

## The ISPOR Award for Excellence in Methodology in Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research – Q & A with 2015 Recipient Lisa Prosser, PhD

The ISPOR Awards Program is designed to foster and recognize excellence and outstanding technical achievement in pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research.

We caught up with ISPOR Award for Excellence in Methodology in Pharmacoeconomics and Health Outcomes Research 2015 recipient Lisa Prosser, PhD, Associate Professor and Interim Director, Child Health Evaluation and Research (CHEAR) Unit, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, on how this ISPOR award reflects her achievements in her field.

*Additional information:*

To read Dr. Prosser's award-winning paper, go to: [http://www.ispor.org/awards/methodology\\_.asp](http://www.ispor.org/awards/methodology_.asp)

To learn more about this award, other ISPOR Scientific Awards, and details on how to submit nominations of qualified candidates for these awards, go to: [http://www.ispor.org/awards/index\\_.asp](http://www.ispor.org/awards/index_.asp).

The deadline to receive nominations for this award and other 2016 ISPOR Scientific Achievement Awards is **Monday, February 15, 2016.**

**Value & Outcomes Spotlight:** You were recently awarded the ISPOR Award for Excellence in Application of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. Briefly describe the research you conducted that merited recognition.



**Lisa Prosser:** Research that recognizes the financial and quality of life effects of illness on caregivers and other family members has been gaining attention in many countries. Our research tests a method for quantifying these effects and potentially allows analysts to incorporate these spillover effects into cost-effectiveness analyses. Accounting for these family spillover effects would represent a more accurate measure of the health impacts associated with an illness.

**VOS:** When you were notified you were receiving the award, with whom did you first share the news? A mentor, close friend, spouse, etc.?

**Prosser:** I was eating dinner with my family and shared it with them first! Then I immediately shared the news with my long-time collaborator and principal investigator on the study, Eve Wittenberg.

**VOS:** What inspired you to be active in your current areas of interest?

**Prosser:** Almost 15 years ago, I was conducting a time trade-off study to measure health utilities for meningitis and other potential complications of pneumococcal infection in children. The respondent sample included parents as proxies. Many of the parent respondents expressed difficulty in answering the time trade-off questions without being able to consider the effects of the child's illness on their own quality of life as well as on other family members. I became very interested in trying to capture these QOL spillover effects on family members of ill children.

**VOS:** Any advice for those starting out with an interest in these fields?

**Prosser:** The importance of using a mixed methods approach cannot be underestimated. Qualitative data can both provide important context to the quantitative results and can also help to identify new research questions. One of the areas we learned about through our qualitative interviews were the positive spillover effects that some family members experienced, and this is clearly another area that requires more research. I'd also emphasize persistence when seeking funding for this area of research. This study was submitted to several potential funders before it was ultimately funded by the National Institute for Nursing Research. ■