# ISPOR STUDENT Newsletter

### OCTOBER 2024 | FALL ISSUE

New Student Network Committees ISPOR Annual 2024 Recap

### A PUBLICATION OF THE ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK

Helpful student information Student Network awards & chapter updates

#### OCTOBER 2024 | FALL ISSUE

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#### CONTRIBUTORS



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SPECIAL THANKS



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**MARYAM PATHAN** West Virginia University **United States** 



ISPOR Student Network Advisor, **United States** 



**ROBERT SELBY, MBA** 

Director, Global Member Engagement **ISPOR, United States** 

**BMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE NEWSLETTER!** SU To submit an article for the next issue of our student newsletter, please contact the ISPOR Student Network at studentnetwork@ispor.org



## LETTER FROM THE STUDENT NETWORK CHAIR

Dear Fellow ISPOR Colleagues,

I am so honored and excited to serve as Chair for the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Student Network for the 2024-2025 term. I am privileged to work alongside the ISPOR Student Network Committee Co-Chairs, Members, and Regional Leads to bring educational initiatives and networking opportunities to students around the world interested in health economics and outcomes research. Our focus for this term is to engage with ISPOR chapters around the world and promote collaboration within the student network.

Our strategic goals for this term fall into the three main categories of student engagement, personal & professional development, and globalization. At a high level, we hope to engage student chapters around the world in cross-chapter collaborations and form connections with the broader ISPOR organizations. In personal & professional development, we hope our conference events, webinars, panel discussions, and Student Network newsletter, among other initiatives, will provide a platform for students to engage with each other and network with leaders in our field. And lastly, we hope to promote globalization among the student network to represent perspectives around the world and ensure diversity, equity, inclusion, and a sense of belonging in our events and initiatives.

Each of the four Student Network committees, along with the three regional leads, are incorporating these goals in their plans for the term. The Education Committee, in addition to the student-organized webinar highlighting a hot topic in HEOR, has started organizing 'Mentoring Sessions,' to provide students an avenue to have informal conversations with HEOR leaders on relevant topics and seek career advice. The Publications Committee has incorporated additional sections in the newsletter to highlight student research and chapter events, with the goal of promoting idea sharing and creating opportunities for networking within the student network. The Survey and Evaluation Committee is administering a survey aimed at understanding what students around the world would benefit most from our student-organized events. And lastly, the Event Planning Committee is organizing multiple opportunities for in-person engagement among the student network at the upcoming ISPOR Europe Conference.

## LETTER FROM THE STUDENT NETWORK CHAIR

Thank you to the student network members and leaders, it is my privilege to work with all of you and I am so excited for all the initiatives to come! As we move forward together, please do not hesitate to reach out with ideas or opportunities for engagement.



KANYA K. SHAH, PHARM.D., MS, MBA (SHE/HER)

ISPOR - Student Network Chair, ISPOR University of Illinois Chicago, College of Pharmacy United States OCTOBER 2024 | FALL ISSUE

# MEET THE NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS





## **EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**CO-CHAIR** 

#### **CO-CHAIR**



#### **ILKE AKPINAR**

4th Year PhD Candidate Health Services and Policy Research University of Alberta Canada



#### KEYURI ADHIKARI

**4th Year PhD Student** Health Services and Outcomes Research West Virginia University USA

#### JUNAID KP

Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh India



#### OLAJUMOKE OLATEJU 4th Year PhD Student

Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy University of Houston USA

#### **KER RO TOH**

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) UK

#### KAMALJEET

**4th Year PharmD Student** ISF College of Pharmacy India



#### **DEEKSHA GUPTA**

5th Year PhD Student Arnold School of Public Health, University of South Carolina USA



#### **ISHFAQ TEALI**

2nd Year, Postdoctoral Fellow University of Utah USA

#### YU-HUA FU

2nd Year PhD Student Pharmaceutical Health Services Research University of Maryland USA



#### **OMKAR GHODKE**

**3rd Year PhD Student** Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Mississippi USA



#### **KWAME ADJEI**

**5th Year PhD Candidate** Health Outcomes Research and Pharmacoeconomics Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University USA

## **EVENT PLANNING COMMITTEE**

#### **CO-CHAIR**



#### **JORDAN SKIERA**

4th Year PharmD/MSL Student Samford University McWhorter School of Pharmacy USA



#### SAFALTA KHADKA

**4th Year PhD Student** Pharmaceutical Systems and Policy West Virginia University USA



#### HELENE DECONINCK

University of Aberdeen (Scotland) Germany

## CO-CHAIR





#### IVY, NGA-WENG LEONG

**2nd Year PhD Student** Pharmaceutical Sciences University of Mississippi USA

#### IBRAHIM ALFAYOUMI

**1st Year PhD Student** Auburn University USA

#### **DAN WEI**

Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai USA



#### **NIAMH BOYLE**

**2nd Year MS Student** Applied Health Economics University of South Wales UK



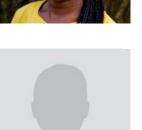


#### KRISTEN GREGORY

**4th Year PhD Student** Health and Pharmaceutical Outcomes University of Arizona USA

#### **MUHAMMED RASHID**

**1st Year Post-Doctoral Fellow** Health Economics and Outcome Research University of Utah USA



#### **NETO COULIBALY**

**4th Year PhD Student** Health Services Research Brown University USA

#### **MONIKA SZELIGA**

Thomas Jefferson University USA



## **PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE**

#### **CO-CHAIR**



#### **ANU BOMPELLI**

PhD Candidate Social and Administrative Pharmacy (SAPh) University of Minnesota USA

#### **MOUNA** DARDOURI

**3rd Year PhD Student** Pharmaceutical Outcomes Research University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus USA

#### **GODWIN OKOYE**

2nd Year PhD Student Health Outcomes Research The University of Texas at Austin USA

#### ΤΑΝΚΑ ΡΟJΗΑ

Postgraduate student Health Economics, Management and Policy The University of Newcastle Australia





#### **EUGENE KALLSON**

Health Economist University of Ghana - School of Public Health Ghana



#### **HARSIMRAN** KAUR

4th Year PhD Candidate Manipal Academy of Higher Education India

#### CO-CHAIR



#### **CHINORA LAURA EZEKWE** 2nd Year MPH Student

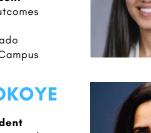
Health Policy and Health Economics University of Tsukuba Japan

