

Santiago de Chile: A Timely Discussion on Access to Health Care in the Context of Inequality

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We are pleased to invite you to join us at the upcoming ISPOR 5th Latin America Conference at the CentroParque Event & Convention Center located in Parque Araucano, on September 6-8, 2015,

in Santiago, Chile. The theme, **Increasing Access to Health Care in Latin America: Making Better Decisions for Greater Equity**, is the main topic of the conference. Latin America is one of the most unequal regions of the world. We believe that the scientific community can help to lessen the access gap by disseminating the applications of health technology assessment (HTA) and pharmacoeconomic (health economic) concepts and instruments among policy makers and the greater society, to encourage better and more equitable decisions in health care.

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In our opening plenary session, “**Is HTA Fair? Analyzing the HTA Process in Latin America & Its Implications for Access to Health Care**,” we tackle the problem of the impact of health technology assessment on inequity. The use of HTA is increasingly being discussed by public and private payers in Latin America to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of health care technologies for their populations – but is it fair? HTA has been implemented as a way to enable better decisions that balance varied societal and stakeholder perspectives and needs mainly in developed countries where inequity is, relatively, less prevalent than in Latin America. In this sense, there still persists the question of whether or not the decisions being made fairly represent all stakeholders. Panelists will discuss these issues from a perspective of working in the environment of fairness, while balancing the requirements of a rigorous scientific method to evaluate the usefulness of drugs and devices for their populations. Panelists include **Anthony John (Tony) Culyer, CBE, BA, Hon DEcon, Hon FRCP, FRSA, FMedSci**, Emeritus Professor of Economics, University of York, Heslington, York, UK, and **Norman Daniels, PhD**, Mary B. Saltonstall Professor of Population Ethics and Professor of Ethics and Population Health, Department of Global Health and Population, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Harvard University, Boston, MA, USA. The session will be moderated by **Louis Garrison, PhD**, Chair, ISPOR Health Science Policy Council and Professor, Department of Pharmacy, University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA.

Our second plenary, “Access to High Cost Drugs in Latin America: Who Goes First?” is dedicated, again, to equity, but applied to a specific and current situation faced by payers and regulators in Latin America. Health systems in the region are currently experiencing constant pressure from patient groups, many of which are supported by the manufacturers themselves, as they seek access to high cost drugs via the prosecution of claims in the court system. The end goal of these claims is to ensure the financing of high cost medicines. In response to this trend, and given the natural complexity of pharmacological therapies, countries are now developing strategies to finance access to high cost drugs. Given the scarcity of available resources, it is necessary to prioritize their allocation. Our panelists will review such activities in the region, and inquire about some of the critical aspects of prioritization,

namely: Have certain health problems been favored and why? What types of drug therapies have high priority? Who makes these assignments? What criteria are used in the prioritization process? Are certain patient groups privileged and why? Are these solutions long or short term answers? In short, who comes first and who must wait for access to expensive drugs?

Along with these plenaries, we also will have our short-course program, numerous issue panels, workshops, and research presentations. But there are also other reasons to visit Santiago, Chile.

Excellent seafood can be tasted and enjoyed together with superb (and cheap!) wine. Make sure to make time to visit some of the vineyards in Santiago or in the Casablanca Valley near the city to taste, in its natural setting, the wide range of Chilean wines. Santiago is surrounded by mountains, as is the beautiful Cajon del Maipo, as well as the hot springs that accompany it. But, if you don't have time to visit the Andes mountains, you can still visit the San Cristobal or the Santa Lucia hills and have a good view of the city. Pablo Neruda's houses, our national poet and Nobel Prize winner, is another must-see in Santiago, Isla Negra, and Valparaiso. You can also visit the Memory and Human Rights Museum and review the recent history of Chile. The Museum at The Moneda Government Palace and the Museum of Fine Arts also hold permanent and visiting expositions in the center of Santiago near the Metro stations. We are sure you will not only enjoy the academic pursuits of the 5th Latin America Conference, but will also enjoy much of what the city of Santiago has to offer. We welcome you to the Conference and to Santiago! ■