President's Message from Winnie Yip

Dear iHEA members and colleagues,

I’m writing to express my and the organizers’ profound enthusiasm for the upcoming biennial Congress, which will be held online from July 12th through 15th. A sterling array of scholars will be presenting on a wide variety of different topics. Our centerpiece session alone range in focus from the impact of structural discrimination and inequality on health outcomes to adapting methods of economic evaluation so that they can better inform pandemic policy. This is a testament to the great diversity of topics to which health economists can usefully apply their expertise. With this year’s program, we hope to illustrate these myriad uses of health economics beyond the discipline’s traditional boundaries, touching topics of urgent social concern to peoples and governments worldwide, from systemic racism to the economics of vaccine access in LMICs. While the events of the past year have thrown the importance of these subjects into stark relief, this importance long predates SARS-CoV-2 and will persist long after we have been relieved of the pandemic’s weightiest burdens.

A year and a half into a global public health emergency, many of us are just now catching our breath, stepping back from what has for too long been a truly chaotic present, and reflecting on how we want our profession to contribute to our society in the years to come. To aid us in this reflection, we will close the 2021 Congress with a plenary session on revisioning health economics, during which Mariana Mazzucato of University College London will present the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. Many of you have expressed to me a desire for greater focus on the specific challenges and opportunities in making our research more relevant to pressing policy questions and in better leveraging its policy lessons to move our world toward a brighter future. It is my hope that our entire program this year speaks to that desire and that each of you will leave the Congress feeling better equipped to shape policy with your work than you did when you came in.

Finally, I want to recognize and congratulate the winners of the inaugural Adam Wagstaff Award for Outstanding Research on the Economics of Healthcare Financing and Delivery in Low- and Middle-Income Countries: Giancarlo Buitrago and Radhika Jain for their respective papers.
Giancarlo Buitrago. *The Effect of Outpatient Cost-Sharing on Population-Level Mortality: Regression Discontinuity Design Evidence from Colombia*


With my very best wishes,
Winnie Yip
President
International Health Economics Association
Have you signed up for iHEA's Pre-Congress Sessions yet?

All Pre-Congress sessions are free to attend and are NOT limited to congress attendees.

REGISTER NOW
Wednesday July 7; 9am - 10:15am GMT (UTC)
A Lesson from Taiwan in Meeting the Evolving Challenge of COVID-19: The Role of IT in Taiwan's Single-Payer Universal Health Care System

Taiwan achieved, and so far has maintained, outstanding results in Covid-19 control since the start of the pandemic in early 2020, despite a recent sudden rise since mid-May 2021 in cases and deaths due to the newly emerging, albeit yet limited, community spread. As of 25 May 2021, Taiwan has a total cumulative 5,456 confirmed cases and 35 deaths, both extremely low numbers for a population of 24 million compared to the rest of the world. This session will explore how Taiwan, a single-payer health care system with universal health coverage achieved this feat, focusing on the role of IT in the fight against the disease and latest government strategy to counter the new community spread.

Organized by: Tsung-Mei Cheng, Princeton University

Click Here for more details

Thursday July 8; 7am - 9am GMT (UTC)
Using EuroQol Instruments in Health Economics Research: New Instruments and New Applications

In this pre-congress session presenters from the EuroQol Group will provide an overview of the suite of EuroQol instruments, including both the descriptive systems and valuation algorithms for use in economic evaluation.

We will introduce two recent instruments in the EuroQol suite of instruments, the EQ-HWB (health and wellbeing) and the EQ-5D-Y (youth) instrument, including the rationale and scope of these instruments.

We will present recent research that demonstrates the use of EQ-5D to explore quality of life and wellbeing, in the context of health and economic shocks (particularly the COVID19 pandemic).