#### **DANIEL UMORU**

2nd Year PhD Student Pharmaceutical Economics and Policy Chapman University USA

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4th Year PhD Student Pharmaceutical Modeling Uppsala University Sweden





#### **KINGSLEY ESSEL** ARTHUR

Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology Ghana

#### MARYAM **PATHAN**

**3rd Year PhD Student** Health Services and Outcomes Research West Virginia University USA

#### **BILQEES FATIMA**

4th Year PhD Candidate Pharmaceutical Health **Outcomes & Policy** University of Houston USA

## **SURVEY AND EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

#### **CO-CHAIR**



#### KENECHUKWU BEN-UMEH

**4th Year PhD Student** Pharmacotherapy Outcomes Research and Health Policy University of Utah USA

#### **JILLUR RAHIM**

**5th Year PhD Student** Health Services Research University of Alabama at Birmingham USA

## CO-CHAIR



#### LANE CARRANDI

2nd Year PhD Student Health Economics and Implementation Science Monash University Australia

#### **RAVI UPADHYAY**

University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences USA



#### YARE BELETE BELAY

Monash University Australia



#### EMEKA ELVIS DURU

University of Utah USA



#### **RAMEZ RIZK**

University of Rhode Island USA



#### **JULIANNE MERCER**

University of Texas at Austin USA



#### **JAVERIA KHALID**

**4th Year PhD Student** Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy, University of Houston USA



#### TANYARADZWA MAMBO

Mercer University USA

## **REGIONAL LEADS**



#### **GAUTAM SAHU**

**4th Year PhD Student** National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) Mohali, Punjab India



#### **KHALED ALAMRI**

**4th Year PhD Candidate** Pharmaceutical Sciences, Health Outcomes Research University of Cincinnati USA



#### NATALIA SAADE

Pontificia Universidad Javeriana Colombia

## THANK YOU TO THE 2023-2024 COMMITTEE

#### **Education Committee**

#### Chairs:

Ilke Akpinar, University of Alberta, Canada Hao Pham, University of Groningen, Netherlands

#### Members:

Ruihan Wan, University of Southern California, USA Menna ElSherbiny, Kings College London, University of London, UK Hao-Yuan Yang, University of California, San Francisco, USA Dhanraj Patil, Dr. D.Y. Patil Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, India Gautam Sahu, NIPER Mohali, India Priyanka Ghule, University of Utah, USA Damon Mohebbi, TH KOELN - University of Applied Sciences, Germany Olajumoke Olateju, University of Houston, USA

#### **Event Planning Committee**

#### Chairs:

Kanya Shah, University of Illinois Chicago, USA Piaopiao Li, University of Florida, USA

#### Members:

Shayma Mohammed Selim, Oueensland University of Technology, Australia Meriem Siar, University of Algiers, Algeria Vikas Kumar Pandey, Maharishi Markandeshwar Deemed to be University, India Jordan Skiera, Samford University, USA Jude Ogbonna, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, Nigeria Dominique Seo, University of Maryland Baltimore, USA Wai Chee Kuan, Monash University Malaysia, Malaysia

#### **Publications Committee**

#### Chairs:

Anu Bompelli, University of Minnesota, USA Chigozie Ogwara, Georgia Southern University, USA

#### Members:

Abbas Lyes, University of Algiers, Algeria Shashikanth Kharat, Dr. D.Y. Patil Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, India Heena Khan, Chitkara University, India Brahim Bouyahyaoui, Mohammed V University of Rabat, Morocco Ashwini Thirugnanam, Massachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Science, USA Jodi-Ann Haynes, University of Maryland Baltimore, USA Young Shin, University of Cincinnati, USA Padam Dahal, CQUniversity Australia, Australia

## THANK YOU TO THE 2023-2024 COMMITTEE

#### **Survey and Evaluation Committee**

#### Chairs:

Debra Winberg, Tulane University, USA Kenechukwu Ben-Umeh, University of Utah, USA

#### Members:

Prachi Prajapati, University of Mississippi, USA Keyuri Adhikari, West Virginia University, USA Rachel Clark, University of North Texas System Health Science Center, USA Zahraddeen Abubakar, Bayero University Kano, Nigeria Chinyere Okoh, University of Texas at Austin, USA Martin Vu, University of Melbourne, Australia Gloria Odonkor, University of Texas at Austin, USA Keerthana Iyer, Krupanidhi College of Pharmacy, India Rishabh Tathed, Bharati Vidyapeeth University, India

#### **Regional Leads**

#### Europe, Middle East, Africa (EMEA)

lyke Ebuka Onuorah, University of Nigeria Nsukka, Nigeria

#### **Asia Pacific**

Muhammed Rashid, Manipal Academy of Higher Education, India

#### Latin America

Nelson Alvis-Zakzuk, University of São Paulo, Brazil

# **ISPOR 2024**

## Atlanta, Georgia







## ISPOR 2024 ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

### Presenters



Lisa Xiong University of Toronto



Zhen Zeng University of Houston

Lisa Xiong is a PhD Candidate in Clinical Pharmacology at the University of Toronto and Sunnybrook Research Institute in Canada. Lisa has a background in public health and has a keen interest in cardiometabolic risk factors and their implications for healthy aging and dementia prevention. Her current research project explores the complexities of self-rated health among middle-aged and elderly adults in the UK Biobank, a large-scale observational study based in the United Kingdom. This research project leverages survey data and administrative health records to identify sociodemographic and health-related factors that predict self-rated health. These findings shed light on key predictors of poor self-perceived health status including low socioeconomic status, being from an ethnic minority, and presence of cardiometabolic comorbidities. This research underscores the need to target public health strategies towards at-risk populations.

Zhen Zeng, together with a skilled team from the University of Houston College of Pharmacy and the University of Arkansas, has advanced the understanding of personalized care in oncology through a pivotal costeffectiveness study. The research focuses on the treatment of advanced nonsquamous non-small cell lung cancer, comparing Nivolumab, an innovative immunotherapy, with the traditional chemotherapy agent Docetaxel, while incorporating the implications of PD-L1 testing in the United States healthcare setting.

This study, employed a Markov model based on Checkmate-057 trial data, showing that Nivolumab is cost-effective, with an ICER of \$55,322 per QALY compared to Docetaxel. This value is well below the accepted willingness-to-pay threshold of \$150,000 per QALY. Further, stratification by PD-L1 expression levels demonstrated ICERs of \$86,192 per QALY and \$95,426 per QALY for the 1% and 10% PD-L1 test-based models, respectively. These findings provide compelling evidence for the economic viability of Nivolumab, supporting its adoption in targeted treatment strategies based on PD-L1 expression.



