

CONTENTS

A Message from the Executive Director.....	2
2021 Board Elections.....	3
Policy Forum.....	4
Annual Meeting.....	5
Interest Groups.....	6
Membership Spotlight.....	7
Partner Highlight.....	8
Webinars.....	9
Announcements.....	10

Welcome to the 2nd edition!

Read more on page 2

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Welcome to the 2nd edition of The HTAi Digest, the official newsletter of the Society.

We have taken some of the feedback we received following the release of our inaugural issue and refined both the look and the newsletter content. I hope you like the result, and as ever, please tell us what you think – we want to keep building out the ways in which we engage with our membership, and your feedback is important to us.

We are now a little over one month into the new year, and the global pandemic arising from COVID-19 continues to cast a long shadow. Still, I am looking ahead with a sense of optimism. The reasons for this are threefold: (1) I think we have a strong team at the Secretariat; (2) the alignment between the Secretariat and the HTAi Board is vital – and getting stronger; and (3) the support of our sponsors and members is inspiring. Which leads me to this: before we officially close the book on 2020, I want to thank the Secretariat for stepping up and confronting the challenging circumstances that 2020 brought us. I also want to thank our Board members, who, as passionate and committed volunteers, provided and continue to provide leadership in meeting the challenges and opportunities in the HTA landscape. Also, I want to thank our sponsors and members whose faith in the Society continues to shine through, even in the face of uncertainty around our events' nature (virtual, hybrid, in-person). I am committed to delivering value to our members and see 2021 as an opportunity to begin emerging from the past year's darkness and stepping into the light. It may take a while, but I am confident we will find creative and innovative ways to differentiate HTAi and solidify our position as the international society promoting HTA – and in turn, making health care globally more accessible, equitable and impactful. I am excited to announce that the

electoral process for positions on the HTAi Board officially began on February 3. The 2021 election is an important one as the three positions coming available are all on the Executive Committee. At the same time, HTAi is at something of a pivot point in its history.

In addition to the challenges associated with the global pandemic, the operational and competitive “space” in which HTAi is situated has changed. As such, the Board needs to continue to build its skill-set to provide appropriate strategic direction to the HTAi Secretariat and to engage effectively and efficiently with members, sponsors, and other key stakeholders. The Nominating Committee believes that growing the Board's competencies in marketing, communications, and finance would be especially valuable at this time. So, if you, or someone you know, has ever considered running for a spot on the HTAi Board, now is the time to consider stepping forward. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about the electoral process or being a Board member. With your help, I am confident that we can build on the current Board's strengths and take the next steps in strengthening the Society.

Thank you for being part of the HTAi community. Ultimately, we exist to serve you and advance the cause of HTA worldwide. I look forward to working with you and engaging in dialogue with you on how we move forward together for a successful 2021.

Very best regards,

Rob Abbott
Executive Director



2021 BOARD ELECTIONS



The 2021 Nominations are open!

The 2021 Nominations opened for the following positions on the HTAi Board of Directors:

Vice-President for the two-year term 2021-2023. At the end of this term, the Vice-President succeeds typically to the President (two-year term) and, finally, advances to the Past President (two-year term).

Secretary for a three-year term 2021-2024. This position is eligible for re-election to a total of six years of service.

Treasurer for a three-year term 2021-2024. This position is eligible for re-election to a total of six years of service.

In the event that an existing Director of the Board applies for any of the above positions and is elected, a Director position may become vacant. The Director position will be offered to the nominee who was not elected to the executive positions but received the highest number of votes.

We highly encourage Society members with experience in one or more of the following to run for office: organizational leadership, governance of not-for-profit organizations, business and finance, operations management, marketing, communications, sponsorship development, and content strategy.

Please note, while the attributes listed above are preferred when considering whom to nominate, the attributes themselves do not form part of the standard Nomination Committee evaluation process. All nominees are welcome.

Please think about people in your network who would be great additions to the Board and actively encourage them to run for election. If they are not currently members of HTAi, becoming a member is straightforward – and is a prerequisite for participating in the election.