Organized & Sponsored by: EuroQol

Click Here for more details
Thursday July 8; 12pm - 2pm GMT (UTC)

Ageing in China: Labor Participation, Retirement, Pension and Long Term Care Insurance

China’s population is ageing rapidly at a rate that surpasses most of its Asian neighbors and advanced economies in the West. In 2015, 10.5% of the population was aged 65+, and this number is projected to grow to 26.1% by 2050. Evidencing increases in life expectancy, the growth of the 80+ population from 22 million (or 1.5%) in 2015 to an expected 115 million (or 8.2%) by 2050 is particularly consequential. The challenges presented by the ageing of China’s population are vast and complex. This session examines the effect of ageing on economic growth, labor market decisions and the opportunities and challenges in financing elder care to meet the needs of the ageing population.

This session brings together leading experts to share their research on these important issues. The session will start with a brief introduction by Winnie Yip, followed by four presentations and commentaries and moderated discussions with discussants. There will be plenty of time for exchanges and interactions with the online audience as well.

Organized by: Winnie Yip, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health
Sponsored by: Taikang Insurance

Click Here for more details

Friday July 9; 12pm - 2pm GMT (UTC)

Financing and Providing Basic Healthcare to Two Billion People in Low- and Lower-Income Countries for UHC

In recent years, most nations have embraced the noble goal of universal health coverage (UHC), but unfortunately, the world has not yet identified a way around the key barrier to making it a reality in low- and lower-income countries. Absent effective means of mobilizing the financial resources to fund basic healthcare for these countries’ nearly two billion low-income residents, these people will continue to suffer inadequate access to basic healthcare and poor health. The governments of low- and lower-income countries cannot collect sufficient tax revenue to adequately fund healthcare, nor are most of them able to organize and deliver effective care at communities close to where people live. As for other sources of funds for health, donors prioritize funding for disease-specific programs, such as for HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and programs supporting maternal and child health, but little funding is available for basic healthcare. As a result, care for everyday common diseases is neglected. Social health insurance programs can effectively mobilize funds but
are limited in reach to workers employed in the formal sector, and only affluent households can afford private insurance. How might we be able to fund AND provide basic healthcare for this neglected two billion people? What have we learned so far from different countries’ experience?

This session brings together leading experts to share, discuss and debate their responses to these important questions.

**Organized by:** Winnie Yip, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health  
**Sponsored by:** Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health (Grant Funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Indian Country Office)

[Click Here for more details]

**Congress Registration Closes next Tuesday, July 5th!**

There are many benefits of registering and participating in the Congress, including:

- Exclusive access to all live sessions, which are being structured to allow time for discussion, and will be spread over an extended time period so that no matter where in the world you are located, you will be able to participate in several live sessions each day.
- Access to all materials, such as long version pre-recorded presentations or detailed PPT slides uploaded before live sessions, and recordings of all live sessions for a year after the Congress; you will be able to view any sessions you aren’t able to attend live, and can send questions or comments to presenters via the asynchronous Q&A tool.
- Access to all e-poster presentations.

Plenty of opportunities for networking; several of the breaks will provide space for early career researchers to meet with mentors, and general networking opportunities.

The virtual platform is officially live which means by registering today, you receive access to all pre-recorded presentations, posters and content now!

[Register here]
The Congress starts in less than 2 weeks!

Here are some tips on how to engage virtually:

- Commit to participating in the congress fully and mark the days as “Unavailable” in your calendar.
- Put an Out of Office message on your email system and switch off on-screen alerts of new messages.
- Focus on the congress – avoid checking your inbox while you are listening to sessions. You may find it easier to focus if you take notes, jot down questions that you might ask of the presenter, or do something mindless such as doodling while you are listening. If your focus shifts, don’t be discouraged, just try to bring it back – accept that active listening is difficult!
- Engage actively in the sessions you attend by adding questions and comments in the chat box during presentations and engaging in the discussions afterwards; live session presentations will be brief leaving plenty of time for discussions.
- If there is a time slot when there isn’t a session you are interested in attending, view some of the E-posters or pre-recorded long oral presentations of abstracts you are particularly interested in.
- Make use of the networking opportunities – connect with other delegates via the Congress platform and please join the networking sessions where you can stroll around the virtual lounge and link up with long-standing colleagues and make new connections.
- There are lots of breaks built into the congress – use these to stand up, move around, take a quick walk, so that you are ready to focus on the next event.