## ISPOR 2024 ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

## Presenters



Christopher Cassara University of Georgia

My name is Christopher Cassara. I am transitioning into my fourth year of pharmacy school at the University of Georgia College of Pharmacy. My aspirations are to pursue a postdoctoral fellowship specializing in medical affairs or regulatory affairs. I am also open to pursuing a post-doctoral residency in either mental health, infectious disease or managed care. My inspiration to pursue pharmacy came from seeing how the pharmacists took care of my grandparents before they passed on. While I was young, I realized that with the proper knowledge and expertise taught through pharmacy, I could take care and provide for the people who are most important to me as well as anyone else who needed my help. It is an honor to be included at ISPOR 2024. My poster evaluates the use and discontinuation rates of long-acting injectable antipsychotics (LAI) in older adults (i.e. 65 years and older). In addition, my research also assessed differences in race, ethnicity, and gender in older adults as well. These measures assessed the differences between first-generation and secondgeneration LAI use and their discontinuation rates in patients 65 years and older.

#### Xiangzhong Xue

Auburn University Harrison College of Pharmacy

Cost-Effectiveness of Cemiplimab Plus Chemotherapy Versus Pembrolizumab Plus Chemotherapy As the First-Line Treatment for Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer: A Preliminary Study

#### Joana Reis-Pardal

Department of Community Medicine, Information and Health Decision Sciences (MEDCIDS), Faculty of Medicine, University of Porto

Assessing the Effect of Risk of Bias Assessments in Randomized Controlled Trials of Pharmacological Interventions with Different Types of Outcomes and Comparators – a Bayesian Meta-Epidemiological Study



## ISPOR 2024 ANNUAL PANEL DISCUSSION AND ROUNDTABLE

#### UNPACKING THE INFLATION REDUCTION ACT (IRA): STATUS AND IMPLICATIONS BEYOND DRUG PRICING

PANELISTS



Joey Mattingly Professor, University of Utah College of Pharmacy [advisor to the Center of Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)]



Christoph Glaetzer Chief Global Value & Access Officer, Johnson & Johnson



Peter Neumann Director, Center for the Evaluation of Value & Risk in Health at the Institute Clinical Research & Health Policy Studies Professor, Tufts University School of Medicine



Julie Patterson Senior Director of Research, National Pharmaceutical Counsel



The panelists brought diverse perspectives from academia, industry, and research, making the discussion highly engaging and informative. Students had the opportunity to interact directly with experts like Christoph Glaetzer, Peter Neumann, Joey Mattingly, and Julie Patterson gaining valuable insights into how policies like the IRA shape the future of healthcare and health economics research.

ISPOR fosters an environment where students can engage with thought leaders, ask important questions, and explore how evolving healthcare policies impact their future careers. The roundtable allowed students to dive deeper into how the IRA may influence health economics and outcomes research (HEOR) and offered practical advice for navigating this complex and dynamic landscape. This experience emphasized ISPOR's unique role in connecting students with leading professionals and creating opportunities for growth, collaboration, and leadership. It was a perfect example of how ISPOR continues to empower its members by offering platforms to explore critical issues and prepare for the challenges and opportunities in health policy.





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# STUDENT NETWORK WEBINAR

Missed a webinar? Catch it on demand!





STUDENT NETWORK NEWSLETTER



### Revolutionizing Systematic Reviews: Harnessing the Power of Al

Open to all ISPOR Members and Non-members

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- Understand the current landscape, role and impact of Al in systematic reviews
- Evaluate state-of-the-art AI platforms for systematic reviews
- Implement AI tools to enhance efficiency, including automating tasks like literature screening and data extraction, comparing different AI tools, and strategizing to expedite the review process.





James Thomas, PhD Professor, Social Research Institute, University College London, UK



Piet Hanegraaf Founder and CEO of <u>PITTS.AI</u>, Utrechtseweg 60, Zeist, The Netherlands



Artur Nowak Co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Evidence Prime, Canada

On May 20th, 2024, the ISPOR Student Network Education Committee hosted a webinar focused on leveraging the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in systematic reviews. Hao Pham, MSc (University Medical Center Groningen, Groningen, Netherlands) moderated the discussion with James Thomas, PhD (University College London), Piet Hanegraaf, BSc (Pitts.ai), and Artur Nowak, MSc (Evidence Prime).





James Thomas, PhD, is a professor of social research and policy at University College London. James discussed the limitations of conventional evidence synthesis methods for systematic reviews and how the use of AI and Machine Learning (ML) could address these issues. James empathized that these technologies have the potential to reduce time and costs of conducting a systematic review, as well as improve their efficiency while maintaining reliability. These technologies contribute towards this process in many ways, such as through unsupervised ML approaches that enable automatic clustering of records, study classification tools, reducing manual efforts by identifying randomized controlled trials, and ML models assessing the records for study eligibility, automatically including relevant records in the review. However, James highlighted that there is a limited adoption of these technologies in systematic review due to lack of appropriate guidelines for their use in evidence generation.

Piet Hanegraaf, BSc, is the founder and Chief Executive Officer of Pitts.ai, Zeist, Netherlands, illustrated the use of large language models (LLMs), such as the generative pre-trained transformer (GPT), and automated search within the Pitts.ai web application platform to intensify the efficiency of literature search and data extraction for systematic reviews. Piet highlighted that this platform helps maintain up to date "living" systematic reviews. Piet explained that the platform offers features for splitting the datasets into training and validation subsets to assess generalizability. Piet mentioned future optimizations of LLMs for use in systematic reviews such as fine-tuning foundation models for specific tasks and converting PDFs to machine-readable text, to further improve the efficiency of LLMs in handling literature reviews.

Artur Nowak, MSc, is the co-founder and Chief Technology Officer of Evidence Prime in Hamilton, ON, Canada. Artur discussed the role of AI in accelerating the systematic review process without replacing human expertise and judgment. Artur explained that AI tools can be integrated into systematic review tools, while enabling human adjustments made rather than permitting AI to conduct an independent review. In order to demonstrate this, Artur gave the example of Laser AI which is a tool that supports systematic reviews. Artur demonstrated how it uses a computer vision model to detect the structure of the tables within a scientific paper and then allows the user to specify how the table from the paper was mapped for data extraction.