We will continue building a healthy, active, and

prosperous Society through our members' volunteer efforts.

For more information and to submit your nomination, please visit the [Board of Directors Election page](#) on our website.

If you have any questions regarding Board Elections, please email Tatiana Hagerty thagerty@htai.org.

Nominations close February 17 at 11: 59 p.m. MST.



POLICY FORUM



Global Policy Forum

We are looking forward to the first ever Virtual Global Policy Forum!

This year's topic is "Considering and Communicating Uncertainty in HTA" and the meeting will be split over three days into 2.5-hour sessions each day on February 22, 24 and 26. As in previous years, there will be a mix of formal presentations, breakout sessions and digital networking opportunities.

A huge thank you to Global Policy Forum Chair, Dan Ollendorf and Scientific Secretary, Rebecca Trowman for their hard work and dedication over the past several months.

Asia Policy Forum

On November 18, 2020, we hosted a session titled "Use of Real-World Data and Real-World Evidence to Support Drug Reimbursement Decision Making in Asia," with over fifty Asia Policy Forum members in attendance.

[View the recording.](#)

The Asia Policy Forum Organizing Committee is reviewing a shortlist of topics for the 2021 Forum. We will be announcing the topic, dates, and location in the coming weeks.

Asia Policy Forum Chair, Brendon Kearney and Scientific Secretary, Linda Mundy have developed a two-part online session for Asia Policy Forum Members. The first session, titled "[COVID-19 in Asia - Tackling the 3rd Wave & Vaccines](#)," will occur on February 4 with a second COVID-19 focused session taking place in March.

Latin America Policy Forum

A cornerstone objective of HTAi is facilitating the use of health technology assessment (HTA) to transform health care systems globally. Our Policy Forums are a particularly important vehicle to do this. The delivery of these Forums has been affected by the continuing effects of COVID-19, and we are working closely with our key partners and stakeholders to ensure that we offer our members a Forum experience that is both safe and scientifically rigorous.

In light of the most recent evidence presented to us, and with the support of our Board and local hosts, we have made the decision to postpone the 2021 Latin America Policy Forum in Brasilia, Brazil to October, 2021. We are very excited about the scientific program that is emerging for this Forum, and are grateful for the industry and HTA agency support that has crystallized around it. By moving the forum to October we are confident that the 2021 Latin America Policy Forum will be a true showcase of critical HTA policies and trends in the region.

We appreciate the many efforts that are being made by Latin America Policy Forum Chair, Hector Castro and IECS as they work to execute a quality meeting during these uncertain times.

If you have any questions regarding Policy Forums, please email Ali Powers apowers@htai.org.



ANNUAL MEETING



HTAi announces 2021 VIRTUAL Annual Meeting

With remaining worldwide uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic and concern for participant welfare a priority, the Society made the difficult but essential decision that the 2021 Annual Meeting, originally planned as a hybrid event with an in-person component to take place in Manchester, UK, will be held entirely in a virtual format. Read the full announcement [here](#).

Further details will be released over the coming weeks. For updates on speakers, plenary sessions, workshops and presentations from experts in the global HTA community visit the HTAi [2021 Annual Meeting website](#).

Registration for the 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting is opening in February! Detailed information and fees are available on the [2021 Annual Meeting website](#).

Early Bird Registration will close April 30, 2021.

2020 Beijing Virtual Annual Meeting

The 2020 Annual Meeting theme was "Attaining, Maintaining and Sustaining Healthcare Systems in a Changing World: The Role of HTA". From July to December, the Annual Meeting offered over 30 live sessions, with Oral and Poster Presentations being available [on-demand on the official meeting platform](#) for all HTAi members.

[Check out the story](#) behind one of the panels at our 2020 Annual Meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the Annual Meeting, please email annualmeeting@htai.org.

International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care (IJTAHC)

The long-awaited International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care (IJTAHC) [supplement for the Virtual HTAi 2020 Annual Meeting](#) was published on December 28, 2020.

