

The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Jefferson Student Chapter (Jeff-ISPOR): Expanding Students' Horizons into Careers in Health Outcomes

Outcomes research is defined as "the study of the end result of health services that takes patients' experiences, preferences, and values into account."¹ The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), the leading organization in outcomes research, was founded in 1995 with the vision to be the *leader* of "a truly international multi-disciplinary professional membership society which advances/drives the policy, science, and practice of health outcomes research."² In the 20 years it has been in operation, ISPOR has increased membership to more than 9,500 members over 114 countries.³ ISPOR also facilitates student engagement and support through local student ISPOR chapters, travel grants, and educational activities. Though ISPOR was initially focused on pharmaceutical outcomes research, its members are now broadly engaged in measuring both the outcomes and economic value of drugs and other healthcare interventions such as devices, diagnostics, and behavioral programs.

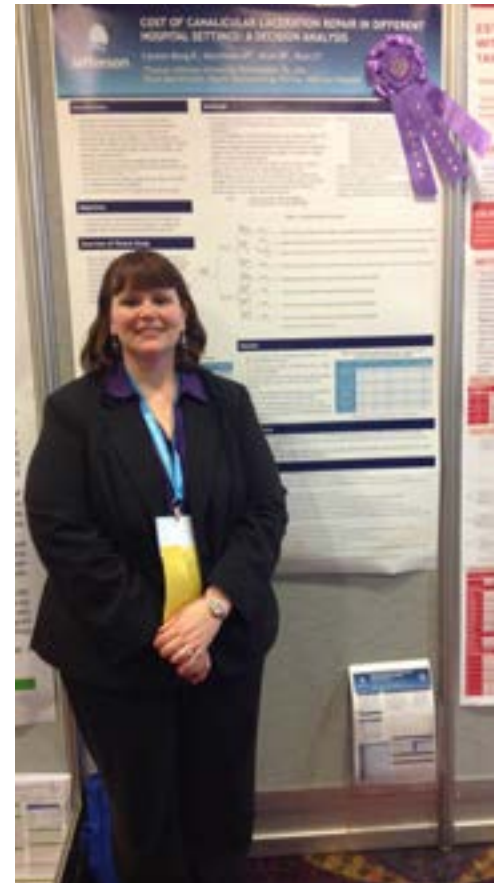
Since 2005, The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research Thomas Jefferson University student chapter (Jeff-ISPOR) has exposed students to topics in the health economics and outcomes research field and provided a vehicle for them to network with professionals in these career paths. To date, the majority of Jeff-ISPOR members have been students from the Jefferson College of Pharmacy (JCP) and Jefferson College of Population Health (JCPH), but the group is open to students from all Jefferson colleges who share an interest in the field. Jeff-ISPOR is one of 75 active ISPOR

student chapters globally and, with 34 members, is one of the largest in terms of membership. The group is advised by Laura Pizzi, PharmD, MPH (JCP) and Vittorio Maio, PharmD, MS, MSPH (JCPH).

Jeff-ISPOR aims to give students a working knowledge of the healthcare system, the decision-making process for drugs and other innovations, and scientific approaches for measuring the economic and outcomes value of innovations. With the increasingly complex healthcare landscape, persons trained in this discipline are proving to be a valuable resource for innovator companies, health plans and large provider systems (such as accountable care organizations).

Jeff-ISPOR members are also encouraged to submit research to the Annual ISPOR International Meeting, hosted annually in North America. The 2015 Annual Meeting was held in Philadelphia, PA, where JCP and JCPH accounted for a total of 17 poster presentations. Elizabeth Cannon-Dang, MPH, the current Jeff-ISPOR President, was awarded a ribbon for 'Outstanding Poster'. The research, developed in partnership with Jefferson and Wills Eye Hospital, reported the cost effectiveness of performing canaliculus laceration repair in the operating room versus minor procedure room.⁴

Each year, Jeff-ISPOR hosts at least two philanthropic events to complement the group's educational activities. These activities give students a greater context regarding healthcare delivery issues and provide networking opportunities while giving back to the Philadelphia community. Recent



Elizabeth Cannon-Dang received an "Outstanding Poster" award at ISPOR.

events have included volunteering at Variety Children's Charity Superhero 5K and Wills Eye Hospital's Give Kids Sight Day.

Finally, Jeff-ISPOR cultivates students' awareness about career paths in applied health economics and outcomes research. In collaboration with the student chapters of JCP student government, the Academy of Managed Care Pharmacy, and Industry Pharmacists Association, Jeff-ISPOR held

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a Fellowship Night in November 2015 to explain the training provided through fellowships and the process of applying for these programs. Current JCPH fellows and Jeff-ISPOR members Jacquelyn McRae, PharmD, Stefan Varga, PharmD, Po-Han Chen, ScM, and Matthew Alcusky, PharmD, MS shared information about Jefferson's fellowship programs.

The unique combination of activities provides Jeff-ISPOR students with a robust opportunity to understand and explore careers in applied health economics and outcomes research. For more information or to join please

visit <http://www.ispor.org/Event/index/2016Washington> and contact Ms. Cannon-Dang at Elizabeth.Cannon@jefferson.edu.

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2. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. ISPOR Founding Vision Web site. http://www.ispor.org/founding_vision.asp. Updated July 2000. Accessed September 24, 2015.
3. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. ISPOR Membership Profile Web site. <http://www.ispor.org/members/Index.asp>. Published 2015. Accessed September 24, 2015.
4. Cannon-Dang E, Murchison AP, Bilyk JR, Pizzi LT. Cost of Canalicular Laceration Repair in Different Hospital Settings: A Decision Analysis. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research 20th Annual Conference. 19 May 2015. Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.