

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Over 500 years ago, Niccolo Machiavelli observed: *There is nothing more difficult to take in hand, more perilous to conduct, or more uncertain in its success than to take the lead in the introduction of a new order of things.* This was a remarkably prescient insight. In the centuries since, we have consistently seen that new ideas are routinely blocked by those who “*profit by the old order*”. Equally, and of particular interest to those who seek to transform healthcare, human nature is such that we tend not to believe in anything new until we have had actual experience of it.

I’ve been thinking about this a good deal as we begin a new year. After all, HTAi is not about incrementalism; we seek to *transform* healthcare globally – to make it more accessible, more equitable, more impactful. This, as the saying goes, is not an easy “get.” The lever we use is HTA, and yet, despite demonstrable benefits, it remains underused, especially in low and middle-income countries. We’ve all heard some variant on the list of reasons – misconceptions about HTA; (2) feasibility issues in the implementation of HTA; or (3) values and beliefs about the efficacy of HTA.

To be sure, health care systems around the world are undergoing something akin to a heroic quest – to challenge long-held assumptions about their *raison d’etre* and how to deliver it. Some step into this journey voluntarily or proactively; others are compelled by rapid and non-linear changes in their operational and competitive environment (COVID-19 is just the most current example). Regardless of the motivation, I am convinced that HTA has a powerful role to play in helping to address the challenges of demographic diversity, disruptive technologies, patient and citizen involvement, and social justice, to cite just a few of the more prominent things that keep both agency and industry healthcare stakeholders up at night.

Against this backdrop, I want our members to know that in 2022 HTAi is committed to working with our global partners to show where and how HTA can help maximize population health outcomes even, or especially, within a budget constraint. At the same time, we want to build out the narrative that HTA can make healthcare decisions more transparent (and therefore defensible) and can also be used in price negotiations with industry representatives. There are several existing Society activities that deliver against these aspirations, and I am pleased to highlight several new ones that will take centre stage this year.

As you know, the Society’s Strategic Plan contains four strategic areas of focus for the 2020-2025 period: (1) expand and grow the presence of HTAi globally through our membership; (2) expand HTA through knowledge-sharing, and information dissemination through partnerships; (3) advance Scientific Knowledge and Support Capacity Development; and (4) ensure

Continued Financial Stability and Good Governance. In each of these four areas, we are *sustaining* our current offerings to members *and adding some new ones*, including an expanded Interest Group webinar series and targeted recruitment of key and/or under-represented HTA stakeholders (Area 1); the launch of a Middle East and North Africa (MENA) development forum (Area 2); the introduction of a semi-annual scientific forum on key emerging issues in science that will ultimately inform policy (Area 3); and the identification of new sources of revenue/funding to further strengthen the Society's resilience (Area 4).

Each of these new initiatives is intended to help us strengthen our position in the HTA landscape, and in so doing, enable us to carry forward with the work of change – something that Machiavelli called difficult, perilous, and uncertain. To that list, I might boldly add “necessary.” It is my pledge that in 2022 the Society will continue to take the steps to ensure that it is working collaboratively, imaginatively, and with an unrelenting sense of purpose to drive change in global healthcare through HTA. Because it *is* necessary.

Rob Abbott
Executive Director



The 2022 Board Nominations Are Open February 2-18!

Four (4) Director positions will be open for nominations and election in 2022 for a three-year term (2022-2025). Directors are elected by HTAi members in accordance with Bylaws 4.4 and 5.7. These positions are eligible to stand for re-election for another 3-year term to a maximum of six years of service.

The Board is seeking candidates with the following expertise, competencies, and attributes:

Essential

- An understanding of HTA and commitment to the HTAi Mission and Vision
- Experience in leadership and governance of for-profit and not-for-profit organizations and experience with strategic planning and its execution
- A collaborative team player who interacts effectively with other Board members in a constructive manner
- Credibility, integrity, and high ethical standards
- Time and ability to serve on the Board and 2 Board Committees and time and ability to chair one of these

Desirable

- Experience in membership & sponsorship engagement, recruitment, and retention
- Experience in business model innovation and development of growth strategies
- Financial expertise (MBA or accounting designation)
- Legal expertise (LL.B. or equivalent)
- Health outcomes research experience
- Marketing and communications expertise

- Industry and patient representation
- Resides in a region that is or will be underrepresented: North America, Africa, and Australia

If you, as an HTAi member in good standing, are interested, we encourage you to submit your application here. Please think about your colleagues in your network who would be great additions to the Board and actively encourage them to run for election.

