iHEA News May 2021

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

Early bird pricing ends TODAY: Monday May 31, 2021

Register now to save up to $100 on registration!

Register here

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.

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

**The 2021 iHEA Congress Program is now live**

How is the program structured and why, how should I navigate it and plan my congress participation?

**Congress Schedule Overview**

Explore the detailed online program [here]. *Please note:* You can view the online program either in GMT or in the time zone that you are currently in – look in the blue panel on the right-hand side of the online program home page.
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<tr>
<th>Time (GMT)</th>
<th>Monday 12 July</th>
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<td>Centerpiece Are economic evaluation methods fit for purpose to inform pandemic policy?</td>
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<td>Centerpiece</td>
<td>Revisioning health economics</td>
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<td>Arrow and Wagstaff Awards Invitation to 2023 Congress</td>
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<td>Mentoring sessions Networking for others</td>
<td>Centerpiece The economics of vaccine markets</td>
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Overall Program Structure
You will notice that the Congress schedule has a strange ‘shape’, with each day starting and ending at different times. This structure has been informed by the geographic (and hence time zone) location of presenters. The distribution of presenters across time zones is roughly:

- A quarter from New Zealand, Australia and South-East Asia (time zones GMT+12 to GMT+7)
- Half from India, Europe and Africa (time zones GMT+5.30 to GMT)
- A quarter from North and Latin America (time zones GMT-3 to GMT-7)

Implications for Congress Session Attendance by Delegates in Different Parts of the World
This means that delegates living in the ‘middle’ time zones will have the opportunity, but possibly not the stamina, to attend most live session on all four days of the congress during their normal working hours. Those in North and Latin America will participate in live sessions during their morning to early afternoon, and late afternoon on Monday, while those in New Zealand to south-east Asia will be able to attend live sessions mainly during their afternoon to early evening. But, every registered delegate will be able to view all E-posters and pre-recorded long oral presentations before and after live sessions and all live session recordings afterwards. So, no one needs to miss out on any part of the scientific program.

Centerpiece Sessions
There will be a Centerpiece Session (similar to plenaries, but usually with more than one speaker or a panel) on each day. No other live sessions will run in parallel to these Centerpiece Sessions. The opening and closing Centerpiece Sessions have been scheduled at a time that almost everyone can attend live, albeit early for some and late for others. The Tuesday and Wednesday Centerpiece Sessions are scheduled to be more convenient for those in North and Latin America on Tuesday and New Zealand to south-east Asia on Wednesday.

Poster Sessions
There are two 75-minute time slots for poster sessions, again timed to accommodate delegates in different time zones. Posters have been grouped into 9 to 10 concurrent sessions in each of the two time slots, based on the health economics field within which they fall. The number of posters within each session will vary between 12 and 15 per session. Where there were many posters in a particular field (e.g. Economic Evaluation), there are two concurrent sessions for that field in the poster time slots. The sessions will include a brief overview of the posters, which it is advisable to view before the session, and a facilitated discussion of them.

Concurrent Oral Presentation Sessions
There are 22 time slots for oral presentations, each of 60 minutes. Most sessions are categorized according to the field of health economics (e.g. Demand, Supply, Economic Evaluation, Financing and Expenditure). However, some sessions relate to the areas of focus of iHEA Special Interest Groups/SIGs (e.g. obesity, genomics, mental health, health preference research, etc. – see the full list of SIGs here).
We have managed to limit the number of concurrent sessions in each time slot to eight in most cases, and nine in a few time slots. We have attempted to schedule only one session per field in each time slot, but this was not feasible for fields with large numbers of sessions, and have slotted SIG sessions in where a field has fewer sessions than the number of time slots. We have tried our utmost to avoid scheduling sessions on closely related topics at the same time.

Each session will have three to four brief presentations, leaving ample time for discussion. Some Organized Sessions will have discussants. All Contributed Sessions (comprising closely-related individual abstracts) will have a moderator who has viewed longer pre-recorded presentations (or far more detailed PowerPoint slides than the ones that will be presented live) before the session to facilitate engagement with session participants and between presenters.

