Executive Update

iHEA Board of Directors 2018

This is my inaugural note as president of iHEA and I wanted to reflect on how our organization’s strengths augur continued success. In health economics it is incredibly beneficial to have a professional society that hails from 71 countries. The core problems of health economics outlined by Arrow in 1963 do not have single global first best solutions. Our countries can spend decades pursuing partial solutions to unsolvable problems. When we gather as members at our congresses, in special interest groups, and on iHEA’s soon to be launched networking app we learn and share solutions that cross oceans. The problems in our health systems are legion, but we are legion too. Our membership in our organization puts us in touch with the world’s greatest global resource in health economics—each other.

Looking forward to my two years as president I am fortunate to work with the best Board in history. We have built in global representation, equalized gender balance and are building platforms so the board can help us realize our vision for iHEA 2020. I am delighted to welcome our new board members:

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<tr>
<th>New Board Member 2018</th>
<th>Role</th>
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<tr>
<td>Winnie Yip</td>
<td>President-Elect</td>
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<td>Kara Hanson</td>
<td>Member-Elected At Large</td>
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<td>Thorhildur Olafsdóttir</td>
<td>Early Career Researcher</td>
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<td>John Ataguba</td>
<td>AfHEA</td>
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<td>Florence Jusot</td>
<td>EuHEA</td>
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<td>Tony LoSasso</td>
<td>ASHEcon</td>
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We all owe a lot to past presidents and board members. Terkel Christiansen who served as president from 2014-2015 rotated off the board at the end of 2017. He has helped with recent transitions and has
curated a vision for iHEA 2020 that still guides us. Denzil Fiebig and Bruce Hollingsworth rotated off the board but will remain involved as chair of the Scientific Committee and Student Prize Committee, respectively. Adam Wagstaff remains on the board after completing his presidency. With Adam’s leadership we have revamped our bylaws, our board structure and our commitment to high quality scientific review. iHEA is now a more member-led organization and it has navigated changes that enable it to be of greater service to the profession.

New applications for special interest groups pour in as do new ideas on how to connect us to each other to make us better researchers, teachers, and policy advisors. iHEA is committed to our success as health economists and our participation and our ideas are key. A member survey is coming later this month to help us voice needs and expectations. Besides the survey, the door for ideas is open—please engage by email dbishai@jhu.edu or Twitter @dbishai.

David Bishai, iHEA President

Remembering Alan Maynard

We are deeply saddened at the news of the passing on February 2nd of Alan Maynard, who served as the third President of iHEA in 1999. The word “founding” appears frequently alongside “health economics” in Alan’s CV: he was the Founding Director of the Graduate Programme in Health Economics at York from 1977 to 1983; the Founding Director of the Centre for Health Economics (CHE) at York from 1983 for 12 years; the Founding Editor of Health Economics in 1992 (and served as an editor until 2016); and a founding Director of iHEA in the mid-1990s.

Alan was known for his irreverent wit, his willingness to challenge prevailing opinion and vested interests, his healthy skepticism of the wisdom of many health system reforms (what he termed “evidence free re-disorganization”), and his moral commitment to make a real difference to society.

Several of Alan’s colleagues celebrated Alan’s many contributions to academic and public life in "Maynard Matters - Critical Thinking on Health Policy", which was released in late 2016 and also contains a selection of Alan’s writings. It is free to download in a variety of formats here.

Alan’s colleagues at York and family would also welcome any public tributes to Alan being posted on this "Maynard Matters" blog page.
As a service to our members, we have set up a Feedly account to organize information on recently published health economics research that we would like to share with all interested members. This will allow you to catch up on the latest research on your phone, tablet or computer.

If you just want to use a web browser on your computer, all you have to do is go to feedly.com/iHEA and view the content on our page. Remember to bookmark our page so that you can visit it regularly to catch up with the most recently published research.

For more information on connecting on Feedly, click here.

Is there an RSS feed that you follow that might be beneficial to iHEA Members? Please share it with us at ihea@healtheconomics.org!

We do hope that this will be of benefit to our members - if you are on Feedly or have visited the iHEA Feedly page, please let us know what you think or if you have any suggestions for improvement.

In an effort to better connect and engage iHEA members, we have invested in SocialLink, a mobile app and member community that iHEA members will be able to use across all devices! The mobile app will be fully integrated with our current membership platform and will elevate the look and feel of the member side on our website. With the upcoming launch of our SocialLink platform, members will have quick and easy access to the following benefits:

ihea@healtheconomics.org | www.healtheconomics.org
• **Member connections.** Members can search and connect with one another within the app to help build and grow your network within the association. Automatic push notifications are triggered when connection requests are sent and received.

• **Member discussions and collaboration.** Using a central focal point of the member feed, members can obtain and interact with association content from a variety of sources at any given moment. A group will be created for each of iHEA’s Special Interest Groups so those with similar interests can engage in ongoing conversations with each other.

• **Direct member actions within the feed.** Content directly from our website is funneled through members’ primary feeds so you can easily read important announcements and news from us as it goes live!

• **Promote available jobs.** Members will see a dedicated “My Career” area within the app – this will be a great way to advertise any career openings!