The Congress Platform is now Live!

Log in now and start to create your own personalized schedule, view presentations in advance and begin to connect with old friends and new acquaintances.

Upcoming iHEA Members’ Meeting

Wednesday, July 7th, 2021 at Noon GMT (UTC)

The biennial iHEA Congress always provides an opportunity for iHEA members to engage with the Board of Directors. Even though this congress will be virtual, we are as committed to this engagement. Due to the packed congress program, the 2021 General Members Meeting will be held just before the congress.

iHEA President, Winnie Yip, will provide an overview of current and planned activities and our Treasurer, Rosalie Viney, will provide a financial update. These presentations will be relatively
brief, to allow ample opportunity for members to ask questions, provide feedback on the extent to which iHEA is meeting members’ needs and where we can do better, and any other inputs you would like to make. We encourage members to participate in this meeting, which will be on Wednesday July 7th at the following time in different time zones:

8:00 in N. America EDT
12:00 in GMT/UTC
13:00 in UK/BST & West African Time
14:00 in Central Europe & Central/Southern Africa
17:30 in India
20:00 in China, Taiwan, and W. Australia
21:00 in Japan and Korea
22:00 in E. Australia

REGISTER HERE

Update on iHEA Special Interest Groups

Two important updates from Teaching Health Economics (THE) SIG

1. A reminder that there will be two terrific THE SIG sessions during the upcoming iHEA Congress that we greatly encourage you to attend:

   • THE SIG session on July 14th at 14:30 GMT (moderator Heather Brown) with three exciting presentations from
     • Gogoal Falia “Health Economics Education in India: Current Scenario, Challenges and Opportunities”
     • Tommy Willkinson “Teaching Health Economics in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Cross-Sectional Survey of Teaching Institutions”
     • Florian Buchner, Jennifer Kohn and the team “Health Insurance Game Online: a Teaching Tool in the Time of Corona”

THE SIG membership meeting on Monday July 12th 11:00 am – 12:00 pm GMT, directly before the opening plenary. Grab a cup of coffee and come & meet your fellow members! We will kick off the meeting with a brief update on the latest THE SIG happenings, and then group discussion on future strategic priorities. The highlight of the meeting will be a presentation by Jill Herndon (University of Florida) on how to lead a Health Economics course completely on Zoom (and doing it better than in person). You DO NOT have to be registered to attend the congress, to attend a SIG meeting. The link to the THE SIG meeting room will be sent to all SIG members a few days before the congress starts.

This volume draws from contributors to the 2017 and 2019 iHEA meetings, the 2018 ASHEcon meetings, and other THE SIG members. It features some of the best teaching practices in the Health Economics (HE) field over the past decade. The book provides HE instructors with or without professional training in HE, with practical applications to encompass HE courses taught in various economics and non-economics undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs. It expands its applicability beyond North America and Western Europe, to address issues in both less developed economies and more advanced ones. A discount code will be set up for iHEA members once the book is published.

Looking forward to seeing you at these sessions!

**Economics of Obesity SIG Meeting: Monday 12th July (11.00 – 12.45 GMT)**

We very much look forward to welcoming everyone to our meeting scheduled for Monday 12th July (11.00-12.45 GMT). The meeting will be discussion based and an opportunity for you to talk with others about your experiences of conducting research in obesity and get to know other colleagues. We have planned breakout discussions to cover specific topics. Ultimately, we hope that the meeting gives us all an opportunity to be involved in rich discussions, and to feel part of the SIG and support one another with our obesity research. We will ensure that each breakout room is with a different group of people which should allow you to meet and talk to a wide range of people. You do not have to be registered to attend the congress, to attend the SIG meeting. The link to the SIG meeting will be sent to all SIG members a few days before the congress starts. We always welcome new members.

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