The supplement contains abstracts of presentations that were accepted to the official 2020 HTAi Annual Meeting program.

For more information about IJTAHC, please visit the [journal tab on our website](#).



INTEREST GROUPS



Patient and Citizen Involvement (PCIG)

The HTAi Interest Group on Patient and Citizen Involvement (PCIG) brings together HTA bodies, researchers, industry, patients, representatives from patient groups and others with expertise and a keen interest in patient and citizen involvement in HTA.

The group is Chaired by Ann Single, with Valentina Strammiello as Vice-Chair. The PCIG recently welcomed a new Technical Officer, Veronica Lopez Gousset.

PARADIGM Toolkit

The HTAi Interest Group on [Patient and Citizen Involvement](#) (PCIG) brings together HTA bodies, researchers, industry, patients, representatives from patient groups and others with expertise and a keen interest in patient and citizen involvement in HTA. Currently the group is Chaired by Ann Single. Valentina Strammiello is the Vice-Chair. The PCIG recently welcomed a new Technical Officer Veronica Lopez Gousset.

Working through the PCIG, HTAi took part in the Innovation Medicines Initiative project 'Patients active in research and dialogues for an improved generation of medicines (PARADIGM)'. The whole project covered guidance and tools on patient involvement in medicine development. HTAi's contribution was to create a toolkit for HTA bodies to engage patients in Early Dialogues/ Scientific Advice. This work was authored by Neil Bertelsen in consultation with HTA bodies and key members of the Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group.

You can find the PARADIGM Toolkit on the [PCIG projects webpage](#). It will take you through the rationale of the toolkit, and includes sections on "The Rationale for engaging patients in Early Dialogues", "Guidance on the methods of patient engagement in Early Dialogues", and

"Resources to support HTA bodies in engaging patients for Early Dialogues". It provides, guidance, checklists, and templates to help conduct patient engagement during Early Dialogues that is structured, effective, ethical, and meaningful.

If you'd like to know more about the Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group you can find their monthly [newsletters](#) on our website. You can also follow them on LinkedIn and twitter: [@pcig](#)

Interest Group Community Portal

Recently, the Secretariat has been working on an Interest Group Engagement initiative to help its members collaborate and engage amongst themselves and between groups. The idea behind this project is to create a platform that has greater capacity and enhanced features to offer Interest Group members. The Interest Group Steering Committee recently reviewed the initiative and is offering guidance through the final development stages.

We have many exciting new features in the works such as centralized webinar content, video calls, live chat, and discussion boards!

This new platform will provide the Interest Group members greater support and exposure of their work and has been approved by HTAi's Executive Director and the Interest Group Steering Committee.

We are excited about this new project and look forward to introducing it to you all in March. There will be updates posted on our social media so keep an eye on our [LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page.

If you have any questions about the Interest Group Community Portal please reach out to Bryce Doherty bdoherty@htai.org and/or Sydney Ruller sruller@htai.org.





MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

This month's member spotlight is The Institute of Health Economics (IHE)!

IHE is an independent, not-for-profit organization located in Edmonton, Canada, with key health economics, health technology assessment, and knowledge transfer/exchange competencies.

These members strive to consistently provide relevant, timely and impactful evidence that support informed health system policy and investment decisions by public and private partners while providing intellectually rigorous and fit-to-purpose products and services to enable partners and clients to make decisions that can stand up to contestability.

Some of their clients include provincial and federal governments, regulatory agencies, health care delivery organizations, providers, and private sector innovators, both large and small. The IHE has a long history with HTAi as it has acted as the host agency for the HTAi Secretariat since it was formed in 2003 and served as the host agency for the INAHTA Secretariat.

As members of HTAi, the Institute has appreciated the opportunity to connect with and learn from our international colleagues. There is nothing more important for health care investment decisions to be informed by the best evidence, and IHE is proud to be part of the HTAi community.

Some exciting initiatives underway from IHE include:

- Hosting the Network of Alberta Health Economists (NOAHE) -[ongoing webinar rounds](#).

