

The ISPOR Institutional Council

Jim Murray, PhD, 2016 Chair of the ISPOR Institutional Council and Research Fellow - Global Health Outcomes - COE Eli Lilly and Co, Carmel, IN, USA



This is the first in a series of Institutional Council updates for ISPOR members. Our intent is to provide ISPOR members with a glimpse inside the workings of the Council and educate members on what the Council does for ISPOR and its members. Our topic will include our continuing collaboration with all ISPOR councils.

ISPOR's Institutional Council (the Council) originated in 2001 as a scientific Special Interest group. Its purpose has always been to support and promote ISPOR's mission as a professional and scientific society. In addition to actively contributing to ISPOR, the Council also strives to support the Society by promoting the development and use of pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research in health care decision making around the world; serving as an advisory body and providing insight and perspective to the Board of Directors; and enhancing the overall quality of health economics and outcomes research.

The Council seeks to become a more active participant within the ISPOR community. We welcome ideas and opportunities to continue and grow our collaborations. Through the activities described below, the Council hopes to help others recognize and value the full potential of what ISPOR brings to payers, health care systems, and providers.

Who We Are

Currently, the ISPOR Institutional Council membership is comprised of 28 organizations representing a wide array of life sciences organizations, including manufacturers of products (such as pharmaceuticals and devices) and service providers (such as research groups and data analytics). Organizations that participate as Council members receive a unique set of benefits and privileges that provide access, input, and visibility within the global HEOR community. Council members are also eligible to receive complimentary registration to meetings, education, and individual memberships. The Council meets twice a year to discuss topical issues and to advise ISPOR on scientific topics. Below is a list of ISPOR's Institutional Council members:

Allergan	Nestle Health Sciences
Analysis Group, Inc.	Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp.
BioGen	Novo Nordisk, Inc.
Bristol-Myers Squibb	Optum Labs
Celgene Corporation	PAI
EVIDERA	Pfizer, Inc.
Genentech / Roche	Republican Centre for Health Development
GfK	RTI Health Solutions
GlaxoSmithKline	Sanofi-Aventis US
Health Core, Inc.	Sunovion Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
IMS Health	Takeda
Johnson & Johnson	Truven Health Analytics
Lilly	Xcenda
Medtronic, Inc.	
Merck and Co., Inc.	

As you can see, the Council represents a heterogeneous mix of commercial companies working across the global health care system.

Rebecca Corey has been the ISPOR staff liaison and has overseen the operations since the Council's inception. Throughout the changes in leadership and membership of the Council, Rebecca has provided a much needed source of knowledge and continuity for the Council.

What We Do

Each year the Council undertakes specific projects to support the goals and objectives of ISPOR, while remaining true to the Council's own objectives and purpose. An ongoing task of the Council is to identify emerging topics for Special Issues of *Value in Health*. Recent topics include: *Personalized Medicine and the Role of Health Economics and Outcomes Research: Applications, Emerging Trends, and Future Research*, and *Health Technology Assessment in Evidence-Based Health Care Reimbursement Decisions Around the World: Lessons Learned*. The Council also works to identify scientific issues warranting a dedicated working group, such as the Comparative Effectiveness Research and Personalized Medicine Working Groups.

Strategic Planning

As part of a recent strategic planning exercise, the Council wanted to gain a better understanding of the perspectives and priorities of ISPOR members working in similar organizations to the Council. As part of the membership survey, a subset of ISPOR members were asked the following questions:

- What is your view on the state of ISPOR?
- What are important issues and topics that the Institutional Council should address? This would include the membership's views on key trends, as well as anticipating potential changes in the various global health care systems.

The responses were illuminating. Most notable, there was strong advice to the Council to create a better awareness of the Council among ISPOR members and non-members, and to become more actively involved with ISPOR as a whole. As a result, the Council has begun to:

- Actively promote awareness about the Council;
- Consider ways to grow and expand Council membership;
- Become more actively involved with other ISPOR councils;
- Initiate collaboration with the ISPOR leadership.

Based on the results of the survey, the Council identified four areas of opportunity:

1. To foster payer-industry collaborations to include increasing payer involvement in ISPOR;
2. To expand the use and acceptance of real-world evidence;

3. To address the challenges of value and affordability (to include price);
4. To help increase patient involvement in health care decisions (e.g., activation, empowerment, and shared decision making).

Moving Forward

On the opening day of ISPOR's 21st Annual Meeting in Washington, DC, the Council held an extended meeting to explore actions for addressing the results of the survey. For the first time ever, the members of the Council met with the leaders of other ISPOR councils, including the Health Science Policy Council, the Health Technology Assessment Council, the Faculty Advisor Council, the Health Technology Assessment Roundtable, and the Patient Representatives Roundtable. The goal was to get better acquainted and begin what we hope to be an ongoing process of communication and collaboration. Our goal is to integrate relevant activities and leverage all of the knowledge, skills, and work that occur within these different groups. These initial meetings generated the following ideas for identifying possible areas of collaboration among the various councils:

- exchange regular updates between councils;
- foster communication and provide alternative perspectives by having select members attend other council meetings;
- promote the value and quality of our science by helping ISPOR be more visible to the external world;
- help ISPOR conduct an assessment on competency and training needs for students and employees who are just entering the field;
- develop and promote educational opportunities (i.e., internship, co-ops, visiting scientist fellowships, etc.) within ISPOR and member organizations.

In a strategic planning discussion among the members, the Council decided to focus on fostering payer-industry collaborations as one of its key priorities in moving forward to increase payer involvement in ISPOR.

As ISPOR CEO/Executive Director Nancy Berg shared at this recent Council meeting, "The support of the Institutional Council and the organizations it represents are important to the success of ISPOR. In addition, the ISPOR Board of Directors relies on the input of all of the ISPOR Councils to guide them in their strategic prioritization and oversight of ISPOR." It's an exciting time to be a member of the ISPOR Institutional Council. Changes are happening all around us, and in order to stay ahead, we need to find ways to collaborate, to challenge ourselves and our members to be an active and productive part of the larger whole. ■

Additional information:

For more information, go to: http://www.ispor.org/councils/institutional_council.asp

WEB CONNECTIONS

The National Directory of Health Care Payers and Providers Available By State

Now you don't need to buy directories for the whole country when you only want to know about the health and managed care landscape in one specific state. To find out more, go to: <http://www.healtheconomics.com/resource/the-national-directory-of-healthcare-payers-and-providers-available-by-state/>.

Do you know of any websites that you would like to share with the ISPOR community? If so, contact Value & Outcomes Spotlight at: vos@ispor.org

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