ISPOR Student Network Year in Review: 2014-2015

Brendan J Kelly, 2014-2015 ISPOR Student Network Chair, PharmD Candidate, Touro University California, Vallejo, CA, USA

The ISPOR Student Network is comprised of over 1300 active student members and 74 student chapters representing 18 countries in the regions of Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America. Our Student Council has increased by 22% with the addition of 15 new student chapters established in 2014-2015. Eager to engage, chapter presidents dedicated themselves to supporting Student Network activities through participation in one of eight committees. The Network's expansion and agenda of activities was focused on three primary outcomes: "**Collaboration, Communication, and Change.**" With these primary goals, the Student Network has succeeded in increasing membership while enhancing the networking capabilities offered to ISPOR student members.

Collaboration

Collaborative efforts have been made throughout the year between student members and involved ISPOR members, increasing the quality and quantity of networking opportunities available to students through the Student Network. During the spring of 2014, the Survey Committee sent out a Student Interest Survey to all student members; results were shared with the Student Council to help define activities for 2014-2015. Based on survey results, the Education Committee hosted a number of speakers from various backgrounds, including industry, academia, policy, and informatics. Students responded favorably to the speaker selection, with student attendance ranging from 20-50 for each monthly educational teleconference.

In order to stay current, we are consistently redesigning and developing our operations to serve the entire Student Network.

During the 2014-2015 transition, the Student Council initiated an eighth committee; the European Meeting Planning Committee, responsible for organizing and hosting events at the ISPOR European Congress. The European Meeting Planning Committee and the North America Meeting Planning Committee collaborated and integrated events from the North America Meeting into the European Congress. Two new student events were successfully integrated as student activities during the European Congress: the Student Network & Faculty Advisor Luncheon and the Student Research Showcase, attended by approximately 50 and 100 individuals, respectively. Continued efforts will be made to develop student events at the European Congress, as well as to add student events to ISPOR Latin America and Asia-Pacific Conferences.

Communication

Communication within the Student Council played a key role to 1) link existing student chapters together in a mentoring program, and 2) reach out to students at universities with pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research programs to initiate new student chapters. The Membership Outreach Committee and Student Network Chair

were able to successfully initiate new student chapters, including the first student chapter established in Latin American - Javeriana University located in Colombia. To facilitate discussions among chapter presidents in the Student Council, the Public Relations Committee successfully initiated WebEx as a new meeting platform. This new system allowed each committee to display slides during monthly presidents' teleconferences to provide visuals to the other committees on their progress, which stimulated more meaningful discussion among committees about Student Network activities. The Student Network Faculty Advisor Council (SCFAC), comprised of student chapter faculty advisors, also held teleconferences and relayed information to the Student Network Chair to engage student chapter members. Throughout the past year, we have met our goal to increase the involvement of the student chapter faculty advisors. Our advisors provide valuable resources and by increasing their involvement in the Student Network we increase the connectivity among student chapters.

Change

As the ISPOR Student Network increases its student membership each year, it is our responsibility to ensure all members are integrated and connected to the entire Student Network. In order to stay current, we are consistently re-evaluating and expanding our activities to serve the entire Student Network. Over the past year, the Student Council implemented a Student Network Discussion Board (http://studentforums.ispor.org). The discussion board is unique in that active student members can create a username using their unique ISPOR ID number. Once a student has created a username the student may create a topic thread to start a discussion among peers. Topic threads are commented on by other students and serve as an online discussion space for health economics and outcomes research topics.

The ISPOR Student Council is also collaborating with ISPOR to change and update the ISPOR webpage. The Education Committee is currently collaborating with the creators of the ISPOR International Digest of Databases to edit the online database digest. Database information fields (e.g., specific data focus, strengths and limitations) will be updated to list more comprehensive database information and a more user-friendly interface will be implemented for easier searching and filtering of databases. We are excited to continue this project as we move into the 2015-2016 academic year.

I am most honored to have served as the ISPOR Student Network Chair for the 2014 – 2015 academic year. I would like to personally thank the dedicated team of chapter presidents comprising the Student Council for enthusiastically implementing new ideas and activities. The connections we have made will span much longer than our career as students. Extending a big thank you to all ISPOR Student Network collaborators: Dr. Zeba M. Khan, ISPOR Student Network Advisor; Amanda Harrington, past Student Network Chair; Dr. Ebere Onukwugha and the SCFAC; and ISPOR staff members Jennifer Casillas, Stacey Mauriello, Rebecca Corey and Nancy Garcia. Thanks to everyone for making this past year an experience I will never forget, let the legacy live on! ∎