

ISPOR SPEAKS

A Few Reflections on a Great Year: Our Progress as a Diverse, Innovative, and Influential Society

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It has been an immense pleasure and a “super” enriching experience to serve as ISPOR’s President this past year. I am especially proud to be completing my term as the first president that comes from “the periphery” (i.e. a country as Argentina), representing a big step for the construction of a “built-in” global view for our society. One that is less centered in the United States or Western Europe and that aims to incorporate a wide range of values and people.

THE ROAD TRAVELED

As ISPOR President, I believe I have contributed to better balancing the map, to make regions like Latin America, Asia, and Africa more prominent, helping to blend our Society with all regional cultures, values, and knowledge.

As I reflect on my term as your president, I would like to focus on our progress as a **diverse, innovative, and influential** Society.

DIVERSITY

ISPOR’s membership increasingly reflects the collaborative research and decision-making taking place across healthcare disciplines and across borders. ISPOR promotes inclusiveness by increasing its importance and influence beyond the United States and Europe and by promoting the growth of chapters and regional consortia and networks.

The integration of different backgrounds, geographies, types of education, formative paths, experiences, and training have a significant impact in thinking and acting in a better way. We now have global voices represented in all key ISPOR Councils working to achieve our mission to promote health economics and outcomes research excellence to improve decision making for health globally. Our new

governance mandates and welcomes the participation of member voices from all regions in major groups such as the Health Science and Policy Council, Health Technology Council, Global Engagement Council, Education Council, and more. The board is also working in a diversity policy to strengthen the Society’s commitment to inclusion.

ISPOR continues to support HEOR advancement and utilization in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC) and committed US \$2.9 million toward mission-critical initiatives in 2018 alone. The Society advances HEOR globally through worldwide conferences, training and education, and publications. It also sponsors travel grant programs for both professional and student members and funding to chapters in LMIC countries. These activities help to advance the Society’s mission in emerging markets. Well over half of ISPOR’s 86 regional chapters are based in LMICs, demonstrating ISPOR’s commitment to advancing the use of HEOR worldwide. A new LMIC hub was put in place in our website (www.ispor.org/lmic), with a summary of benefits for members in LMICs. As a famous painter from Uruguay, I did my best to bring a different view of ISPOR, without inverting it significantly but balancing it somewhat more. (see Figure)

We also continue to explore ways to involve more mid-career people in important projects and have a thriving network for new professionals, students, and women in HEOR.

INNOVATION

ISPOR is on the forefront of high-interest and emerging areas of research that leverages technology to generate credible evidence, supporting informed healthcare decisions.



Here are just a few examples of how ISPOR is innovating and making an impact:

- ISPOR is leading discussions with many stakeholders at a time when decision making is most difficult. ISPOR hosts leading international HEOR conferences and training programs that provide unparalleled forums for education, consensus building, and networking in the field. In addition to our major conferences in Europe and North America, we hosted very successful regional events in Japan and Dubai (ISPOR’s first conference held in the Middle East).
- In October of 2018 we brought together 175 HEOR expert to discuss *New Approaches to Value Assessment: Towards More Informed Pricing in Healthcare*. A series of webinars and a supplement to *Value in Health* will bring important discussions from the 2018 ISPOR Summit to the global HEOR community.
- ISPOR Good Practices for Outcomes Research reports are now required in new employee training and in decision making in industry and governments settings. In a survey of global payers last year, we learned that 84% of respondents use or find value in these reports in their work. >

- ISPOR has expanded its patient roundtables in regions including Latin America and Asia—areas where the patient voice is not so well integrated.
- *Value in Health Regional Issues*—in addition to being included in MEDLINE®—is now also indexed in Embase, Scopus, and EBSCOhost/TOC Premier. This online journal publishes research that impacts health systems in Asia; Central and Eastern Europe, Western Asia, and Africa; and Latin America.
- ISPOR continues to “speak” to the media and to thought leaders through innovative projects like the Top 10 HEOR Trends report. The 2019 report is now available at www.ispor.org/top10trends.
- ISPOR’s outreach to other societies and organizations shows sincere desire to work collaboratively.

INFLUENCE

ISPOR is advancing the science of HEOR by driving consensus and uptake on good research practices across stakeholder platforms.

Never has HEOR been so needed and valuable to decision makers. The expertise within our membership is

needed in all corners of the world. ISPOR now has a sophisticated mechanism in place that helps us disseminate our knowledge and resources to other stakeholders, including non-scientific parties who would benefit from ISPOR’s pool of talent and expertise. Our newly reorganized website facilitates access to this wealth of information, including a new Health Technology Assessment Central portal (htacentral.org), a Patient Engagement in HEOR microsite (www.ispor.org/patientengagement); new ways for members to customize their ISPOR experience (www.ispor.org/membership) and to get involved (www.ispor.org/getinvolved).

SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

I used the famous quote about “standing on the shoulders of giants” when I began my term to refer to those who built ISPOR, an organization that is rapidly approaching a quarter century with continuous growth and success, reaching more than 20,000 members in a direct way, and influencing the work and decisions of many more. As a Society, we look to the future as we refresh our strategic plan so that together as an organization we can continue to strengthen our global impact in driving scientific and research excellence in the field of health economics and outcomes research. •

Figure. *América Invertida*. By Joaquín Torres García