Membership is required for nominations and to vote for the candidates in the election. If you have not renewed your membership, please click [here](#).

Please visit our website for more information on 2022 Board Nominations and Election.

If you have questions regarding Board Nomination and Election, please email them to boardelections@htai.org.

The Sigrid Droste Ethics Award - Call for Nominations

The Board of Directors has established a new Award for members of the Society, Sigrid Droste Ethics Award. Sigrid Droste was a long-standing member of the Society who was very active in the Ethics Interest Group. She bequeathed some funds to HTAi to establish and run an Award program to recognize achievement in ethics as it applies to HTA. We thank Alric R  ther and Robert Gro  elfinger, who knew Sigrid and helped bring these funds to the Society. The Secretariat is also grateful to Dario Sacchini and Ken Bond, Co-Chairs of Ethics Interest Group, who collaborated on developing this Award program. It was the first time that the Society was a recipient of a gift of this nature.

The Sigrid Droste Ethics Award recognizes Society members in good standing who are making or have made important contributions in ethics in HTA. The Award will only be given in years when a suitable nominee(s) fulfills the Award's eligibility criteria and is nominated by an HTAi member in good standing.

Those who are eligible for nomination could be someone who has completed any of the following:

- Contributed to starting or significantly advancing the use of ethical reflection in HTA in an academic research community (university or university hospital), an HTA community (international, national HTA bodies), or in a national healthcare system.
- Contributed to methods for conducting ethics in HTA.
- Contributed to education in ethics in HTA to raise awareness and increase capacity.
- Shown exceptional contributions to HTA ethics through a combination of publications in a peer-reviewed academic journal and conference activities such as workshops, panel or plenary presentations; and organizational contributions such as leading ethics in HTA at an HTA agency.

Nominations must be submitted no later than **February 28.**'

[To learn more about the criteria and access the nomination form, visit our website.](#)



Annual Meeting 2022

A new year brings new excitement to HTAi because it means the Annual Meeting is fast approaching! The 2022 Annual Meeting in Utrecht, Netherlands, will be extra noteworthy: for the first time in two years, HTAi members and contributors will have the opportunity to meet in person once again.

The Delegate Experience

The Annual Meeting venue has been announced! [Jaarbeurs](#), an expert in the field of conferences and events, is centrally located within [Utrecht](#). The venue boasts over 11 halls with 100,000 m² of space and has organized and facilitated events of all types and sizes for over 100 years.

If you are unable to attend in person, we have good news. The 2022 Annual Meeting content and activities will be available at your fingertips via our virtual conference platform as a hybrid event. If you are unfamiliar with the virtual platform and want a closer look, [check out this video](#) explaining the delegate experience at last year's meeting.

Annual Meeting Registration Now Open!

[Annual Meeting registration opened on January 27, 2022!](#) To prepare, we have provided several important upcoming dates and reminders for you, all listed below:

- Early-bird registration opens: January 27, 2022
- Early-bird registration closes: March 24, 2022
- Regular registration closes: June 17, 2022

Important reminders:

- 2021 annual HTAi memberships are now expired. To renew your membership, please [visit this page](#).
- An active membership is required to qualify for member registration rates.

Sponsorship Opportunities

Is your organization or company interested in getting its name in front of hundreds of HTA's top minds? The 2022 Annual Meeting still has some sponsorship opportunities available. Learn what an Annual Meeting sponsorship could mean for you [here](#).

Learn more about the 2022 Annual Meeting

Are you interested in learning more about the Annual Meeting? Do you want to review themes and timelines? Visit htai2022.org for all things Annual Meeting!

Please send your questions regarding the Annual Meeting to annualmeeting@htai.org.



Global Policy Forum

Call for not-for-profit expressions of interest

We are pleased to announce an opportunity for a not-for-profit organization to join the Global Policy Forum.

We welcome Expressions of Interest (EOIs) from not-for-profit organizational members of HTAi. They have formal responsibilities within a health care system to make HTA-based decisions and/or provide HTA-based advice on coverage or pricing of health care technologies. EOIs from any country are welcome.

The deadline for receipt of EOIs is **Wednesday, February 2, 2022**. EOIs must be emailed to policyforum@htai.org.

Please see our [website](#) for full details, including membership benefits, the full process for submitting an EOI, review process and criteria.

Please send your questions about the call for EOIs to policyforums@htai.org.

Latin America Policy Forum

Announcement

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr. Manuel Antonio Espinoza, as the Latin America Policy Forum Chair.