The webinar concluded with a Q&A session and a discussion on the potential of LLMs in advancing the evidence generation process as well as the current gap in reliable validation of AI tools used in systematic reviews.



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## **UPCOMING WEBINAR**



### Career Planning: Advice for Students and Recent Graduates

Open to all ISPOR Members and Non-members

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

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- Learn strategies for building a successful HEOR career across various sectors.
- Understand key skills employers seek in resumes, interviews, and internships.
- Explore emerging trends in HEOR, including AI and realworld evidence.

Nov 7, 2024 Live 09:00 AM ET Webinar Join the Meeting Here

Student Network





Askal Ayalew Ali Associate Professor, Florida A & M University



Zoe Healey Partner, Dot I/O Health



Sanket Shah Director, Global Value & HEOR Neuroscience, Jazz Pharmaceuticals

This webinar features a panel discussion with speakers from academia, consulting research organizations, and the pharmaceutical industry. The speakers will share their career journeys and offer valuable advice. Following the panel discussion, there will be a Q&A session where attendees can ask about career development, industry trends, and job opportunities in Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR).

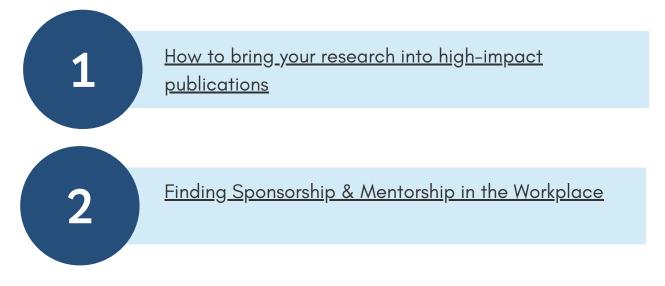
The session is designed to provide a comprehensive view of various career paths, challenges, and opportunities within the HEOR field, making it especially relevant to graduate students and recent graduates seeking insights into their future careers.





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Dr. Aeja Jackson, from the ISPOR Student Network Publication Committee, interviewed Dr. Jeff Round, Chief Scientific Officer at the Institute of Health Economics and Professor of Health Economics at the University of Alberta. They discussed best practices for publishing research. Dr. Round emphasized the importance of choosing the right journal for one's audience, warning against predatory journals that lack proper peer review. He highlighted the significance of authorship credit and the criteria set by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors. When balancing scientific rigor and readability, he suggested prioritizing clarity to effectively convey complex ideas. Dr. Round critiqued the focus on journal impact factors, arguing that relevance to the audience should take precedence. He believed that paper quality, rather than author experience, was key to acceptance in high-impact journals. He also advised addressing reviewer comments that might request additional analyses outside the manuscript's scope.

Throughout this insightful discussion about the nuances of publishing, several key strategies emerged that resonated with students. First, it is crucial to know one's audience and tailor research to appropriate journals based on focus and desired impact. When faced with reviewer requests misaligned with a paper's aims, it is advisable to respectfully push back with clear reasoning, as most editors appreciate authors who defend their work. It is important not to fixate solely on high-impact journals; many reputable journals could serve as platforms for quality research that contribute significantly to an academic reputation.

Hiring managers often prioritize skills and problem-solving abilities demonstrated through research over the prestige of the journals in which the work appeared. Dr. Round suggested using abstracts as springboards for full papers, noting that various journals catered to diverse types of research beyond the most prestigious ones. While numerous writing resources existed, personal strategies like outlining papers and writing topic sentences could help structure arguments. Seeking mentorship within departments or communities provide invaluable insights and guidance throughout the publishing process. Lastly, embracing feedback from peers or mentors could enhance both the quality of work and writing skills over time. Ultimately, building a robust body of work and establishing a supportive network could significantly ease the publication journey for students.



Leaders from ISPOR's New Professional Steering Committee, Mark Bounthavong and Ka Keat Lim discussed the importance of finding a mentor and sponsor in the workplace. They emphasized, finding a mentor or sponsor is essential for career development. Dr. Mark shared that formal mentorship programs can be particularly beneficial, even when the mentor isn't in the same field. Such programs offer accountability and direction toward your goals, especially for those with short- or medium-term objectives.

Maintaining a mentor-sponsor relationship requires effort from both parties and varies widely. Some relationships transition from a mentor-mentee dynamic to friendships, while others become more sponsor-protégé in nature. For instance, Dr. Mark noted a mentee whose career has progressed to the point where they now connect more as friends. He values these relationships and emphasizes the importance of small gestures—like meeting for coffee or staying connected through social media—to nurture long-term connections.

Dr. Mark distinguishes between mentors and sponsors, noting that while both roles overlap, sponsorship entails a more active commitment to helping the protégé secure opportunities. For example, he transitioned from mentoring a student interested in HR to sponsoring them by introducing them to networks and providing financial support for career-building experiences. Sponsorship offers the leverage of critical introductions, whereas mentoring focuses primarily on guidance and support. He finds personal investment in their success to be particularly rewarding. To keep these relationships dynamic, occasional face-to-face meetings, emails, and social media interactions are crucial. Understanding the right balance based on individual personalities and circumstances also plays a key role. For further insights into mentorship and sponsorship distinctions, Janice Omadeke's article in the Harvard Business Review is a valuable resource, particularly for young professionals and students.

Additionally, considering mentors outside your immediate field can be enriching; for example, a mentor in finance or soft skills may provide valuable perspectives that enhance your career development. Expanding your mentorship network in this way can be immensely rewarding, as illustrated by a colleague with multiple mentors, each offering unique guidance. In conclusion, cultivating diverse mentorship and sponsorship relationships can significantly boost both personal and professional growth, providing essential support, insights, and connections that may otherwise remain out of reach.





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## HELPFUL STUDENT INFORMATION







## ISPOR COMMUNITIES

### JOIN TODAY!



## **CONNECT WITH:**

- Special Interest Groups
- Committees
- Student Network Leadership: email studentnetwork@ispor.org if you're not a student leader but would like to be involved!



## **REASONS TO JOIN**

- Network and collaborate with HEOR colleagues globally
- Stay up-to-date on events and announcements
- Share ideas on discussion boards
- Volunteer opportunities



## **HEOR Careers**

ISPOR Career Center—The Job Site for HEOR Professionals



- Upload your resume to be searchable by recruiters
- Set up job alerts

### Click to set up now!

## FELLOWSHIPS & INTERNSHIPS

Learn about HEOR organizations that provide employment opportunities for students!

