



iHEA News May 2019

iHEA News is the official newsletter of the [International Health Economics Association](http://www.healtheconomics.org).

Presidents Corner



"Philosophy begins in wonder." Wrote Plato. Every discipline has its treasures of wonderful phenomena. For physics there is the dual nature of the particle. For biology there is the paradox of negative entropy in the origin and evolution of life. Wonders serve to inspire awe. Awe is what unifies a discipline and gathers its practitioners together. All are attracted by the awe that something so marvelous has happened and convene to unravel and fathom its beauty.

For all economists the ability of markets to form, their power, and their fragility is an awesome wonder. For health economists in particular, I think the mortality declines and population health improvements of the 20th and 21st centuries would rate as truly spectacular. Simple explanations like "living standards", "health technology", or "development" do not suffice. The uneven geographical and social reach of mortality declines and their inconstant connection with medical spending give rise to most of the problems that health economists turn their attention to. The current hints of a reversal in mortality decline among affluent populations and a universal slow-down in the expected rate of life-expectancy gains adds new urgency to our work.

In an age when many are diverted by the issues that divide us, let us celebrate our collective efforts to wonder about how to make people healthier. Whether we work in methods, evaluation, financing, or payment reform, we are united by a profession that allies the science of choice to making life better for the human race.

Congress News

Pre Congress Sessions

Register for pre-congress sessions now

There is an incredible line-up of 18 pre-congress sessions that will be held on Saturday July 13th and Sunday 14th in Basel. You can find out about these sessions on the [iHEA website](#), and can also see the abstracts for presentations in sessions that are based on an open call for abstracts and peer-review process – see the [Saturday sessions here](#) and the [Sunday sessions here](#).

Some of you registered for these sessions when registering for the 2019 iHEA congress, but others may not have signed up for pre-congress sessions yet. To ensure that no one misses out on the opportunity to participate in these sessions, we have opened a registration system specifically for pre-congress sessions. **Please note:** If you have already registered for pre-congress sessions, **you do not** need to register again.

We urge you to sign up for these sessions as soon as possible – **some only have a few spaces left** and registration will close as soon as they are full.

A few of the pre-congress sessions that may be of interest to you include:

- Two pre-congress sessions that were initially ‘by invitation only’ have a few spaces left which have now been opened up for general registration:
 - The **4th ICECAP Measures Workshop** (Sunday, 8:30-16:30). ICECAP are measures of capability wellbeing, intended for use in applied studies, including economic evaluation, to aid resource allocation decisions. The workshop will provide an update on current ICECAP-related research, provide a forum for discussion about use of the measures, and consider issues around the use of the measures in decision making.
 - **Measurement of Industry-Led Access-to-Medicines Programs** (Saturday 13:00-16:30). The session will focus on ongoing efforts to build systems and standards for measurement and reporting on private sector social impact, with a particular focus on programs led by pharmaceutical companies that aim to improve access to health services and treatments in low- and middle-income countries.
- Sessions that are being held in larger venues and so have more available spaces include:
 - **Financing Common Goods for Health** (Sunday 8:30-12:00). This session will present a new WHO knowledge program to address obstacles to under-financing of “Common Goods for Health”, which are population-based functions (such as pandemics and climate-related disasters) that require collective financing given market failures. Leading academics, WHO officials and country-level practitioners will make presentations.
 - **The Tenth Anniversary of China’s Health Care Reform: Global Lessons for Universal Health Coverage** (Sunday 8:30-12:00). In April 2009, China launched a huge and complex healthcare reform with the goal to provide all its citizens with access to equitable and quality basic health care by 2020. The initial phase of the reform focused on health insurance expansion and infrastructure building. This pre-congress session will: 1) empirically examine the achievements and challenges of the reform; 2) analyze the underlying causes and 3) draw global lessons.
- Sessions organized **by iHEA Special Interest Groups (SIGs)** – SIGs provide a platform for ongoing engagement between health economists on topics of common interest. These sessions



provide an opportunity to hear about the latest research, policy and practice developments in the SIG's area of focus and to meet SIG members. Pre-congress sessions have been organized by the following SIGs:

- **Early Career Researcher (Saturday 13:00-18:15)**
- **Economics of Obesity (Sunday 8:30-16:30)**
- **Financing for Universal Health Coverage (Sunday 13:00-16:30)**
- **Health Workforce (Sunday 8:30-16:30)**
- **Immunization Economics (Saturday and Sunday 8:30-16:30)**
- **Teaching Health Economics (Sunday 8:30-12:00)**

[Register for pre-congress sessions here](#)

Join us at the iHEA Members' Meeting in Basel

Tuesday, July 16th from 12:00 – 13:30

Kollegienhaus Hörsaal 102, Universität Basel

The biennial congress presents an important opportunity for members to guide iHEA on how to serve you better. The goal of advancing the field of Health Economics can best succeed when iHEA members and the Board engage directly about what we can do together.

We would urge all iHEA members attending the 2019 congress in Basel to participate in this important meeting to voice your needs and priorities and get to know about the current range of services offered to members.

Further information on this was circulated to members this week and can be found [online here](#)

SIG News

Early Career Researcher Interview Series

Interview 6: Michelle Tew, 26th April 2019
Interviewers: Angela Esi Micah and James Buchanan



The Early Career Researcher Interview Series is an initiative led by the iHEA [Early Career Researcher Special Interest Group \(ECR-SIG\)](#). The aim of this interview series is to showcase the diversity of people in the ECR subgroup in iHEA. By interviewing a variety of ECRs, we hope to describe the many interesting and emerging career paths available to ECRs in health economics, highlight the choices that individuals have made to help them to reach this point in their career, and reveal how ECRs are navigating the various challenges that they face.

