Welcome to the new iHEA newsletter! If you have ideas on content that can be contributed, please contact us at ihea@healtheconomics.org.

iHEA News is the official newsletter of the International Health Economics Association.

Executive Update

Join us at the members’ meeting in Boston

The biennial iHEA congress presents an important opportunity for the iHEA Board to report back to and consult with members. The Board has been working hard since early 2016 to improve the quality of the congress, reduce operations costs and membership and congress registration fees, and to improve governance and transparency within the organization. The Board’s focus has now turned to developing a range of activities to benefit members in between the congresses. We would like to get members’ feedback on our work over the last year and a half as well as your input on what kinds of activities outside of the congress you feel would be of the greatest benefit to you. There will be a brief presentation on the key developments in iHEA and on iHEA finances. Most of the time will be devoted to receiving inputs from and discussion with members.

We would urge all iHEA members attending the Boston congress to join us at this important meeting, and to come prepared with ideas to contribute in the discussion.

The iHEA Members’ Meeting will be held on Monday July 10th, from 13:15 to 14:45 in the Metcalf Trustee Ballroom on the 9th Floor of the Questrom Building (the main congress venue). Lunch will be served directly outside the meeting venue, so you can pick up your lunch as you come in to participate in this meeting.

We look forward to seeing you at the meeting and hearing your views.

Adam Wagstaff, iHEA President
Arrow Award honours research on patient choice and health care quality


The Arrow Award Committee is proud to acknowledge the authors of this innovative and policy-relevant paper which uses a reform in the English National Health Service (NHS) to assess how removing constraints on patient choice affects the quality of health care received, as well as patient welfare. As a result of the policy change, which took place in 2006, the English government mandated that NHS patients be offered a choice of five hospitals when referred by physicians to a hospital for treatment. The authors use this reform to estimate a structural model of demand both pre-reform, when choice is assumed to be constrained, and post-reform where choices are assumed to be unconstrained. They examine the case of coronary artery bypass graft (CABG) surgeries, where the key quality measures are post-surgery mortality rates.

Following the reforms, quality of care and patient welfare increased, with the largest improvement for severely ill and low-income patients. As a result of greater patient choice, low quality hospitals lost and high quality hospitals gained market share. Hospitals responded by improving the quality of care, with particularly large quality gains for those hospitals facing high demand elasticities. This research suggests that reforms that enhance choice have the potential to raise health care quality and patient welfare.

The Arrow Award Committee consists of: Christopher Ruhm, University of Virginia (Chair); Luigi Siciliani, University of York, UK (Co-chair); Ana Balsa, Universidad de Montevideo; Anne Case, Princeton University; Jeffrey Clemens, University of California San Diego; Joan Costa-i-Font, London School of Economics; Brigitte Dormont, Université Paris Dauphine; Sherry Glied, Columbia University; Joshua Gottlieb, University of British Columbia; Kate Ho, Columbia University; Jonathan Kolstad, University of California Berkeley; Jui-fen Rachel Lu, Chang Gung University; Petter Lundborg, Lund University; Tony Scott, University of Melbourne; Rodrigo R. Soares, Columbia University; Joachim Winter, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; Winnie Yip, University of Oxford/Harvard University.

Christopher Ruhm (Chair) & Luigi Siciliani (Co-chair), iHEA Arrow Award Committee
Some of the highlights of the upcoming iHEA congress at Boston University

All the plans are in place for what promises to be an excellent congress! The full program will be uploaded on the iHEA website by June 1st and will be available in a mobile app a couple of weeks before the event so that you can plan your personal program. In the meantime, here are some of the highlights you can look forward to:

- An active **pre-congress** program on Friday July 7 and Saturday July 8 – most sessions are already fully booked, with a few places still available in the session on “Innovative methods for evaluating access to medicine programs in low- and middle-income countries” on the morning of Friday July 7.

- The **opening plenary** at 18:00 on Saturday July 8, where Carol Propper (one of this year’s Arrow Award recipients) will present on “The usefulness of competition and choice in heavily regulated markets”, followed by an opening reception, including ‘Boston style’ entertainment

- The **mentoring lunch** at 13:15 on Sunday July 9, where students who will soon complete their doctorate and recent doctoral graduates will have an opportunity to engage with senior health economists

- The iHEA’s **members’ meeting** at 13:15 on Monday 10 July where you will be able to hear about the latest developments in iHEA and contribute ideas on future activities for iHEA
• The gala event at 19:30 on Monday 10 July at the Boston Museum of Science, where you will be entertained by well-known health economist and piano virtuoso Peter Zweifel and a jazz trio.

• A special session where the student prize winners will present their papers:
  - Till Seuring - “The relationship between diabetes, employment status and behavioural risk factors: An application of marginal structural models and fixed effects to Chinese panel data”;
  - Myriam Soto - “Incorporating budget impact analysis in the implementation of complex interventions. A case of an integrated intervention for multi-morbid patients within the Carewell study”.

• A number of special organized sessions in which prominent speakers in emerging and innovative areas of health economics research will address ‘hot topics’.

• The closing plenary at 12:30 on Tuesday July 11, where Daron Acemoğlu will speak on “Democracy and health” and where the Arrow Award and Student Prizes will be presented.

Now is the time to register for the congress if you haven’t yet done so!

Please book your accommodation urgently -- several hotel blocks are already sold out!

Looking to save on Congress registration fees?
Become an iHEA member today and receive discounted member rates for congress registration.
Career Opportunities

Take advantage of our Career Center and view the latest job openings as well as post your own positions to find hard working professionals in this industry.

The Career Center allows you to post your job openings and fellowships, find potential candidates and search new positions. It is open to members and non-members alike. You are able to search by Keyword, Country, Organization, Job category and more. We encourage everyone to click here to view this wonderful resource. We do hope that you utilize this tool and should you have any questions, please reach out to jobs@healtheconomics.org.

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