Access directory here!

### **PhRMA Foundation initiatives**

- 1. PhRMA Foundation offers <u>predoctoral</u> and <u>postdoctoral</u> fellowships in value assessment and health outcomes research. The deadline to apply is Nov 15th.
- 2. The PhRMA Foundation (PhF) is partnering with ISPOR's journal Value in Health (ViH) on a competition that will award up to 5 trainees for outstanding papers addressing the impact of artificial intelligence in health economics and outcomes research. PhF will provide a \$5,000 Challenge Award to the first author of the winning papers, and ViH will publish the accepted manuscripts in its themed section. First authors must be graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, or clinical residents (e.g., interns, residents, or fellows in medicine or pharmacy.) All award money will be distributed to the first author only. PhF will also pay the open-access publishing fee for each winning paper. Submission deadline is December 1. Learn more.



## FEATURED ARTICLES

#### A ROADMAP FOR IMPROVING MEDICARE'S APPLICATION OF COVERAGE WITH EVIDENCE DEVELOPMENT

#### <u>DARIUS LAKDAWALLA ET. AL.,</u>

## EDITOR'S CHOICE



A journal of the professional society for health economics and outcomes research The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) policy on coverage with evidence development (CED) facilitates the introduction of promising items and services, contingent upon the generation of evidence that meets CMS's standards for a therapy to be considered "reasonable and necessary" for diagnosing or treating illness or injury, or for improving the function of a malformed body part. CED aims to achieve two primary goals: providing eligible Medicare beneficiaries with early access to promising therapies and generating evidence to fill existing research gaps. The success of these objectives relies heavily on CMS's execution capabilities and its collaboration with researchers, professional societies, and manufacturers. This article reviews the application of CED, identifies challenges in its implementation, and proposes strategies for a more efficient process and National Coverage Determination (NCD).

One major challenge is the lack of clear criteria for determining when an item or service qualifies for CED. The authors recommend providing greater clarity around the definition of "reasonable and necessary." This clarification would not only enhance patient health outcomes but also enable physicians, manufacturers, and patient groups to plan effectively for when an NCD may necessitate CED.



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Another challenge is the inadequacy of data collection mechanisms and the restriction of CED policies to select centers of excellence, which leads to a selective application of CED in specific patient populations. To address these coverage limitations, CMS should develop a framework for evidence-based exclusions of CED. CMS should promote uniform data collection by engaging various healthcare stakeholders in crafting relevant questions, identifying funding mechanisms to support data collection efforts, and reducing the burden on clinicians, all while ensuring beneficiary protection and preventing conflicts of interest.

A third challenge involves the lack of transparency in the timeline and procedures for reconsidering CED outcomes. This could be improved by establishing a collaborative protocol with manufacturers, patients, and researchers that outlines the procedures triggering CED outcomes (such as revocation or extension) prior to study implementation. A preliminary review date could be introduced.

Finally, CMS currently can only implement CED through its NCD process. Expanding this authority to local Medicare administrative contractors could facilitate coverage for lower-cost and lower-risk technologies, leading to more cost-effective data collection efforts. Such an expansion would be a significant advancement, aligning with the goals and priorities of the national program.

Addressing these challenges through a concerted effort by healthcare stakeholders is essential for enhancing the implementation of the CED program.



#### ADVANCING PATIENT HEALTH THROUGH REGULATORY-GRADE REAL-WORLD EVIDENCE GENERATION

#### JOSH GAGNE ET AL.

Real-World Evidence (RWE) plays an increasingly critical role in healthcare, particularly in assessing the safety and effectiveness of medical products. While Real-World Data (RWD) has been traditionally used to inform regulatory decisions, the process of generating robust, regulatory-grade RWE from these data sources comes with challenges such as ensuring data quality and addressing potential biases. Regulatory bodies worldwide, such as the FDA, EMA, and Japan's PMDA, are increasingly adopting RWE in their decisionmaking frameworks. Initiatives like the FDA's Sentinel program and EMA's DARWIN EU are part of this global effort to better incorporate RWE into healthcare decision-making. Below are essential considerations for generating reliable regulatory-grade RWE.



**1. Engage Regulators Early and Consistently:** The field of RWE is evolving rapidly, and stakeholders, including regulators, are at different stages of adoption. Early and ongoing engagement with health authorities can help align expectations, ensure transparency, and address challenges in RWE generation proactively. Collaborative efforts, like the FDA's involvement in the National Evaluation System for Health Technology (NEST), highlight the value of early regulatory involvement, which fosters mutual understanding and supports the integration of RWE into decision-making processes.

2. Design RWE Studies to Mimic Randomized Controlled Trials (RCTs): To generate credible RWE, observational studies should be designed to closely emulate RCTs. This includes defining clear eligibility criteria, treatment strategies, outcomes, and analysis plans. By structuring observational studies in this way, potential biases such as confounding and time-related effects can be minimized, allowing the RWE generated to be more reliable for regulatory purposes.



**3. Apply Rigorous Empirical Diagnostics.** Even with well-designed studies, RWD may not always be appropriate for answering certain regulatory questions. Empirical diagnostics, including checks for baseline balance between treatment groups and the use of negative control outcomes, can help assess the validity of the evidence generated. These diagnostics allow researchers to detect and account for potential residual confounding and other biases before estimating treatment effects.

**4. Assess the Robustness of the Evidence.** It is essential to perform prespecified analyses, such as sensitivity analyses across multiple data sources, to confirm the robustness and generalizability of the findings. Quantitative bias analyses can also be applied to evaluate the impact of confounding and misclassification biases. Such evaluations ensure that the evidence produced is consistent, accurate, and applicable to different patient populations.

Beyond regulatory uses, robust RWE is critical for health technology assessments, payer decisions, clinical guidelines, and public health policy. To fully realize the potential of RWE, stakeholders across the healthcare ecosystem must continue to refine methodologies and meet the evolving needs of regulatory agencies. By generating comprehensive, real-world insights, stakeholders can improve decision-making and ultimately enhance patient care. Overall, advancing the generation of regulatory-grade RWE requires collaboration with regulatory authorities, robust study designs that mimic RCTs, rigorous diagnostics, and thorough evaluations.