Other Aspects of the Program
We also have other events, like mentoring sessions and networking opportunities, and have two of these to accommodate delegates in different time zones. Each iHEA Special Interest Group will have a meeting on Monday, before the Opening Centerpiece session.

Only registered delegates will be able to participate in live sessions and other events like the mentoring sessions, or view E-posters, long form recorded oral presentations and recordings of sessions.

2021 Pre-Congress Sessions

Five pre-congress sessions will be held this year. They will take place between July 1st and July 9th, 2021. These sessions will be open to anyone interested in attending, and are not restricted to registered congress delegates. Registration for these sessions will be opened shortly on a Pre-congress Sessions webpage. The sessions include:

**Thursday July 1, 2021  11:00 AM – 1:00 PM GMT**
“Tracking Health Expenditure during the COVID-19 pandemic”
**Organized by:** WHO in collaboration with OECD and GFF

**Wednesday July 7, 2021  9:00 AM – 10:15 AM GMT**
“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”
**Organized by:** Taiwan National Health Insurance Administration and Tsung-Mei Cheng of Princeton University
Thursday July 8, 2021  7:00 AM – 9:00 AM GMT
“Using EuroQol instruments in health economics research: New instruments and New applications”
Organized by: EuroQoL

The details of two other pre-congress sessions, to be held on Thursday July 8 and Friday July 9, will also be posted on the webpage as soon as they are available.

Webinar News

Upcoming Webinars for June

Thursday, June 17, 2021
Webinar: Mentally Healthy Workplaces – The Way Forward
2AM (ET) / 4PM (Australia) / 8AM (Cape Town)

Although employment provides a range of mental health and broader economic benefits to the individual and the wider community, some workplaces can undermine the good mental health of employees and exacerbate existing mental health problems. Most studies have found that being employed supports good mental health and that work, on balance, acts as a protective force, while unemployment can be psychologically damaging. However, poorly designed workplaces can also exacerbate mental health symptoms. There are a number of costs associated with a mentally unhealthy workplace. They include absenteeism, presenteeism (where an employee remains at work despite experiencing symptoms that result in reduced levels of productivity) and the cost of workers compensation claims. The presentation will also outline some strategies that are useful to promote mental health and wellbeing at workplace.

Speakers: Stephen King
Hosted by the Mental Health Economics Special Interest Group

REGISTER HERE

News on iHEA’s Mentoring Program

The 3rd round of the Mentoring program will be launched soon

Have you considered participating in iHEA’s professional mentoring program? Mentoring can make a big difference to enhance the careers of both mentors and mentees and all interested iHEA members can apply for participation in the mentoring program. A minimum of ten years of experience in the field is required for members to volunteer as mentors for early career researchers (ECRs) and 15+ years as mentors for mid-career researchers. Members can apply as ECR mentees if they have received their highest degree within the past seven years (mid-career mentees: 7-15 years ago at the time of application). Applicants are paired based on research interests and other preferences indicated in the yearly mentoring program intake survey and
after that they agree on meeting at least four times over a one-year period. Most participants indicate a preference for online video calls. For those participating in an onsite congress year, the option to meet in person is well received.

The annual number of mentor-mentee pairs depends on the number of mentors participating in the program so unfortunately not everyone is matched with a mentor. Unpaired mentee applicants will have priority in the upcoming round, if a mentor match is found based on indicated preferences.

The iHEA mentoring program was launched in 2019. Currently the second round is ongoing until end of September with 35 mentor-mentee pairs worldwide. The 3rd round will be launched at an earlier date than the 2nd round to facilitate the possibility of in-person meetings in future congresses which are usually held in July. Therefore, there will be an overlap of rounds (2-3 months) for current mentors who plan to continue sharing their expertise with mentees in the upcoming round of the program. Annual participation of mentors is encouraged and is expected to enrich the program as mentoring experience builds up among the membership. An intake survey for mentors and mentees will be sent to all iHEA members in the coming days. Please find further information here:

