President's Message from Winnie Yip

Dear iHEA members and colleagues,

I hope that those of you in the Northern Hemisphere have been able to enjoy a relaxing summer and that those of you in the Southern Hemisphere anticipate a rejuvenating spring. Before many of us leap into a new academic year, I hope you can take a moment to look back on the biannual Congress we held online in July. Our four excellent centerpiece sessions—addressing the impact of structural discrimination and inequality on health outcomes, the economics of vaccine markets, the use of economic evaluations to inform pandemic policy, and new challenges and opportunities for health economics—engaged diverse perspectives in conversations on the very frontier of health economics research. We hope to continue these conversations over the coming months through follow-up events and activities. In the meantime, though, we encourage those who couldn’t make it to the four centerpiece sessions to view them on the iHEA YouTube channel.

We in the iHEA leadership were particularly gratified to see the participation of early-career and LMIC researchers at the 2021 Congress continue to press at historic highs, and we are optimistic that, with the benefit of our continuing engagement, this trend will persist.

I also want to draw your attention to our upcoming board elections, which will be held this November. At that time, you will be electing a new president-elect and three new directors to serve on iHEA’s board starting January 1, 2022, including one early-career researcher director (a position that, until this year, was board-appointed). The caliber of iHEA’s organizational governance depends on your participation in this process, so we encourage those who meet the Bylaws criteria with any interest in running to send a CV and letter of motivation to ihea@healtheconomics.org by September 27 for review by the Nominating Committee. For those not interested in running, we urge you to engage with the candidates during the first two weeks of November, before voting begins, so that you can make informed decisions about whom to support. Finally, all members, we hope, will cast their votes—starting November 15—and make their voices heard.

We will be in contact again with more information about the electoral process in the coming months, but until then, stay well, and I wish you all the best with your research.
iHEA Board Election – Call for Nominations

iHEA will hold elections in October-November for new members of the Board of Directors and a President-Elect. For the coming four-year term for Board Directors, beginning **January 1, 2022**, there are two vacant board positions as Director to be elected by the membership. In addition, there is a position for a Director who is an early career researcher (ECR) (defined as someone who has graduated with a doctorate in the last seven years). Previously, the ECR Director was a Board appointed position; at its July 2021 meeting, the iHEA Board approved a Bylaws change to make this a position to be elected by iHEA members. The President-Elect, who serves a six-year term (two years as President-Elect, two years as President, and two years as Past-President), is to be elected by the membership from a slate of at least two candidates.

More details on the Board composition and changes over the last few years to improve iHEA governance can be found [here](#) and the iHEA Bylaws can be seen [here](#).

Interested members of iHEA who are willing to contribute to the running and further development of the association are encouraged to express their interest by sending their CV and a letter of motivation, which should include information on how the nominee meets the iHEA Bylaws’ criteria outlined below. The letter should indicate which of the positions the interest relates to (i.e. ECR Director, Director or President-Elect). A Nominating Committee will oversee that candidates fulfill the following criteria specified in iHEA’s Bylaws:

- **Candidates for Director** (including ECRs) should be:
  1. an economist working on health and health care, and
  2. an iHEA member for at least the previous 2 years.

- **Candidates for ECR Director** should additionally have graduated with a doctorate in the last seven years

- **Candidates for President-Elect** should:
  1. be an internationally known economist working on health and health care,
  2. be an iHEA member for at least the previous 5 years, who has made important contributions to iHEA by having served on the Board, a Board committee (such as
Please send an expression of interest to ihea@healtheconomics.org by September 27. If you would like any further information, please contact the iHEA Executive Director at diane.mcintyre@healtheconomics.org.

In the first half of October, the Nominating Committee will review all expressions of interest and their recommendations will be considered by the iHEA Board. All those who have expressed their interest will receive feedback from the Nominating Committee. Candidates for the election will be provided with an opportunity to prepare an election statement and related material that will be uploaded onto the iHEA website. Opportunities to engage with the candidates will be provided in the first half of November and voting will take place between 15-25 November.

Upcoming Webinars for September

Wednesday, September 15, 2021

*Estimating the Cost of Delivering COVID-19 Vaccine in COVAX 92 AMC Countries* / 9AM (ET) / 4PM (GMT)

Part of the fall 2021 inaugural webinar series of the Immunization Economics SIG that focuses on current research relevant to the immunization economics community of practice.

In the first session, Stephen Resch will present “Estimating the cost of delivering COVID19 vaccine in COVAX 92 AMC countries.” The session will focus on a high-level costing model requested by COVAX to inform its strategic planning and resource mobilization. Dr. Resch will describe the collaborative development process, model structure, costing assumptions, and results for different policy scenarios regarding the timing of vaccine roll-out within and across countries participating in COVAX, prioritization of population groups, and the mix of delivery methods to reach target populations.

**Speaker:** Stephen Resch

**Organized by:** Immunization Economics SIG

[REGISTER HERE]

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

*Disruptions to childhood immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic: health impact modeling and economic perspectives* / 8:00 AM ET / 12:00 PM GMT
Part of the fall 2021 inaugural webinar series of the Immunization Economics SIG that focuses on current research relevant to the immunization economics community of practice.

In the second session Mark Jit, Han Fu, and Kaja Abbas will present "Disruptions to childhood immunization during the COVID-19 pandemic: health impact modeling and economic perspectives." National immunization programs globally have been disrupted due to the severe health system constraints caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the public health and social measures to mitigate the outbreak. The speakers will present health impact modeling studies and economic perspectives on disruptions to routine childhood immunization and vaccination campaigns. Mark Jit, Han Fu, and Kaja Abbas are part of the Modelling and Economic Evaluation of Vaccines group at LSHTM (https://meev.lshtm.ac.uk), and conduct applied epidemiological and economic research to inform public health decisions about vaccination.