## SKILL UP: Navigating your Career Journey







## NAVIGATING CAREER TRANSITIONS IN A FAST-PACED HEALTH INDUSTRY

Navigating a career transition in the health industry can feel like train-jumping to get to your ultimate career destination. The landscape outside is constantly changing and every stop along the journey can offer new challenges and opportunities. Whether you're in academia, consulting, managed care, or on the manufacturer side, the health industry is known for its dynamic environment and can make a transition seem exciting or scary, depending on your current disposition. Whether you're considering a move into leadership, shifting to a new therapeutic area, or transitioning to a different role altogether, having a strategy is essential to prepare for those jumps.

#### 1. Assess Your Strengths and Goals

Before making any transition, take time to evaluate your current skill set and career aspirations. What are your core strengths? Which aspects of your current role do you enjoy most, and what motivates you? Understanding your personal and professional goals will help you identify the right direction for your next career move. For instance, if you're passionate about influencing policy, a transition into a leadership role or managed care might be a natural fit.

#### 2. Leverage Your Network

Your professional network can be one of your most valuable assets. Reach out to colleagues, mentors, and industry contacts who have experience in the area you're considering. They can provide valuable insights, share their experiences, and potentially connect you with new opportunities. Attending industry conferences, such as ISPOR events, can also help you expand your network and stay informed about emerging trends and opportunities.

#### 3. Gain New Skills and Knowledge

Transitioning to a new role often requires learning new skills or deepening your knowledge in a specific area. Consider pursuing relevant certifications, training programs, or advanced degrees to bolster your qualifications. For example, if you're shifting from HEOR to a leadership role, developing your management and communication skills will be crucial. Similarly, transitioning to a new therapeutic area might require additional clinical knowledge or experience.

#### 4. Be Open to Rotations or "Gig" Opportunities

A common comment/question I get from individuals looking to make a transition is "The job description asks for x- years of experience... How do I gain experience, without already having experience?!" Finding rotations or short-term projects can serve as a valuable bridge for these future career transitions. Exploring different departments and roles can help you gain a broader perspective across industry. For example, HEOR professionals in the industry may consider supporting pricing projects to experience more commercial and global roles, making it easier to transition between these areas in the future. What if a rotation or gig does not exist? This is an opportunity for you and your manager to get creative. Planning and timing here is crucial because temporarily leaving your current job for a rotation may leave a gap in your current department.



#### 5. Embrace Change and Stay Adaptable

Career transitions often come with uncertainty and risk, but they also present opportunities for growth and development. Embrace the changes that come with a new role, and be prepared to adapt to new environments and challenges. Cultivating a growth mindset will help you navigate the complexities and thrive. It will also help you impress your potential future hiring managers.

#### 6. Seek Coaching and Mentorship

Finally, consider seeking out coaching or mentorship to guide you through your transition. A coach can provide personalized strategies to help you achieve your career goals, while a mentor can offer insights based on their own experiences in the field. Both can be instrumental in helping you navigate a successful transition and achieve long-term success in your career.

Careful planning, strategic networking, and a commitment to continuous learning can all help ease the fast-paced train-jumps in your career. By taking a proactive approach and leveraging your available resources, you can successfully transition to new roles as the external landscape continues to shift.



#### Irwin Tran

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OCTOBER 2024 | FALL ISSUE

# STUDENT NETWORK AWARDS







## **OUTSTANDING STUDENT CHAPTER**



## **OUTSTANDING LMIC CHAPTER**



Dr. D. Y. Patil Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences and Research

INDIA

## **BEST STUDENT CHAPTER COLLABORATION AWARD**





# STUDENT CHAPTER UPDATES





















#### **Medical University of Sofia Student Chapter**









**ISF College of Pharmacy Student Chapter** 



UIC PHARMACY

TAYLOR WATTERSON PHARMD, PHD

#### Organized by ISPOR/ISPE UIC Student Chapters

When: April 25, 2024 4:00 PM CST Where: tinyurl.com/UIC-Watterson Passcode: hdey8zYA Register: tinyurLcom/UIC-Watterson-Registration

#### INTERESTED IN

Patient Outcomes Research Pursuing a Pharmaceutical Fellowship 🧹 Advancing Your Career

Advocating for Pharmacists

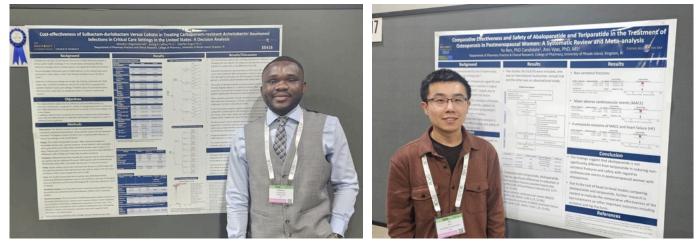
#### **University of Chicago Illinois Student Chapter**



Acharya Nagarjuna University **Student Chapter** 







University of Rhode Island Student Chapter



**Bombay College of Pharmacy Student Chapter** 



University Of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Student Chapter





University of Southern California Student Chapter







#### University of Maryland, Baltimore Student Chapter



#### Bharati Vidyapeeth Student Chapter



National Institute of Pharmaceutical education and Research Student Chapter



Maharishi Markandeshwar University Student Chapter



# ISPOR STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT







### OLAJUMOKE OLATEJU



Olajumoke Olateju is a doctoral candidate at the University of Houston, Texas, specializing in Pharmaceutical Health Outcomes and Policy. She holds a Bachelor of Pharmacy and a Masters' degree in Pharmaceutical Analysis from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria, where she was recognized as a graduate scholar. With extensive experience spanning clinical pharmacy practice, academia, the pharmaceutical industry, and global health initiatives, Olajumoke has worked with international donor organizations to implement impactful health programs. Her current research is focused on evaluating health and economic outcomes for cancer patients and improving pain management through the safe and effective use of controlled substances. She is also deeply committed to mentoring others and supporting them in their professional development.

#### **Research Interests**

My research primarily focuses on oncology and substance use disorders, where I examine patient clinical, economic, and humanistic outcomes. I investigate the real-world effectiveness and safety of novel therapies, while addressing disparities in access to these treatments among vulnerable populations. Additionally, I explore real-world adherence patterns and the implementation of healthcare policies to improve patient outcomes.

In previous projects, I evaluated the real-world utilization of immune checkpoint inhibitors in cancer treatment and their impact on patient survival. A key finding indicated that while most patients benefit from these therapies, Black and Hispanic populations are less likely to receive them in clinical settings, highlighting critical disparities in treatment access that need to be addressed. Currently, I am studying adherence to buprenorphine for opioid use disorder, focusing on the relationship between gaps in adherence during the first six months of treatment and the increased risk of adverse clinical events, such as opioid overdose and hospitalization. I also examine the economic burden of non-adherence on both payers and patients.

