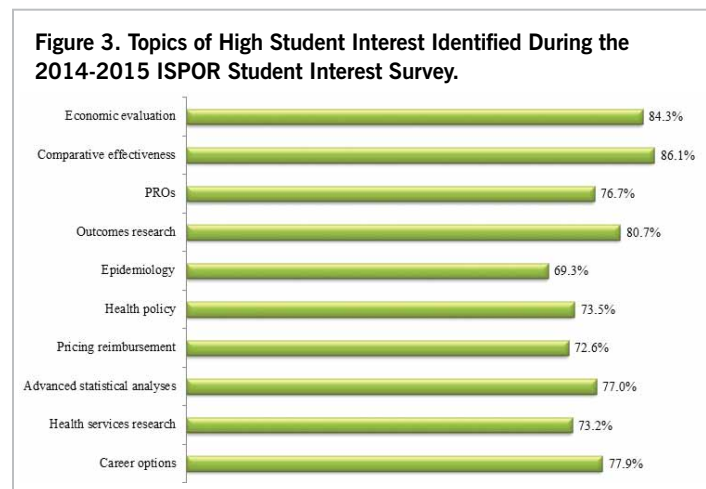


Most respondents (54%) were enrolled in Health Economics/ Pharmaceutical Economics or Pharmacy Administration programs, while 21% of students were enrolled in Pharmacy, 11% in Population Health/Epidemiology, 4% in Medicine, 2% in Business/Economics and 8% in 'other' fields. More than half the respondents (52%) were enrolled in the PhD program, 20% in a MA/MS, and 15% in PharmD program.

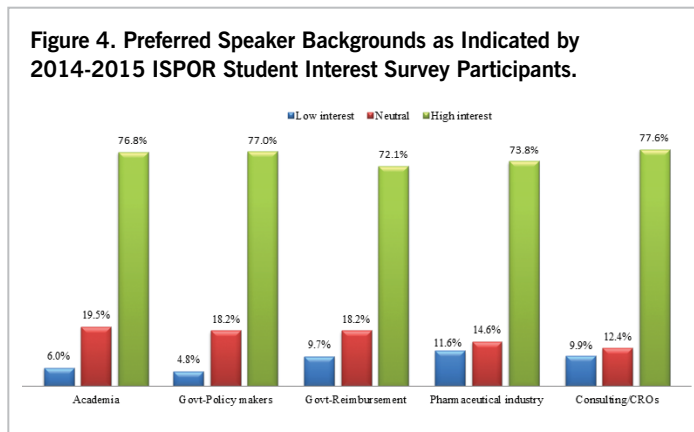


Interest in Student Activities

This component of the survey sought to determine the level of interest in student network activities. This is a critical aspect of the survey since the results provide an evidence base for goal-setting and annual activity/event planning for the forthcoming year. It also identifies key factors that are deterrents to student chapter performance, factors that could heighten student interest in ISPOR, and ways to heighten student awareness of ISPOR chapter member benefits. Key areas addressed were topics for educational teleconferences, speaker backgrounds, issues with chapter initiation, and events to be held during annual meetings. With respect to educational topics, comparative effectiveness research (86%) economic evaluation (84%) and outcomes research (81%) were the top choices. Students had strong interest (> 70%) in most topics (Fig. 3).



Consistent with last year's survey, the highest level of interest were speakers from consulting/contract research organizations (CROs) (78%). Policy makers and speakers from academia were considered equally important (Fig. 4). This year we found a slight decrease in interest for speakers from the pharmaceutical industry (74%) compared to (82%) last year.



Regarding issues affecting chapter initiation, 62% of the respondents cited lack of guidance as a major deterrent to chapter initiation. Lack of financial resources was also identified as a significant contributing factor to low chapter initiation.

Events held during annual meetings are key drivers of student interest and continue to be an important topic for discussion. The vast majority of students (83%) identified the student forum as their favorite event. Other key events include the student research showcase (79%), the student-faculty icebreaker reception (73%), and mock interviews (71%). This year's survey also sought to identify activities for invigorating and revitalizing chapters. These included inviting guest lecturers, having more social events, and hosting fund raising activities. In summary, key points from the 2014-2015 survey include: comparative effectiveness, economic evaluation and outcomes research as preferred topics for educational teleconferences and a preference for speakers from consulting, policy making, academic, and pharmaceutical industry backgrounds. Lack of guidance and lack of financial resources are key deterrents to chapter development. The student forum, student-faculty icebreaker, and mock interviews are the main items that students look forward to each year during conferences.

Conclusions

There were several key improvements to the Student Interest Survey in terms of increased response rate and emphasizing Student Network activities with a high level of interest. The results of the 2014-2015 student interest survey suggest the activities of the ISPOR Student Network were consistent with the results of the 2013-2014 Student Interest Survey. Finally, these results will be of key essence in goal setting and alignment of ideas for the ISPOR Student Network during the 2015-2016 academic year. ■

ISPOR STUDENT AND MEETING TRAVEL GRANTS

Applications for ISPOR Student and Travel Grants are now being accepted for the ISPOR 18th Annual European Congress in Milan, Italy.

STUDENTS AND FELLOWS MAY APPLY FOR AN ISPOR STUDENT TRAVEL GRANT:

Each grantee is awarded COMPLIMENTARY REGISTRATION AND SHORT COURSES by ISPOR prior to the Meeting/Congress/Conference. Included are round trip coach class travel, hotel, meals, and conveyance up to \$1,300 USD for Annual Meetings and European Congresses and up to \$1,100 USD for Latin America and Asia-Pacific Conferences that will be reimbursed after the event per the ISPOR Travel and Reimbursement Policy. Details can be found at: http://www.ispor.org/student/Travel/grant_info.asp.

NON-STUDENTS MAY APPLY FOR AN ISPOR MEETING TRAVEL GRANT:

Each awardee is awarded COMPLIMENTARY registration to an ISPOR International Meeting or European Congress or Regional Conference; complimentary ISPOR SHORT COURSE REGISTRATION (up to 4 courses per Meeting/Congress/Conference); and up to \$2,500 USD for air fare (coach), transportation and lodging expenses (per ISPOR travel policy). Details can be found at: <http://www.ispor.org/awards/MeetingTravelScholarship.asp>.

> To apply for a Student Travel Grant, go to: <http://www.ispor.org/student/Travel/grantApp.asp>.

> To apply for an ISPOR Meeting Travel Grant, go to: <http://www.ispor.org/awards/MeetingTravelScholarship.asp>.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

18th Annual European Congress, Milan, Italy: 7-11 November 2015

Deadline: 1 September 2015