

ISPOR Student Network Database Fact Sheets

Abdullah Althemery, Nova Southeastern University, Department of Sociobehavioral and Administrative Pharmacy, Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA; **Mrudula Borse**, Co-Chair of the ISPOR Student Network Education Committee and Division of Pharmaceutical Outcomes and Policy, Eshelman School of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC, USA; **Rahul Garg**, Department of Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy, School of Pharmacy, West Virginia University, WV, USA; **Mahdi Gharaibeh**, Center for Health Outcomes and Pharmacoeconomic Research, College of Pharmacy, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA; **Tianze Jiao**, University of Utah, College of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research, City, UT, USA; **Elisabeth Oehrlein**, Co-Chair of the ISPOR Student Network Education Committee and Department of Pharmaceutical Health Services Research, University of Maryland, Baltimore, School of Pharmacy, Baltimore, MD, USA; and **Jeffrey Thompson**, University of Cincinnati College of Pharmacy, Division of Health Outcomes, Cincinnati, OH, USA

(All authors are members of the 2014-2015 ISPOR Student Network Education Committee)

Introduction

Each year, ISPOR student chapters worldwide elect student researchers to serve as representatives for the ISPOR Student Council. Our organization fosters student engagement in pharmacoeconomic/health economics and health outcomes research via select committees promoting ISPOR membership and involvement; organizing events to engage students during ISPOR conferences; and offering supplemental educational resources to complement and enhance their knowledge base.

The database fact sheets will complement ISPOR’s existing “International Digest of Databases.”

The primary function of the **Student Network Education Committee** is to coordinate monthly educational teleconferences to provide all ISPOR student members the opportunity to learn from established researchers in our area of research. To accomplish this goal, the committee arranges monthly live, interactive webinars featuring internationally renowned researchers. Topics include current research methodologies and help students stay informed of the health care landscape. Webinars are archived to allow all student members to access the videos at their convenience (http://www.ispor.org/student/student_webinars.asp).

In addition to monthly educational webinars, this year’s Education Committee has elected to create “**ISPOR Student Network Database Fact Sheets**.” The project’s goal is to provide a resource to help graduate students select an appropriate and feasible database for their research project given their specific aims,

Figure 1. Student Network Database Fact Sheet Template.

ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK DATABASE FACT SHEET	
Database Name	(Medicaid, Marketscan, MEPS, KID, SID, NIS, NAMCES, NHANES, etc.)
Database Type	(e.g. claims, registry, survey, etc.)
Database Accessibility	*where (website link), cost (free/pay), etc.
Description	- Overall (from respective database website) - How data collected (e.g. stratified survey) - Special Features (e.g. MEPS and detailed costing data)
Applicable Study Design(s)	(e.g. longitudinal, cross-sectional, cohort, etc.)
Strengths	Examples: - lab values in detailed claims data - disease state-specific in registries - longitudinal
Weaknesses	Examples: - generalizability of results - cost of getting data - data security (for identifiable claims data) - other limitations
Examples	Full citations

research hypotheses, and constraints (i.e., financial resources, project deadline). The database fact sheets will complement ISPOR’s existing “International Digest of Databases” through additional details, such as appropriate database uses for certain study designs; database strengths and weaknesses; accessibility and costs associated with using the database for research purposes; and examples of published studies using each database (Fig. 1). The **International Digest of Databases** provides basic information on 400 databases from 45 countries and is organized around a “Key Attributes Questionnaire.” This questionnaire records basic information about each database, such as number of years available, availability of diagnostic or procedure codes, and availability of drug or financial information. The digest provides descriptive

information about a wide breadth of databases, whereas the primary objective of the database fact sheets will be to provide depth on a limited number of databases. Databases graduate students use most often to conduct their own research will be selected for inclusion in the database fact sheet repository.

Creation of the Database

Through a series of discussions, the committee created a list of the health care databases most commonly used by graduate students in our own departments. Although our list may not be comprehensive for databases, registries, or surveys used by all researchers nationally, for whom the **ISPOR Digest of Databases** may be a better resource, our Fact Sheets will cover those databases most frequently used by graduate students for their own research. ➤

Databases detailed in this project will include: Chronic Conditions Warehouse, the CEA Registry, Humana, Health Outcomes Survey, IMS LifeLink, the Kids Inpatient Database, Medicaid, MCBS, MEPS, NAMCS, NHAMCS, NHANES, SEER Medicare, Truven's MarketScan, and Veterans Association.

ISPOR Student Network Database Fact Sheet

Description: In order to provide consistency across our "Description" section, we are using the format of the "ISPOR International Digest of Databases" as a guide. Relevant questions from the digest include "How many years are covered by the database?" "Are diagnostic or procedure codes included?" "What is the size of the database?" [1]

Database Accessibility: This section will include information related to database accessibility, including costs and procedures for procurement. Information on data use agreements will also be included.

Applicable Study Designs: Commonly used study designs will be identified based on years available, frequency of data availability, and database population(s). For example, whether longitudinal or cross-sectional studies are most appropriate.

Strengths: Attributes that are of particular strength will be determined. For example, whether or not lab values are available or whether the database can be linked to other data.

Weaknesses: Relevant weaknesses will include the generalizability of results, associated costs, and potential data security (e.g., personally identifiable claims data).

Examples: A list of several recently published studies using the particular database.

Timeline and Goals

Database fact sheets will be completed by Mid-May of 2015 and we aim for these to be made available on the ISPOR Student Network's webpage in early summer 2015. We hope that these summaries will prove to be a resource for all graduate students interested in pharmacoeconomics (health economics) and outcomes research. In addition, we hope that in the future, this database may grow to include databases used by students internationally.

References

[1] International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. ISPOR International Digest of Databases. Available at: <http://www.ispor.org/DigestOfIntDB/CountryList.aspx>. [Accessed March 23, 2015]. ■

ISPOR STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS AND ISPOR MEETING TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Applications for ISPOR Student Travel Grants and ISPOR Meeting Travel Scholarship Awards are now being accepted for the ISPOR 5th Latin America Conference in Santiago, Chile and 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 SCHOLARSHIP:

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 Scholarship Award, go to: <http://www.ispor.org/awards/MeetingTravelScholarship.asp>.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

5th Latin America Conference, Santiago, Chile: 6-8 September 2015

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

Deadline: 7 July 2015

Deadline: 1 September 2015