My research is inspired by personal experiences with cancer and my background in global health program implementation, which ignited my passion for addressing healthcare disparities. Through my work, I aim to influence healthcare policy and practice, ultimately improving outcomes for underserved and vulnerable populations.





#### Challenges

During my research, I often faced challenges in identifying subject matter experts to validate my research questions, findings, and interpretations. To overcome this, I leverage platforms like ISPOR to connect and collaborate with experts, enhancing the strength of my studies. Additionally, I encountered issues with data availability and completeness, which restricted my ability to explore certain research questions. To address this, I utilized robust statistical techniques, such as multiple imputation and sensitivity analyses, to manage missing data and maintain the validity of my findings. These approaches enabled me to draw meaningful conclusions despite dataset limitations.

#### Personal and Professional Growth

My research experience has profoundly shaped my personal and professional growth, particularly through collaboration and teamwork. Engaging with interdisciplinary teams has broadened my network, connecting me with experts in oncology, substance use disorders, health economics, and public health. These collaborations have enriched my perspective, enabling me to approach research questions from diverse angles and develop innovative solutions to complex health challenges. Working in team settings has enhanced my communication and leadership skills, fostering a collaborative environment where ideas thrive. I've come to appreciate the value of diverse viewpoints, which has improved my ability to synthesize information and draw meaningful conclusions that impact patient care.

Additionally, my research has deepened my passion for influencing health outcomes and improving patients' lives. Witnessing disparities in healthcare access and outcomes firsthand has fueled my commitment to addressing these issues through evidence-based research. This dedication drives me to advocate for vulnerable populations and work towards implementing healthcare policies that enhance patient outcomes. I look forward to continuing this journey, leveraging my experiences to drive positive change in the healthcare landscape.

#### Journey with the ISPOR Student Network

The best part of my journey with the ISPOR Student Network has been the opportunity to serve and contribute to its mission. Serving on the Education Committee has enhanced my leadership skills and improved my teamwork, as I collaborate with students from other universities to support ISPOR's mission. Personally, I've built lasting friendships within the ISPOR community that have been invaluable both personally and professionally. From a research perspective, being a student member has given me access to discounted conference rates and a travel award, enabling me to connect with professionals worldwide and learn new HEOR methods and insights. These experiences have greatly contributed to my personal and academic growth.



### LANE CARRANDI



Lane Carrandi is a health economist at the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Research Centre, Monash University. She is currently undertaking a PhD in Health Economics and Implementation Science at Monash University, focusing on developing innovative methodologies. Lane has extensive experience in health economics and outcomes research, with a particular focus on efficient study designs, including adaptive platform trials. She has authored multiple publications in highimpact journals, contributed to Australian Federal Commission reports, and earned oral presentation awards at numerous prestigious international conferences. A recognized leader in her

field, Lane recently organized and led an international workshop with implementation scientists, health economists, and PPIE researchers from Australia and the UK aimed at advancing methodologies at the intersection of health economics and implementation science. She has been awarded the American Australian Association Sustainable Health Care Funding Scholarship. Her research has influenced healthcare guidelines both in Australia and internationally.

#### **Research Interests**

Through my work in healthcare and industry organizations and academic institutions, I've identified that one of the main barriers to implementing new innovations in healthcare is resources—both money and time. My research aims to (1) explore the intersection of health economics and implementation science, and (2) develop a methodology to support the use of health economics in implementation. The primary output of my current research is an economic implementation toolkit. This toolkit will host a range of resources for healthcare funders, health service providers, and researchers in clinical practice to employ economic principles and advocate for implementation in a local context. I recently published a systematic review of economic evaluations performed alongside randomized implementation trials in *Implementation Science Communications*. Currently, I'm conducting a discrete choice experiment (DCE) with health economists, clinical trialists, healthcare decision-makers, and service providers to identify economic indicators for the implementation of interventions in clinical settings. These indicators will inform the development of tools for the economic implementation toolkit.

I also recently organized a 3-day workshop in the United Kingdom that brought together 30 implementation scientists, health economists, patient contributors, and patient and public involvement and engagement (PPIE) researchers from Australia and the United Kingdom. Researchers shared evidence, experience, and reflections on best practices for integrating health economics and implementation science through a series of presentations and breakout sessions.





#### Challenges

One challenge I have faced during my research is working across the transdisciplinary space of implementation science and health economics. Straddling these fields can be difficult, especially as they often feature late in the research project. To overcome this, I focus on fostering collaboration and highlighting the importance of integrating both disciplines from the outset. I have met many great collaborators doing exceptional work in these fields. My collaborators and I are motivated and aligned toward generating comprehensive evidence for decision-making, ensuring that both health economics and implementation science remain central to the research sector.

#### Personal and Professional Growth

As an international student, my research experience has profoundly shaped both my personal and professional growth. Arriving in Australia five years ago, I brought with me a Bachelor of Science from the University of Georgia and soon after completed a Master of Public Health. Now pursuing my PhD at Monash University, I've had the unique opportunity to engage with diverse healthcare systems across the USA and Australia. This contrast has given me valuable insight into the different ways healthcare can be delivered, highlighting the global challenges and opportunities in improving healthcare systems.

The transition to a new country and academic environment was both exciting and challenging, but the exceptional mentorship and support I've received in Australia have been instrumental in my success. These relationships have nurtured my intellectual curiosity, empowered me to take on complex research questions, and guided me through the evolving research landscape. This support system has not only expanded my technical expertise but also fostered resilience, adaptability, and a collaborative mindset. Through this journey, I've gained a deeper understanding of the intersection between research and real-world impact.

My experiences have fueled my passion for advancing healthcare globally, shaped my professional identity, and provided me with the confidence to pursue ambitious goals in research.

#### Journey with the ISPOR Student Network

The best part of my journey with the ISPOR Student Network so far has been joining the Survey and Evaluation Committee as Co-Chair. This opportunity has allowed me to connect with an incredible group of committee and executive members, engaging with like-minded individuals and fostering relationships that are both inspiring and supportive. Through the committee, I'm gaining valuable insights into student perspectives across the globe, which will shape the future of the ISPOR Student Network.







