



Uniting the Global HEOR Community

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IN MY ROLE AS ISPOR PRESIDENT, I am invited to speak at meetings all over the world. Typically, I make every effort to accept these invitations (when my schedule allows) because it is my desire—not just as ISPOR President, but as an ISPOR member—to educate new audiences on the methodologies and best practices that advance the field of health economics and outcomes research.

Fortunately, this desire aligns nicely with ISPOR's strategic pillars: scientific and research excellence, member engagement, education and training, communication and collaboration, and organizational values. These strategic pillars support the Society's mission to promote health economics and outcomes research excellence to improve decision making for health globally, and what better way to encapsulate each of these pillars by educating a global audience about what ISPOR and our field is doing.

In the past year and a half, ISPOR has made a concerted effort to expand its educational offerings beyond the short courses and interactive sessions offered at its large annual conferences. Indeed, ISPOR has “taken the show on the road,” as it is now offering intensive in-person training programs across the United States and has hosted several HTA training programs in Croatia, Kazakhstan, Portugal, and most recently in Colombia. In fact, I was pleased to have the opportunity to be a presenter at the training in Bogotá, Colombia last month. This was ISPOR's inaugural HTA Training Program in Latin America, which attracted attendees from across Latin America, the United States, Europe, and Asia. The next HTA training event will be held in the Copenhagen Øresund Region on June 6-9, 2017. Mark your calendar now...you won't want to miss this state-of-the-art training program.

As always, ISPOR's Short Course program at the International Meeting in Boston, MA, on May 20-21, 2017, will offer over 30 half and full day courses for attendees to attend. Three new classes have been added and they are filling-up quickly: US Payers – an Introduction to Their Structures, Evidence Needs, and Decision-Making Process; Collecting Health-State Utility Estimates

for Economic Models in Clinical Studies; and Using Dynamic Simulation Models for Decision Making in Health Care Delivery. You can still register for these courses at <https://www.ispor.org/Event/index/2017Boston>.

These training programs are just another example of how ISPOR is providing state-of-the-art education that promote best practices in HEOR. But it's not only through ISPOR-hosted events that the Society is working to educate, communicate, and engage with audiences to apply HEOR methods to improving health care decisions. By the time you are reading this column, fellow ISPOR leadership members John Watkins, Dick Willke, and I will have presented a session on the Evolving Role of Real-World Data in Health Care Decision Making at the AMCP Annual Meeting in Denver, CO. This opportunity to present at another organization's meeting is part of ISPOR's collaborative efforts to exchange ideas and introduce ISPOR initiatives to allied organizations in the field. In the spirit of collaboration, ISPOR has invited AMCP to present a session at our upcoming meeting in Boston, MA.

Individually, these programs provide new tools and methodologies to new audiences all over the world. Collectively, however, they unite the HEOR community in its pursuit of a common goal to provide better science that will lead to better health. Speaking recently in Mexico City at the annual ISPOR chapter meeting, I conveyed the following message in Spanish, “No construyamos muros... construyamos puentes.” The message translates and resonates around the world: Let's not build walls, let's build bridges. And with your continued participation and support, ISPOR can build the bridges needed to achieve its vision and mission to deliver the highest quality education and training for the global HEOR community.

Sincerely yours,

Lou Garrison, PhD
ISPOR President

The HTA training program in Bogata, Colombia.

