President’s Message

Please Participate in our Equality, Diversity and Inclusiveness Survey

You will hopefully have seen the statement issued by the iHEA Board last month, committing to undertake concrete actions to contribute to promoting social justice, diversity and inclusiveness in our association and more broadly. We are currently undertaking a membership survey to help us understand where we could do better in this regard.

I appeal to all members to spare some of your time to complete this survey so that we can benefit from the inputs of our diverse membership community. Please check your emails to find the link to the survey, which has been sent to all iHEA members.

Important news on 2021 iHEA Congress

After careful consideration and assessing various options, the iHEA Board has made the decision that the 2021 iHEA Congress will be held virtually. Cape Town will now be the site for the 2023 Congress. We made this decision early to enable us to organize an
outstanding global virtual event, retaining the emphasis on presentation of quality scientific research and providing many opportunities for rich discussion and engagement with colleagues.

Over the past few months, several substantive virtual scientific conferences have been held. We are gaining valuable insights into what to do (and what not to do) to host a successful virtual congress, and this learning process will continue as more and more large academic conferences move online. As there will not be a local organizing committee, the iHEA Board will be making the primary contribution to the 2021 Congress and we are excited about the opportunity to innovate and, particularly, to engage a wider audience than is able to participate in onsite iHEA congresses.

Many potential delegates cannot attend onsite congresses for reasons such as childcare commitments, travel and accommodation costs, or inability to secure visas. The increased accessibility of a virtual congress is in line with our commitment to promoting diversity and inclusiveness in our association and our activities. The dedicated conference digital platforms also offer many advantages, and can be used to enhance engagement between researchers and to generate discussion around presented research, whether through live discussions and chat boxes or asynchronous Q&A. Many have particularly commented that virtual conferences enable greater participation of early career researchers and others with less exposure to large international conferences and that this has enriched discussions; adding a comment or question to a chat box is far less intimidating than standing up to speak in a crowded conference room!

While it is of course extremely disappointing to have to delay Cape Town as the congress site for a couple of years, we are seeing this as an opportunity to make the congress accessible to many more of our members than is usually possible. We aim to concentrate on the positives of taking the congress online and look forward to your enthusiastic participation by submitting abstracts (which will open in September 2020) and registering for and attending the 2021 iHEA virtual Congress.

- Winnie Yip, iHEA President
Awards

Adam Wagstaff Award for Outstanding Research on the Economics of Healthcare Financing and Delivery in LMICs

As announced in last month's newsletter, an award has been established in memory of Adam Wagstaff. The award was proposed by his colleagues and friends and is being funded through 'Friends of Adam' crowd-funding. If you would like to contribute to funding the award, you can do so [here](#), and you will find more details of the Award [here](#).

Webinars

iHEA held a number of webinars over the past few months, some of which were also simultaneously translated from English to French and are available to view in both languages on the iHEA website. We encourage everyone to watch the recordings of our past webinars!

Recent webinars:

- Estimating the costs of COVID-19: health systems, households and opportunity costs
- An Introduction to the Construction of Discrete Choice Experiments
- Will COVID-19 derail progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?
- Methods for incorporating equity into economic evaluation
- Considerations for future SARS-CoV-2 vaccines: a private sector perspective
- How are countries mobilizing and protecting the health workforce in response to COVID-19?

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS PAST WEBINAR RECORDINGS](#)
The iHEA 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.

Stay Connected