# **ISPOR EUROPE 2024**

November 17-20, 2024

### Barcelona, Spain





### ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK EVENTS @ISPOREurope

# **STUDENT NETWORK INFORMAL HANGOUT**

Sunday, 17 November | 6:00 PM | Gonzalez & Co Diagonal Mar

What better way to start the conference than meeting with peers in a relaxed, informal event?

Get to know other students and early career professionals attending ISPOR Europe, exchange ideas, and expand your network! This is an invaluable opportunity for students to connect with others in their field and build relationships that could lead to future success.

# **PANEL DISCUSSION AND ROUNDTABLE**

Monday, 18 November | 1:30-2:30 PM

The ISPOR Europe 2024 Student Network Event will discuss generating evidence toward enhancing health outcomes, focusing on the translation of health technology assessment (HTA) from a global perspective. A panel of industry, regulatory, and academic experts will lead the discussion, focusing on the generation and implementation of HTA and the challenges faced in these areas. The session will showcase innovative approaches and real-world case studies that highlight successful HTA applications and examine the impact of HTA on health policy and future research. The speakers will engage in a discussion both with each other and with the audience through a question-and-answer format. This event is designed to educate not only students and early-career professionals, but also all other ISPOR members attending the conference interested in the making of HTA and its impact.



#### ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK EVENTS @ISPOREurope

### ISPOR Europe 2024

#ISPOREurope2024



#### **In-Person Student Roundtable**

Barcelona, Spain

- 18 November, 2024 (Monday)
  - 3 13:30 14:30 (CEST)
  - ISPOR Connection Zone

### ADVANCING EVIDENCE GENERATION THROUGH HTA FOR ENHANCED HEALTH OUTCOMES: A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

### PANELISTS



Sandipan Bhattacharjee, PhD Director of Real World Evidence (RWE) leader Oncology at Bayer



Gihan Hamdy El-sisi, PhD Managing Director, HTA Office LLC, Middle East and North Africa, Cairo, Egypt



Michael Berntgen, PharmD, PhD Head of Scientific Evidence Generation Department, EMA

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Fang-Ju Irene Lin, PhD School of Pharmacy, College of Medicine, National Taiwan University, Taipel, Taiwan

Student Network

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ISPOR Student Network

Event Planning Committee



### ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK EVENTS @ISPOREurope

## **ISPOR NEW PROFESSIONAL SESSION**

Tuesday, 19 November | 10:15-11:15 AM

"Three Things You Need to Know About Networking, But Were Afraid to Ask" – In this session we explore why growing your network is an even more important skill than you realize. Your network has value for you in many more ways than just as a vehicle for seeking out jobs or project opportunities. Good networkers think hard about their priorities, build some basic skills, and see past the barriers that hold many of us back. We'll share some perspectives and ideas from people with expertise in the subject and discuss with current ISPOR members the ways that they are growing the value of their networks.

# **STUDENT RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT**

Tuesday, 19 November | 11:30 AM-12:15 PM



The student Research Spotlight features some of the best student submissions as selected by the ISPOR organization committee. Come, meet and listen to our five presenters summarizing their research! Don't miss the chance to learn more about some of the most exciting research at the conference!

# **ISPOR STUDENT AND FACULTY OPEN MEETING**

Tuesday, 19 November | 2:45-3:45 PM

Learn more about the ISPOR Student Network and Faculty initiatives and opportunities for engagement.







**STUDENT MEMBER REGISTRATION FEES AVAILABLE:** \$90 for 4-hour & \$180 for 8-hour courses

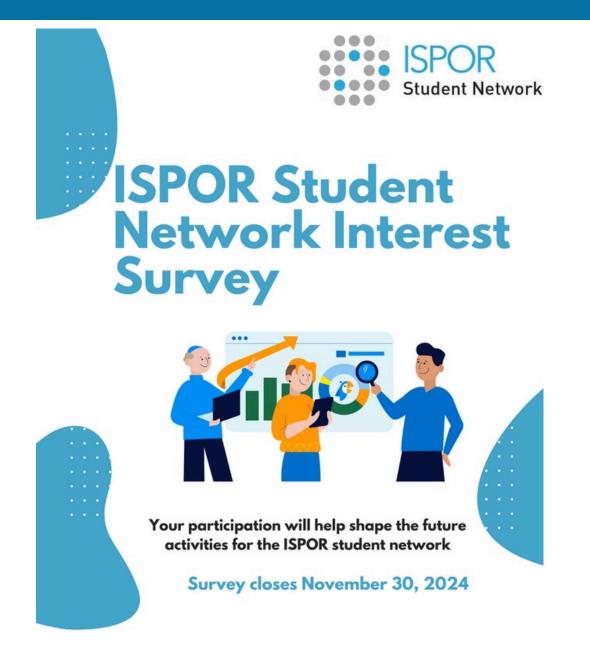
### IN-PERSON @ISPOR EUROPE 2024

- November 17: Introduction to Applied Generative AI for HEOR
- November 17: Health Economic Modeling in R: A Hands-on Introduction
- November 17: Developing Decision-Grade Real-World Evidence
- November 17: Introduction to Health Economics and Outcomes Research
- November 17: Causal Inference and Causal Estimands From Target Trial Emulations Using Evidence from Real-World Observational Studies and Clinical Trials
- November 17: Applied Cost-Effectiveness Modeling with R
- November 17: Introduction to Machine Learning Methods

#### AND MANY MORE!



## **ISPOR STUDENT NETWORK SURVEY**



The <u>Student Interest Survey</u> is an electronic questionnaire produced and distributed annually by the ISPOR Student Network's Survey & Evaluation Committee to gauge student engagement and interests in the ISPOR Student Network. The survey covers topics like demographics, engagement levels and barriers, professional development, and competencies of interest. It takes about 7-10 minutes to complete and is open till November 30, 2024.

Participants will be eligible to enter a raffle to win a free ISPOR conference registration, and all responses are kept anonymous.

## HOW TO GET INVOLVED



# ISPOR

Are you an ISPOR member yet? Stay up to date on conferences, short courses, communities, and research by becoming a member! Here is the <u>link</u> on ISPOR memberships. It's never too late to get involved!

# ISPOR Student Network

Reach out to studentnetwork@ispor.org to be added to the ISPOR Community for student leaders. The ISPOR Student Network also has 7 committees that student members can serve on!



### LOCAL ISPOR Student chapter

Contact your local chapter to learn about upcoming activities and chapter elections. Consider running for an officer position!