https://www.healtheconomics.org/general/custom.asp?page=mentorR

Special Interest Groups to Meet at iHEA Congress

Each of the iHEA Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will hold a meeting at the start of the iHEA Congress. This will provide an opportunity for members of SIGs, and congress delegates interested in the work of a particular SIG, to meet others with similar interests. All of these meetings will take place on Monday July 12, 2021 between 11am and 12:45pm GMT. The precise timing of each of the SIG meetings (in GMT) is as follows:
All registered Congress delegates will be able to access the meetings through the online Congress platform. Any member of these iHEA SIGs who is not registered for the Congress will be able to join their SIG’s meeting through a link that will be e-mailed to them shortly before the Congress.

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Update on iHEA Special Interest Groups

Introducing the Economics of Children's Health and Wellbeing (E-CHW) Special Interest Group

Children and young people under the age of 18 make up almost a third of the world's population. They are integral to society and are important users of health and social care. Over the last few decades, the recognition that investing in their health welfare is an investment in our future has created a powerful impetus for research. Reflecting the growing interest in the topic and the critical potential for impact on health outcomes and policy, we introduce a SIG specific to the 'Economics of Children's Health and Wellbeing'. The E-CHW aligns with iHEA's mission to help shape research and offer a new, valuable channel of international collaboration and research communication.

Conveners:
Kim Dalziel and Lazaros Andronis (Founders and Lead Conveners)
Donna Rowe and Stavros Petrou Conveners for Research (including across settings)
Carla Guerriero (Convener for International Collaborations)
Christine Mpundu-Kaambwa (Convener for Communications and Networking)
Ama Fenny (Convener for LMIC focused research)
Lisa Gold and Lisa Prosser (Conveners for Organized Conference Sessions)
Stefan Lipman (Convener for ECR/Student Support and Development)

The key objectives of this SIG are to bring together an international community of researchers with a view to building health economics capacity and advancing economic research that contributes to children's health and wellbeing. This will be achieved by connecting researchers and interested parties, stimulating dialogue and enquiry, and facilitating international dissemination. In line with iHEA's mission, there will be a focus on connecting and showcasing LMIC research and engaging early career researchers and students. Planned activities include regular webinars, E-CHW blog and quarterly newsletter.

Membership is open to all iHEA members (regardless of career stage) interested in child health and wellbeing. Membership can be requested by logging into the iHEA website, selecting the "groups" section and clicking "request to join" the Economics of Children's Health and Wellbeing Special Interest Group (E-CHW SIG). Membership of researchers working in middle- and low-income countries is strongly encouraged as well as of trainees and early career researchers.

To learn more about the SIG and its conveners, visit the Economics of Children's Health & Wellbeing - International Health Economics Association

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Economics of Obesity SIG Update
Title: New study found negative effects of BMI on income in women. No effect was found in men.
Authors: Christina Hansen Edwards, Johan Håkon Bjørngaard, Jonas Minet Kinge

Although several studies have estimated effects of body mass index (BMI) on labour market outcomes, the findings are mixed. One of the reasons for this is the wide variety of methods used to control for omitted variables, selection, reverse causality, and measurement error.

This study, which was recently published in Health Economics https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hec.4285 examined the effect of BMI on income in Norway using data from tax records combined with health survey data. The health survey contained measured height and weight and genotyped blood samples. To mitigate endogeneity issues when measuring the impact of BMI on income, 97 genetic variants were combined in various ways and used as instrumental variables for BMI. A wide variety of methods were used to explore the validity of the instrument.

For females, BMI had a negative effect on income. The effect estimated from the IV models was larger than the effect estimated from naïve ordinary least squares regressions. For males, the coefficients for the effect of BMI on income were imprecise, and both positive and negative coefficients were estimated depending on the estimation method. These findings suggest that females are susceptible to reduced income levels following increased BMI.

Teaching Health Economics (THE) SIG Update
Teaching Health Economics (THE) SIG will be holding a membership meeting on Monday July 12, 11 am-12 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).

Stay Connected

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Become a Member

Individual, LMIC, University, Student, Organizational

Join