AND IHE recently launched the [Health Technology Innovation Platform \(HTIP\)](#) - 3 years public and private sector partnership to support new approaches for outcomes-based agreements.





PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

This month's partner highlight is INAHTA!

This month's partner highlight is INAHTA!

INAHTA is the international network of publicly funded HTA agencies. Their members have links to regional and national governments to support health system decision making that impacts over 1 billion people in 30 countries worldwide. INAHTA leads the production of the HTA Database and co-governs the HTA Glossary with HTAi, among other initiatives within the international HTA community.

To learn more about what INAHTA does and how to become a member, visit www.inahta.org and give them a follow on Twitter [@INAHTA_Network](https://twitter.com/INAHTA_Network).

If you would like your organization to be featured in the member spotlight section of our newsletter, please email Naomi Suwinski nsuwinski@htai.org.



WEBINARS



Rapid Assessment webinar

The Hospital-Based HTA Interest Group recently hosted a Rapid Assessment webinar discussion in January.

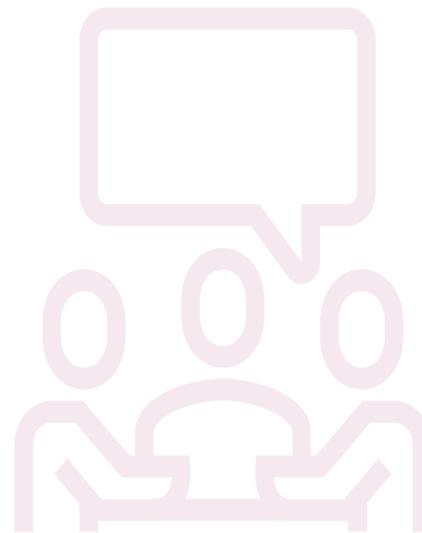
A huge thank you to [Marco Marchetti](#), [Iga Lipska](#), [Matthew Mitchell](#), Erik Landaas, and [Pwee Keng Ho](#) for making this event a success. [View the recording](#)

HTA and Value-Based Healthcare Webinar series

In March, there will be a two-part “HTA and Value-Based Healthcare” webinar series, hosted by the [Medical Devices](#) and [Hospital Based HTA](#) Interest Groups.

The first session, on March 4, will discuss the methodological differences between HTA and Value-Based Healthcare (VBH) and how they can be applied to medical devices. Participants will be provided with a comprehensive understanding of how HTA and VBHC methods can be used in practice. It will also further the Medical Devices Interest Group’s goals and mission, including advancing the dialogue on Medical Device HTA methods and evidence-based policymaking to develop the way we evaluate a rapidly evolving technology sector. [Register now.](#)

The second session, on March 25, will build on the methods discussed in the first session through a series of case studies. Using real-life experiences, the speakers will distinguish the roles of HTA and Value-Based Healthcare in the evaluation and implementation of medical technologies and discuss value based access programs. This session aims to give participants an understanding of how to implement the different methods in practice and will discuss how they compliment each other in a rapidly evolving MedTech landscape. [Register now.](#)



ANNOUNCEMENTS



HTAi Announcements

We have recently welcomed a new Administrative Coordinator to the Secretariat, [Evani Goll](#).

Interested in joining our team? We're looking for someone who is passionate about HTA and sharing international experiences and knowledge to join our team as Manager of Scientific Initiatives.

Sound like you or someone you know? [Learn more and apply](#).

Member Bulletin Board

All of our HTAi members have access to our [online Bulletin Board](#) on our website homepage to keep you informed on external job postings, RFP's, and much more!

Here are the most recent opportunities that have been submitted from our members:

[Technology Assessment Fellowship - ICER](#)

[Manager of Health Economics -CADTH](#)

[Lead Health Economics - CADTH](#)

[Hybrid Health Economist- ICER](#)

[Research Lead - ICER](#)

[Medical Director - ICER](#)

If you would like anything included on the HTAi Bulletin board section of the website, please email Naomi Suwinski at nsuwinski@htai.org.