• **Member renewal and mobile payment.** An automatic renewal announcement will be visible at the top of your feed when it’s time to renew your membership - then you can renew and submit payment directly within the app!

We are currently in the implementation phase and expect the platform to be launched sometime in February! More information will be shared with members closer to this date, including instructions on downloading and using the app.

We look forward to launching SocialLink and continuing to improve our membership value and engagement. Please send any questions or comments around SocialLink to ihea@healtheconomics.org.

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**Special Interest Groups Update**

The establishment of Special Interest Groups (SIGs), which are forums for professional interaction between iHEA members with common interests, was initiated in late 2017. These are member-driven groups, ‘by members, for members’.

The Economics of Obesity was the first SIG to be established – we encourage you to visit their webpage. An update on their initial activities is provided in this newsletter.

At the first Board meeting on January 31st, a further four SIGs were approved:

**Teaching Health Economics SIG**

Objectives:

- Support the development of a curated repository of health economics training material that is regularly updated and accessible on an iHEA webpage;
- Provide a platform for engagement between health economics educators; and
- Host pre-congress and organized sessions at iHEA congresses, and possibly also at the biennial conferences of regional health economics associations in collaboration with these associations.

Conveners:

- Heather Brown
- Allen Goodman
- Di McIntyre
- Maia Platt
- Elizabeth Seidler
Financing for Universal Health Coverage in Low- and Middle-Income Countries SIG

Objectives:
- Foster collaboration and knowledge exchange between health economists specializing in health financing in LMICs;
- Strengthen the analytical capacity for financing research - especially amongst early-mid career researchers and women in LMICs;
- Pioneer new methods for conducting equity-focused evaluations of health financing reforms and systems; and
- Share educational resources and materials.

Conveners:
- Virginia Wiseman
- Hasbullah Thabrany
- Josephine Borghi
- Edwine Barasa

Economics of Palliative and End-of-Life Care SIG

Objectives:
- Discuss the current state of economics research in palliative and end-of-life care through a working paper.
- Identify knowledge gaps in the economics of palliative and end-of-life care.
- Set an initial proposed agenda for future research.
- Connect researchers interested in health economics and palliative and end-of-life care to exchange experience, share research outputs, and collaborate on research projects, grant proposals, and other activities.

Conveners:
- Nikki McCaffrey
- Peter May

Health Preference Research SIG

Objectives:
- To foster and support an international community of researchers whose activities support health preference research (HPR);
- To ensure access to the accumulated research expertise of IAHPR (International Academy of Health Preference Research) members and to actively promote the transfer of knowledge, evidence, and technologies regarding the use, analysis, and interpretation of health preference research; and
- To support promising early-career researchers in the field of health preference research through involvement in SIG activities.
- To provide a visible platform to encourage cross-specialty learning and an encouraging environment to share learnings from non-health preference research into HPR.

Conveners:
- Fern Terris-Prestholt
- Matthew Quaife
- Alec Miners

More information on each of these SIGs will be posted on the iHEA website in the near future. iHEA members are encouraged to join SIGs that are of interest to them – signing up for SIGs will be facilitated via the SocialLink networking app that will be launched later this month.

The iHEA Board will consider applications to establish new SIGs on an ongoing basis. If you are interested in setting up a SIG and would like to gauge the interest among iHEA members, or want to
identify other iHEA members interested in a new field of research, submit a brief note to ihea@healtheconomics.org to include in our SIG section of the newsletter, such as the one below.

Health Economics and Planetary Health
“Planetary health” is an emerging field concerned with the intimate linkage between the health of human civilization and the state of the natural systems on which we depend. In the academy, it represents a major opportunity for multi-disciplinary research (across fields as diverse as public health, crop science, ecology, veterinary medicine and meteorology) to support and develop evidence-based policies to promote human health and prosperity, while preserving the environment which allows us to thrive.

If you are not familiar with it already, here a few links that are a good introduction to planetary health:
https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/our-work/initiatives/planetary-health/
https://planetaryhealthalliance.org/
https://www.planetaryhealth.ox.ac.uk/planetary-health/
And the upcoming second Planetary Health conference (May 29-31, Edinburgh):
https://planetaryhealthannualmeeting.org/

Health economics has a great deal to offer to planetary health research – but it will also be increasingly important for health economists to understand sustainability, and to engage with the many challenges to human health and health care systems in the Anthropocene era. If you are interested in getting some thinking going on how to ensure health economics has a voice and makes a contribution in the field of planetary health and the ecological sustainability of health and health care systems, please get in touch with me via email: Martin.Hensher@utas.edu.au.

Economics of Obesity SIC Activities Update

Consultation response: The Scottish Government (UK) launched its consultation document on diet and physical activity policy between October 2017 and January 2018. It set out three broad areas where they intend to act; transforming the food environment, living healthier and more active lives, and leadership and exemplary practice. A working group acting on behalf of the SIG responded to this consultation on the 23rd January 2018.


Stakeholder registration for the following UK National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) guidelines:
Promoting physical activity for children and young people - Review
Promoting physical activity in the workplace - Review

Stay Connected