
ANNOUNCEMENTS

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON DEVELOPING COUNTRIES FORMED

On June 25, 1996, during the course of the 12th Annual Session of ISTAHC in San Francisco, a meeting was convened by Dr. Gordon Stott, until recently of WHO Geneva, and Dr. Seymour Perry for the purpose of organizing a special interest group on developing countries (SPIG/DC). Approximately 50 people representing 16 different countries (including 11 developing countries) participated.

The need for a SPIG/DC with ISTAHC was agreed to unanimously and, after some discussion, its purpose and proposed activities were adopted. A SPIG/DC would serve to focus "attention on the health technology problems of the majority of the world's population and in helping to create a consensus of opinion on what needs to be done and how to go about it. Specifically, this SPIG/DC could develop the means of working with and assisting developing countries by promoting the appropriate use of health technology assessment (HTA) to improve the quality of health care and allocation of resources."

The range of activities of the SPIG/DC is to include the following: production of a document on HTA from the perspective of developing countries; act as a focal point for consideration of the needs for HTA in developing countries; production of publications and learning materials on HTA, including the adaptation of published assessment reports to national needs (needs-based HTA); encouraging and offering technical support for orientation seminars, training courses, and workshops on HTA; and promote collaboration among countries and institutions, particularly at the regional level and in association with WHO and other organizations.

The group generally agreed that most activities should be implemented on a regional basis and that the role of the SPIG/DC is to promote coordination, collaboration, and information exchange and to be an overall catalyst for programs in the regions.

Dr. Perry was elected unanimously to serve as coordinator along with Dr. Somsak Chunharas of Thailand for the Southeast Asia Region, Dr. Santiago Lastiri of Mexico for the Pan-American Region, and Dr. Tessa Tan-Torres of the Philippines for the Western Pacific as associate coordinators. Dr. Tan-Torres will also serve as the liaison to the ISTAHC Board of Directors. Associate coordinators will be named for other regions in the near future.

Following the meeting, several participants suggested that the term "developing countries" be replaced by "emerging economies" (EE) because of the sensitivity among some people over the former term.

Comments and requests for additional information are welcome. Please contact Seymour Perry, M.D., Director, WHO Collaborating Center for HTA, Medical Technology and Practice Patterns Institute, 2121 Wisconsin Avenue, NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20007, USA; telephone (202) 333-8841; fax (202) 333-5586; e-mail sperr@mtpi.org.

SPECIAL VOLUME ON TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT FOR HEALTH CARE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AVAILABLE

This special compilation of articles published in the journal between 1988 and 1994 was first published as a separate volume in 1995. The first printing was exhausted several months ago. However, a second printing has just been completed with partial funding from the World Health Organization. Copies are available at a charge of US \$25 plus mailing costs. For more information, contact Seymour Perry, M.D., Director, WHO Collaborating Center for HTA, Medical Technology and Practice Patterns Institute, 2121 Wisconsin Ave., NW, Suite 220, Washington, DC 20007; telephone (202) 333-8841; fax (202) 333-5586; e-mail sperr@mtppi.org.

Call for Papers

MEDICAL DECISION MAKING: SPECIAL ISSUE ON PHARMACOECONOMICS DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS: June 1, 1997

Medical Decision Making, the official journal of the Society for Medical Decision Making, plans to publish a special issue devoted to Pharmacoeconomics, a growing field of applied decision research, in April 1998. Manuscripts appropriate for this special issue are invited, provided they have not been published elsewhere nor are currently under review by another journal. All submissions will be peer-reviewed; authors will be notified of the editorial decision by December 1, 1997.

Magnus Johannesson (Stockholm School of Economics) and Bernie O'Brien (McMaster University) will serve as guest editors for this special issue. They will be assisted by an editorial board of leading international experts in pharmacoeconomics.

Four copies of the manuscript should be submitted to either guest editor. Manuscripts must conform to style guidelines for *Medical Decision Making*, which are published as "Information for Authors" in each issue.

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**WORLD CONGRESS ON
MEDICAL PHYSICS AND BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING,
SEPTEMBER 14–19, 1997, NICE, FRANCE**

with a special track devoted to
TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT IN HEALTH CARE

Scientific Program. Oral and poster presentations, refresher courses, mini-symposia, roundtables, and state-of-the-art presentations based on the 36 topics shown below.

Deadline for abstracts submitted on Congress forms: February, 1997.

Topics for submission of abstracts:

1. Artificial Intelligence
2. Artificial Organs
3. Bioelectromagnetism, Biomagnetism, and Bioelectricity
4. Biomaterials
5. Biomechanics
6. Biomedical Optics and Lasers
7. Brachytherapy
8. Cellular and Tissue Engineering
9. Clinical Engineering
10. Computers in Medicine
11. Education and Professional Aspects of Medical, Physics, and Biomedical Engineering
12. Electrocardiology
13. External Radiation Therapy: Physical and Technical Aspects
14. **Health Economics**
15. Heavy Ions and Advanced Techniques in Radiotherapy
16. History of Biomedical Engineering and Medical Physics
17. Hyperthermia and Hypothermia
18. Image Engineering and Medical Imaging
19. Internal Radiotherapy
20. Medical Devices
21. Metrology of Ionizing and Nonionizing Radiations
22. Microcirculation
23. Microtechnics
24. Modeling and Simulation
25. Pain Treatment
26. Perinatal Technology
27. Physiological Measurements and Signal Processing
28. **Quality Assurance (methods and devices)**
29. Radiation Protection
30. Radiobiology
31. Rehabilitation Engineering
32. Sensors, Biosensors, and Transducers
33. **Technology Assessment**
34. Technology for the Aging and Handicapped Persons
35. Telemedicine
36. Ultrasound

For more information and abstract forms, please contact NICE'97; SEE 48 rue de la Procession, 75724 Paris Cedex 15, France; tel.: +33 1 44 49 60 60; fax: +33 1 44 49 60 44; e-mail: nice97@univ-paris12.fr.

**EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH AND
TREATMENT OF CANCER (EORTC)**

Announces

**The First European Conference on the Economics of Cancer,
November 19–21, 1997, Brussels, Belgium**

The aim of this international conference organized by the EORTC is to promote scientific exchanges, provide up-to-date information on ongoing studies and methodological issues, and to stimulate informal discussions between all those with an interest in the subject. The meeting will include keynote lecturers by leaders in the field, oral and poster presentations of submitted papers, and tutorials on selected issues.

Papers are invited on the following issues:

1. Actual economic evaluations of cancer treatments and preventive measures:
 - Describing ongoing evaluations (especially integrated in clinical trials)
 - Already concluded evaluations (retrospective data, models)
2. Methodological issues in economic evaluation, as applied to cancer
3. Impact of economic evaluations on practical decision making
4. Collection and measurement of resource utilization data
5. Outcome measurement (WTP / Q-TWIST / QoL / survival / utility)
6. Impacts of institutional structure and financing mechanisms

For more information and abstract forms, please contact Mr. J. Bussels, EORTC; Av. E Mounier 83/11, 1200 Brussels, Belgium; tel.: +32 2 7741642; fax: +32 2 7726701; e-mail: JBU@eortc.bc