COVID-19 has now become a devastating reality for most countries around the world. This pandemic is challenging everyone to reimagine how we live and work and to be responsive in a rapidly changing world. iHEA is committed to supporting its members during these difficult times, and our management team are all still working, albeit from the safety of their homes. We are committed to continuing with planned activities, so webinars will go ahead as scheduled.

In fact, in these times of social distancing and voluntary isolation, we hope to increase the number of webinars, and related activities using electronic platforms, to facilitate engagement between health economists around the world. We also encourage iHEA members to use our networking platform, Social Link, (see more information here) to promote engagement within and across Special Interest Groups (SIGs), and to support each other more generally.

We have established a new Social Link group, called the “COVID-19 research group”. We recognize that the demand for policy advice and research on the economics of COVID-19 is growing across a range of areas including, but not limited to:

- Supporting health care managers develop rationing guidelines for access to ventilators
- Economic evaluation and related modelling around vaccines and alternative treatments alongside the many clinical trials already underway
- Impacts on health systems and the implications for moving to universal health coverage
• Wider economic impacts of the pandemic which in turn will have implications for the social determinants of health.

We hope that this Social Link group will provide a mechanism for those interested in responding to these urgent research needs to share ideas on the most important research questions and appropriate methodological approaches, exploring the potential for multi-country collaborative projects and many other issues. We are planning a webinar to initiate engagement around these issues and will provide more details as soon as plans are finalized.

We also recognize that many of our members are academics in universities, who have been plunged into switching from onsite to online teaching overnight. So, a key focus of iHEA’s activities in the next few months will also be to support health economics teachers in making this transition. The iHEA Teaching Health Economics Special Interest Group (THE SIG) has launched a blog (which you will find here) where any health economist can post information and ideas that may be helpful to colleagues. Sharing training materials can help colleagues and our learners at this time of global crisis. iHEA has a training materials repository, but it is still in relatively early stages of development and doesn’t yet include many online teaching materials. Many of you may have prepared online materials for your students but these may be located on a website that is only accessible to students within your institution. We appeal to all health economists to consider sharing these materials through the iHEA repository as Open Educational Resources (OER) on a Creative Commons basis; you can upload your materials here.

Although difficult times lie ahead for all of us (personally and collectively), if we support each other, we have a much better chance of overcoming the many challenges that COVID-19 presents to us. We wish all our members strength and safety at this challenging time.

- Winnie Yip, iHEA President

University Members

Global Health Courses at the Johns Hopkins Health Systems Summer Institute

Choose from 20 short-term courses during June 8–20, 2020: The Department of International Health at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health is hosting a Health Systems Summer Institute. The Institute is a great opportunity for early- to mid-career public health professionals to expand their skill sets and improve job performance.

20 courses will be offered, including three health economics courses:
• Introduction to Improving Quality in Public Health Practice, June 8–9, half days. Taught by Dr. David Bishai
• Behavioral Economics in Health Decisions, June 15–18, half days. Taught by Dr. Antonio Trujillo
Globalization: Challenges and Opportunities for Future Health Systems, June 18–19, full days.
Taught by Dr. Andres Vecino

Other topics include health equity, global health policy, global health technology and innovation, primary health care, humanitarian health, measurement and analytics for health systems strengthening, health systems management and quality improvement, and more. Course options are available from 1–6 days to suit a variety of different schedules.

View the complete schedule and course descriptions.

Information on tuition and how to register can be found here.

Webinars

Measuring financial protection for chronic illness in low-and middle-income countries

Thursday, April 9th, 2020
8:00 AM ET - check your timezone online here
Speaker: Adrianna Murphy

Presented by the Financing for Universal Health Coverage SIG

Objective: To reflect on implications and challenges of various approaches to measuring financial protection for chronic illness in low- and middle-income countries.

The Sustainable Development Goal 3, Target 8, aims to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all, including financial protection. Efforts to monitor financial protection use indicators of catastrophic spending and impoverishment that may not accurately reflect the economic burden experienced by households in low- and middle-income countries, particularly for those suffering from chronic illness. This webinar will present experiences and preliminary findings from i) implementing household pictorial expenditure diaries, alongside traditional household expenditure surveys, in a sample of people with chronic non-communicable diseases in Tanzania, South Africa and Zimbabwe, ii) using an alternative measure of catastrophic spending to those in the SDGs, proposed by WHO Europe, in a survey of 18 countries at all levels of development and iii) conducting qualitative research on the impact of distress financing on households with chronic NCDs in Zimbabwe.
Methods for incorporating equity into economic evaluation

Tuesday, May 19th, 2020
8:00 AM ET - check your timezone online here
Speakers: Richard Cookson; Stéphane Verguet
Presented by the Equity informative economic evaluation Special Interest Group

Equity in health and healthcare is an area of growing global policy interest. Health economists are familiar with well-established economic evaluation methods that provide information about the efficiency of alternative healthcare and public health decisions in terms of aggregate costs and benefits. However, there is now a growing literature and interest in using the methods of economic evaluation to provide information about equity in the distribution of costs and benefits.

Our first webinar will provide an introduction to some of the key principles and methods of equity-informative health economic evaluation. We will then be running a second webinar to showcase some empirical applications to health policy in low and middle income countries.

REGISTER

All previously held webinars can be viewed on the iHEA website here.

Career Center

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

Please click here to access the SocialLink user guide. We hope that this guide will give members a better idea on how they can best use SocialLink, our member community and networking app, to connect with other members and engage with our Special Interest Groups. We will continue to build out the FAQ section of SocialLink, but if you have any questions please reach out to us at ihea@healtheconomics.org!