## Collaboration to Advance the Science: ISPOR's Institutional Council

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t has been more than 25 years since I found my calling as a "droupie" or data groupie. What followed were positions where I utilized surveys, claims, electronic medical records, and other data to generate real-world evidence for the definition and optimization of illness burden, treatment patterns, healthcare outcomes, and costs following specific medical and pharmaceutical interventions. ISPOR has provided me with numerous learning and career opportunities through short courses, webinars, conference sessions, and networking. For the past 6 years I have had the privilege to give back, serving as a member of the ISPOR Institutional Council and for the last year, as Council Chair.

### THE INSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL

The Council today comprises representatives from more than 30 biopharmaceutical, medical device, and service provider companies. Our mission remains to support ISPOR proactively as a scientific and educational society. This is accomplished by undertaking specific projects which promote the development of the field of health economics and outcomes research (HEOR) globally, the informed application and communication of HEOR results in healthcare decision making, and the enhancement of the quality of research by institutional members. In addition, the Council acts as an advisory body to the ISPOR board, providing a forward-looking perspective.

During this past year, we have had meetings of the full Council with invited speakers in Baltimore and Barcelona coinciding with the ISPOR 2018 and ISPOR Europe 2018 conferences, as well as regular teleconferences to provide ongoing activity updates and discuss new business. In addition, the Annual Strategic Meeting convened in August with our gold and platinum members to kick off new Council initiatives and identify topics and trends important to the future of both HEOR and ISPOR for further investigation.

### **DEFINING THE FIELD OF HEOR**

The Council has led an ongoing effort in partnership with the ISPOR Faculty Advisor Council to develop and advance the ISPOR HEOR Competencies Framework™ (https://www.ispor.org/strategic-initiatives/more/heor-competencies-framework) and HEOR competencies inventory.™ The inventory contains 41 competencies mapped to 10 key competency domains and is currently targeted towards new graduates and young professionals.

### 10 Competency Domains

- Business Management
- Career Development
- Communication and Influence
- Drug Development
- Economic Methods
- Health-System and Payer Expertise
- HEOR Methods
- Observational Methods
- Patient-reported Outcomes and Patient Preference Methods
- · Statistics and Modeling Methods



The results of an ISPOR member survey demonstrating both the importance and relevance of each competency to specific HEOR job types were presented in Barcelona at a round table discussion. The next phase of this initiative entails defining each competency in greater detail including key topics to be understood and mastered; identifying whether the competency is technical or strategic and how expertise is acquired; define how ISPOR and others can help members develop these competencies whether inside or outside the classroom; and determine which competencies are most critical to different job types.

# FURTHERING THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEOR PROFESSIONALS

The Institutional Council is also collaborating with the Health Technology Assessment Council on updating the Global Health Systems Roadmap and developing Health System courses for all major global markets. Together this group is leading curriculum development for a new payer short course to be offered as a standalone course and as part of the global Health Systems courses at all future ISPOR international and regional conferences. At our meeting in Barcelona, Shelby Reed, past president of ISPOR, provided an overview of ISPOR's Women in HEOR initiative and its activities since the inaugural meeting in Glasgow. While the Competencies Inventory and Payer Short Course address some of the needs identified, additional common areas of interest and possible collaborations such as webinars, networking opportunities, and mentoring programs are elements the Council will continue to explore in the future.

### ISPOR CENTRAL

### **INCREASING ISPOR'S GLOBAL PRESENCE**

During our Strategic Meeting with platinum and gold members of the Council, much of the discussion centered on where and how ISPOR as an organization could take the lead to increase HEOR awareness among our organizations' internal and external stakeholders and help prepare for the future by coalescing the problems, approaches, and appropriate tools of HEOR. By discussing important issues with ISPOR's top leadership and discussion makers, the Council is providing ideals and support to continue to advance the understanding and the use of HEOR to improve healthcare decisions.

### **2019 AND BEYOND**

As 2018 and my tenure as Institutional Council Chair comes to a close, I find that rather than reflect on the many factors which changed the trajectories of both my personal and professional life this past year, I prefer to look forward to the opportunities and challenges ahead. These include learning what my new adoptive home state has to offer, collaborating with coworkers in my new role leading real-world evidence strategy, and further aiding ISPOR and the Institutional Council in increasing their reach to the global HEOR community and key stakeholders.

#### Additional Information

For more information on the ISPOR Institutional Council, go to https://www.ispor.org/member-groups/councils-roundtables/ispor-institutional-council

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