

# Fulfilling Our Mission

**Daniel C. Malone, RPh, PhD**, Professor of Pharmacy, College of Pharmacy & Associate Professor in Mel & Enid Zuckerman College, University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ, USA



With record-breaking attendance at our major events, new collaborations, and plans to further promote member engagement, 2015 is proving to be an exciting and successful year for ISPOR.

## 18th Annual Congress in Milan, Italy

The 18th Annual European Congress held in Milan Italy in November centered on the theme, *"Impacting Health Decision Making with Outcomes Research: Closing the Gap."* Over 5,200 delegates attended the meeting making the European Congress once again the largest ISPOR event of the year. As a part of this Congress, I moderated a panel on recommendations from the *"ISPOR Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis Emerging Good Practice Task Force and Remaining Controversies."* Multi-criteria decision analysis (MCDA) is an emerging new practice using a broad set of methodological approaches to assist in decision making, especially in an era of expensive but valuable technologies. In this session, panelists discussed emerging good practice recommendations which will be published in the ISPOR MCDA Task Force Report early in 2016. The European meeting was a huge success with respect to scientific exchange. Over 2,400 poster or podium presentations were given. Workshop and issue panel presentations were informative and well received by attendees. Due to the outstanding faculty, the ISPOR short course offerings were also well attended.

## It is truly an exciting time to be a member of this international respected organization of scientists and researchers.

We also introduced a Members Meeting at the event to encourage open dialogue between members and the ISPOR Board. During the meeting, ISPOR CEO and Executive Director, Nancy Berg, and I presented the ISPOR Strategic Plan and members were invited to discuss the future of the Society.

## 5th Latin America Conference, Santiago, Chile

Earlier this fall, we held the 5th Latin American Conference in Santiago, Chile. Health systems in Latin America continue to evolve making this a dynamic region of the world with respect to health economics and outcomes research. The meeting was extremely well received with nearly 1,000 participants. I attended this event along with other Board members including Lou Garrison, Adrian Towse, Zeba Khan, Manuel Espinoza and ISPOR Executive Director and CEO, Nancy Berg. The next ISPOR Latin America event is planned for Brazil in 2017.

## 7th Asia-Pacific Conference, Singapore

Abstracts are now being accepted for ISPOR's upcoming Asia-Pacific Conference from 3-6 September 2016 at the Suntec Convention Center in Singapore. Plenary sessions include cutting-edge topics such as health technology assessment (HTA), big data, and universal health care. In addition, there will be more than 600 presentations in the form of workshops, issue panels, podium presentations, and posters.

## Collaboration

Collaboration is a major theme for my year as President, as well as a major strategic focus for ISPOR. I am happy to report that we have initiated or participated in a number of meetings with related societies and organizations.

- This fall Nancy Berg, ISPOR members Scott Ramsey, Gary Lyman, and I met with leaders and representatives of the American Society of Clinical Oncology to discuss ISPOR's expertise in health economics and outcomes research.
- In addition, ISPOR members and staff have been meeting with the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy and the National Pharmaceutical Council to discuss areas of mutual interest including enhancing the existing CER Collaborative.
- ISPOR has hosted a number of meetings with health authorities in Europe, Asia, Latin America, and North America as well as with HTA and other decision-making bodies worldwide.
- We have held discussions with a number of Societies and associations (e.g., WHO, trade associations and patient groups) to present ISPOR as a resource for understanding and use of scientific research methods in evaluating health care decisions.
- Finally, the ISPOR Board has reviewed a "Collaborative Framework" to help guide the Society in responding to the many potential relationships and to ensure that staff and volunteer resources are dedicated to the most strategic collaborations.

## Member Engagement

With over 80 Regional Chapters and about 9,000 Chapter members, we plan to further align our Regional Chapters, Networks and Consortia with the new Vision, Mission, Strategic Pillars and Goals. This fall, Regional Chapter leaders will be asked to participate in a survey to help the ISPOR Board and staff better understand Chapter operations, membership, and desired support from the greater ISPOR community to ensure success.

In addition, we will be creating a membership group to provide resources and knowledge sharing for those new to the profession. Student members moving into their first professional jobs will be encouraged to join ISPOR at an affordable rate.

Nominations for the ISPOR Board are open through January 1, 2016. I encourage you to nominate a colleague or yourself. Board openings include President-Elect and four Director Positions. Participating on the Board enables ISPOR members to lend their leadership, expertise, and vision to the discipline of health economics and outcomes research.

The above are just a few of the many varied activities of ISPOR. It is truly an exciting time to be a member of this respected international organization of scientists and researchers. My best wishes to all ISPOR members for a productive and healthy 2016. ■

## 2016-2017 Board of Directors :: CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The ISPOR Nominations Committee is pleased to announce the call for nominees to serve on the 2016-2017 Board of Directors.

ISPOR is a member-driven organization that relies on the participation of its members to fulfill the organization's mission. Participating as a Board member enables you to lend your leadership, expertise, and vision to the discipline of health economics and outcomes research.

**Nominations Process:**

As an ISPOR member, you are encouraged to submit a nomination for a colleague or yourself to serve on the Board.

- Please email your recommendation, along with curriculum vitae, to: [nominations@ispor.org](mailto:nominations@ispor.org)
- Self-nominations are encouraged
- Nominations close January 1, 2016

*Members are encouraged to cast their vote from March 1 through May 1, 2016.*

The new Board will be formally announced at the ISPOR 21st International Meeting in Washington, DC (May 21-25, 2016).

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NOMINATIONS

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