**Speakers:** Kaja Abbas, Han Fu, Mark Jit

**Organized by:** Immunization Economics SIG

**REGISTER HERE**

**Monday, September 27, 2021**  
**Online Elicitation of Personal Utility Functions (OPUF) / 9:00 AM ET / 2:00 PM BST**  

Standard health valuation methods, such as time trade-offs or discrete choice experiments, are inefficient: little information is obtained from each participant. As a result, data from hundreds if not thousands of participants is required to derive health state value sets.

In this webinar, Paul Schneider (University of Sheffield) will report on the development of the OPUF Tool; a new approach for estimating value sets for the EQ-5D-5L (or any other health descriptive system), using compositional preference elicitation techniques. The approach is more efficient than conventional methods, and even allows the estimation of value sets on the individual level.

Paul will briefly review the theoretical foundations for valuing health states (multi-attribute value theory), share his experience building the OPUF tool, and present some early findings from a pilot study in the UK.

A demo version of the OPUF tool is available at: https://opuf.shinyapps.io/eq5d5l_dev/

**Speaker:** Paul Schneider

**Organized by:** Health Preference Research SIG

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TITLE: Structural Discrimination and Inequalities

SPEAKERS: Marcella Alsan, Harvard University
Belinda Archibong, Columbia University
Gita Sen, Public Health Foundation India

DESCRIPTION: Systems of privilege and discrimination, which have been created and maintained by different institutions around the world, have a large impact on the health outcomes of those discriminated against and on how they access care.

This session considers recent research on inequalities in epidemics, including those that are climate-induced, and the impact of these epidemics on disadvantaged populations. Historical patterns of health disparities linked to structural discrimination are explored and measurement of inequality related to race and ethnicity is raised. Finally, the session considers the intersectionality of social inequalities, and how inequalities linked to gender, economic class, caste and other social markers intersect in health and health care.

WATCH ON DEMAND NOW

TITLE: The Economics of Vaccine Markets

SPEAKERS: Michael Kremer, University of Chicago & Hannah Kettler, GAVI

DESCRIPTION: Vaccines have been one of the most successful public health interventions when they worked but there are many serious conditions for which an effective vaccine has yet to be found. HIV is but one notable example. There is a sense that the pipeline for vaccines has not
kept up with the arrival and spread of infectious diseases. The recent global experience with COVID-19 has brought many of the issues afflicting the vaccine market into stark relief. Vaccines present unique problems technically (evolution in viruses), evaluation (difficulty in running RCTs-challenge trials), funding for research and development, and ensuring access to them in low-and middle-income countries (LMICs).

TITLE: Are Economic Evaluation Methods Fit for Purpose to Inform Pandemic Policy?

SPEAKERS: Susan Cleary, University of Cape Town
Richard Holden, University of New South Wales
Christian Gollier, Toulouse School of Economics
Richard Smith, University of Exeter

DESCRIPTION: Over the past fifty years, economic evaluation has become a key element of health and economic policy. The methodologies used have become increasingly sophisticated in terms of modeling, data, and management of uncertainty, and though there are many issues that remain contested, the central approach of comparison of costs and consequences of alternatives at the margin is widely accepted.

Are these tools well suited to the context of a global pandemic that has fundamentally affected all aspects of countries’ economies, with significant shifts in demand and supply across all markets and sectors, not only the health sector? Countries have grappled with policy choices about the extent of lockdown to reduce transmission that has had significant spillover effects on social welfare, health and economic wellbeing. There is the possibility that such spillover effects could be far larger than if we just considered a health system perspective. A global and societal perspective provides serious challenges to how the costs and benefits of global pandemics should be measured and valued that goes beyond health economics.

TITLE: Revisioning Health Economics

SPEAKER: Mariana Mazzucato, University College London

DESCRIPTION: In 1999, Victor Fuchs delivered a seminal plenary presentation at iHEA's Congress on "The Future of Health Economics." Fuchs recommended five new promising areas of health economics research, examined the roles of health economists in informing health
policy and health services research, and highlighted the limitations of economics, especially the lack of attention to institutions and values.

More than two decades have passed, and new challenges and opportunities have emerged, which not only have major health implications but also call for innovative ways of thinking about health policy and health systems. This session brings fresh, new thinking for health economics, and proposes new and important research questions that health economists should be focusing on in the next decade or two.

WATCH ON DEMAND NOW

Update on iHEA Special Interest Groups

Health Workforce SIG Update
The Health Workforce SIG had a meet-and-greet and brainstorming session for activities for the next year. There was enthusiasm for:

- Webinars, on a quarterly basis
- Workshops that cover methods and issues in-depth, such as survey research methods
- Mentoring, in collaboration with iHEA’s mentoring program
- Teaching methods, in collaboration with the Teaching Health Economics SIG
- Developing a newsletter for our SIG

Please write to joanne.spetz@ucsf.edu if you have other ideas and/or want to volunteer to coordinate or participate in the planning of any of these activities!

Immunization SIG Update
The International Health Economics Association (iHEA) Special Interest Group (SIG) on Immunization Economics launches its inaugural webinar series this Fall 2021, focused on current research relevant to the immunization economics community of practice. The series includes six talks on Wednesdays from September 15 through November 17. Presenters will include researchers at Harvard University, Johns Hopkins University, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of Ghana, and PATH. Attendance is open to all. For more information visit: https://immunizationeconomics.org/webinar

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