Dr. Manuel Antonio Espinoza is an Associate Professor at the Department of Public Health and Chief of the Unit of Health Technology Assessment (HTA), both at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. He also serves as retainer consultant of the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the Pharma Mexico project and consultant of the Interamerican Bank of Development (IDB) for projects related to priority setting and health benefits plans.

Dr. Espinoza will start his position in February taking over from Dr. Hector Castro.

2022 Latin America Policy Forum

The next Latin America Policy Forum will be August 14 – 16, 2022, at the Royal Tulip Hotel in Brasilia, Brazil. The meeting topic will be announced in the coming weeks.

Asia Policy Forum

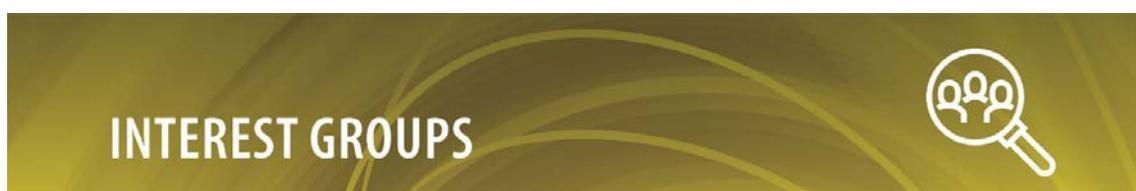
2022 Asia Policy Forum location announcement

We are happy to report that the next Asia Policy Forum will be an in-person meeting on November 2 – 4, 2022, at the Hotel Fort Canning in Singapore.

Policy Forum Advisory Committee

The Policy Forum Advisory Committee recently accepted a new member. We want to extend a warm welcome to Newell McElwee with Boehringer Ingelheim!

If you would like more information about the Policy Forums, please contact the Policy Forum team at policyforum@htai.org or Ali Powers, Manager, Policy Forums and Events, at apowers@htai.org.



HTAi Webinar Series

HTAi offers a live stream webinar series broadcast to all HTAi members and prospective members! Keep an eye on your inboxes and our social media channels for upcoming webinars, including the Information Retrieval Interest Group webinar "Evidence-Based Searching for Health Technology Assessment: Keeping up to Date with SuRe Info." on **Wednesday, February 23, 7:00 a.m. MST (2:00 p.m. UTC.)**

Past Webinars are Available Year-Round

Have you missed any of our recent webinars? If you are interested in watching on your own schedule, you can access HTAi's impactful sessions and webcasts, which can all be found on our official YouTube channel.

Check out our latest webinar "HTA Informing Innovative Drugs' Market Access in Low- and Middle-Income Countries," presented by the HTA in Developing Countries Interest Group (DCIG.)

New DEA-IG Co-Chair Announcement

We are pleased to announce that the new Co-Chair of the Disinvestment and Early Awareness Interest Group (DEA-IG) is Nora Ibarгойen Roteta. Nora will be replacing Dr. Antonio Migliore who has taken on a new role as the Manager of Scientific Initiatives for the HTAi Secretariat. Nora has been appointed to the role on behalf of EuroScan/international HealthTechScan (i-HTS).

Nora has a B.Sc in Biochemistry and attained her Ph.D. in Health Sciences from the Public University of Navarre in Spain in 2007. She has been working in OSTEBA (The Basque Office for HTA) since 2006. During this time, she has participated in different national and international HTA projects, being involved in elaborating many new health technology assessment reports

and developing guidelines to facilitate health technology disinvestment processes. In the last 10 years, she has coordinated the development of different Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) for the Spanish Ministry of Health, implementing for that purpose the GRADE approach. Currently, she is also participating in a national interest group for the inclusion of the patient perspective in the development of HTA reports at the Spanish national level. More recently, she has also been involved in different international projects to conduct “Early dialogues” with the industry for the development of high-risk medical devices and also for the development of new health technologies related to the management of COVID-19, covering in that way different aspects related to the life cycle of health technologies.

Please send your questions about Interest Groups or submit a webinar to interestgroups@htai.org.

Tell a friend, share a tweet, and spread the news about HTAi! Be sure to add us to your network for up-to-date news, networking, and the latest HTA information.

If you attend any **#HTA** event this year, **#HTAi2022Utrecht** is the one to attend!

From cutting-edge technologies to system development, policy, best practice, and education, the advancement of HTA in healthcare happens at the Annual Meeting.

Register today: <https://buff.ly/3LI8FZA>