The fifth interview of this series is with [Michelle Tew](#). Michelle is a PhD Candidate and Health Economics Research Assistant at the Centre for Health Policy, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne. Her research interests are in economic evaluation, and she is part of the team undertaking economic evaluations for the Medical Services Advisory Committee (MSAC) at the Department of Health to inform decisions about listing of new Medicare items. Angela Esi Micah and James Buchanan, two of the conveners of the ECR-SIG, spoke to Michelle in April 2019 to discuss her career to date.

Immunization Economics

The iHEA Immunization Economics Special Interest Group (SIG) is excited to have you at the upcoming two-day Immunization Economics pre-congress session in Basel, Switzerland, July 13-14. The updated agenda, available at [immunizationeconomics.org/basel](#), covers a wealth of content that is guaranteed to pique your interests. In particular, we will have featured updates on research findings and methodological resources; concurrent capacity building sessions covering analytic methods and knowledge translation; and distinguished panelists and speakers covering a broad topic from stakeholder engagement, broader use of data, capacity-building, policy, and decision-making, all while maintaining our focus topic on the economics of immunization.

We currently have over 140 participants and speakers registered, which include top MoH/MoF officials, HTA and Immunization Economics experts from governments and universities representing over 40 countries and 75 organizations including the WHO, UNICEF, GAVI, CDC, USAID, IHME, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

In addition to the main agenda, we will also have a poster presentation session throughout this two-day event. We will implement the new [#betterposter](#) design that took the internet by storm. In addition to awarding the five high-scoring presentations with travel support, we also extended support to a handful of incredible poster submissions to mitigate their financial barrier and allow them (mostly from LMICs) to come to present their findings. These posters, representing works from over 20 countries, share insights that will undoubtedly enrich your learning experience in Basel. We will also have a social event on Saturday night so participants can get to know each other and establish new connections.

Please do not hesitate to contact me (csuharlim@mail.harvard.edu) should you require assistance in updating your registration to include this pre-congress session. There is no additional charge for you to

join this Immunization Economics pre-congress session, which includes two full days of activity, meeting materials, lunch, dinner, a social on July 13th and coffee breaks.

Join a Special Interest Group

There are now **nine (9) functioning Special Interest Groups**: Early Career Researchers, Economics of Obesity, Economics of Palliative & End-of-Life Care, Financing for Universal Health Coverage, Health Preference Research, Health Systems' Efficiency, Health Workforce, Teaching Health Economics and Immunization Economics. We encourage members to join a Special Interest Group. You can click through each of the SIG webpages to learn more about their objectives and how to join!

University Member News

University of Aberdeen

In 2019, we will run our short course on Discrete Choice Experiments (DCEs) in September and November. The course covers the theoretical and practical issues involved in using DCEs in health economics. The course provides:

- An introduction to the theoretical basis for, and development and application of, DCEs in health economics.
- Hands on experience of the design of DCEs, questionnaire development, data input, analysis and interpretation.
- Group work sessions using state-of-practice computer software.

An up to date overview of the methodological issues raised in the application of DCEs.

In 2019 the course will run twice:

- **Aberdeen, UK - 13-15 November 2019 in Aberdeen**, at the [Park Inn Hotel](#), Aberdeen, UK.
- **Banff, Canada - 8th - 11th September 2019** at the [Banff Conference Centre, Alberta, Canada](#). This course is in collaboration with the [O'Brien Institute for Public Health](#), University of Calgary.

More information is available on our website (<https://www.abdn.ac.uk/heru/courses/workshops/>)

To book places:

For the Aberdeen course, please visit the [online store](#)

For the Banff course, please visit the [event booking site](#)

Book early to avoid disappointment!

Become a University Member to Access Additional Member Benefits!

In the last year, iHEA made changes to its University Membership structure and benefits. In addition to various congress-related benefits, university members' training programs are featured on a dedicated page on the iHEA website, feature articles on university members will be published in the monthly newsletter and university members are entitled to advertise employment and postdoctoral fellowship opportunities on the iHEA job board and Twitter account at no cost.

To learn more about University Membership benefits, please [click here](#).

Regional News

2nd Meeting of the Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics – Hokkaido, Japan, December 2019

We are delighted to announce the 2nd Meeting of **the Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics**, which will take place in Otaru, Hokkaido, Japan, **from Sunday, December 8th to Tuesday, December 10th, 2019.**

This year, keynote lecture will be given by Professor Jonathan Skinner (Dartmouth University).

We warmly encourage you to submit your paper at <http://www.waseda.jp/prj-wishproject/asian-wehe/index.html> where further details can be found. The deadline for the paper submission is August 20th, 2019.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Hokkaido in December!

Sok Chul Hong (Seoul National University, South Korea)
Tarun Jain (Indian School of Business, India)
Karine Lamiraud (ESSEC Business School, France)
Xiaoyan Lei (Peking University, China)
Ming-Jen Lin (National Taiwan University, Taiwan)
Shiko Maruyama (University of Technology Sydney, Australia)
Haruko Noguchi (Waseda University, Japan)
Nada Wasi (Puey Ungphakorn Institute for Economic Research, Bank of Thailand)
Joanne Yoong (University of Southern California, USA)

Workshop Organizers
Asian Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics

iHEA Webinars

iHEA Special Interest Groups held a number of webinars in the first quarter of 2019, all of which are available for viewing online [here](#). Webinars are open to members and non-members alike and upcoming webinars will be announced shortly!

Do you have an idea for a future webinar or interest in organizing a webinar? Reach out to us at ihea@healthconomics.org.

Career Center

 Search Openings  Resumé/CV Search  Submit an Opening  Subscribe

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@healthconomics.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@healthconomics.org!

