



Monthly Digest

A MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



As many of you know, the HTAi Secretariat underwent significant change in 2019-20, with nearly 100% staff turnover. Since my arrival in October of 2020, we have systematically rebuilt and reoriented the Secretariat to deliver greater value to our members – in the most effective, efficient manner possible. Now, value is always most properly viewed through the eyes of the members, but I think we are starting to see positive results from some of the changes we have made. More on that in future editions of this newsletter. What I want to focus on in this month’s column is the team that often works behind the scenes and may not be visible to you. In addition to giving you a more complete picture of what the Secretariat looks like, I hope this will also help streamline the process of answering any questions you might have from time to time.

Rob Abbott, Executive Director (rabbott@htai.org)

I’m responsible for all operations of the Society and strive to ensure that the levels of support to our members as directed by our Board of Directors are delivered efficiently and professionally.

Melissa Donecz, Manager of Finance (mdonecz@htai.org)

Melissa ensures that we are managing our financial affairs in alignment with the Board-approved budget and also looks after the payment of all contractors, as well as all Secretariat and Board expenses.

Denise Jarrett, Annual Meeting Manager (djarrett@htai.org)

As her title suggests, Denise leads and oversees the development and delivery of the Society’s Annual Meeting. She is the primary point of contact for any questions related to scientific content, sponsors, symposia and the like.

Antonio Migliore, Manager of Scientific Initiatives (amigliore@htai.org)

Antonio fills a key role as the Manager of Scientific Initiatives, providing a consistent scientific “lens” to all of the major Society events (Annual Meeting and Policy Forums).

Ali Powers, Events Manager (apowers@htai.org)

Ali is the conductor and choreographer of all three current policy forums, she actively leads the articulation of pre-policy forum development meetings, and she and her events team provide crucial support to the Annual Meeting as well.

Tatiana Hagerty, Senior Coordinator, Governance (thagerty@htai.org)

Tatiana is our resident subject matter expert on all things governance and she works very closely with me, the Executive Committee and the Board of Directors to ensure that the Society is operating in conformance with our by-laws, as well as best governance practice.

Amren Thakur, Annual Meeting Committee Liaison (athakur@htai.org)

Amren works closely with Denise on the Annual Meeting and ensures that committee members, particularly the ISPC, have the support they need to deliver a world-class scientific program.

Hana Price, Senior Events Coordinator (hprice@htai.org)

Hana has recently returned to us after maternity leave and is a senior events coordinator working closely with Ali, particularly on the Global Policy Forum.

Breanne Dickout, Events Coordinator (bdickout@htai.org)

Breanne joined us as a maternity leave replacement for Hana and has been invaluable in supporting Ali across the policy forums. With Hana back, Breanne's focus will shift to supporting the regional policy forums (Asia and Latin America) as well as the Annual Meeting.

Bryce Doherty, Technology Lead (bdoherty@htai.org)

Bryce is our resident technology platform expert and he oversees everything we do related to Events Air and related technologies. His work touches all of the major events delivered by the Society.

Gerardo Cea, Coordinator, Technology (gcea@htai.org)

Gerardo works closely with Bryce and provides additional "bench strength" on all matters related to technology.

Evani Goll, Senior Coordinator, Membership (egoll@htai.org)

Evani oversees and otherwise "owns" everything related to membership. This is a key role within the Secretariat and Evani is constantly thinking about how we can make the membership experience better.

Naomi Suwinski, Communications Lead (nsuwinski@htai.org)

Naomi leads all of our communications efforts, particularly on social media, and is responsible for building the profile and brand of HTAi.

Marlene Hanke (mhanke@htai.org), who previously served as the Secretariat's Annual Meeting Manager, is on maternity leave and will be returning to us in September.

I'm enormously proud of the team we've created, and very grateful for their hard work, especially under the pandemic conditions that have prevailed for over two years now. I also feel that we are just beginning to sense our true potential and look forward to seeing what we can do together to deliver greater value to our members.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



The 2022 Board of Directors Election is Now Open!

The voting is open for the 2022 Board of Directors Election until midnight on May 6, 2022. [CES](#), a third-party electoral service, administers voting. All **HTAi members in good standing** have a right to vote and elect four (4) Directors of the Board. You should have received your electronic ballot from CES via email with instructions.

Please note *emails may appear in non-primary inboxes and folders (e.g., "Promotions," "Updates," "Other," "Junk," "Spam," etc.) If you did not receive your electoral ballot, please email us at boardelections@htai.org.*

[Before you vote, you can view the Board Candidates' profiles here.](#)

Currently, the Board of Directors especially needs the following expertise:

- 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

The new Directors will be announced at the Annual General Meeting of Members in **June 2022**. That is the official commencement of the term for the elected Board members.

If you have any questions regarding Board Elections, please email boardelections@htai.org

ANNUAL MEETING



The HTAi 2022 Annual Meeting will take place on June 25-29, 2022, in Utrecht, Netherlands. The meeting will offer a hybrid event with on-site and virtual access to ensure everyone has the opportunity to join us. If you haven't registered yet, what are you waiting for!?

[Register here](#)

Workshop Registration

Workshops are scheduled for June 25 - 26, with half and full-day options on both days. Half-day workshops are 3 hours, and full-day workshops are 6 hours. With a range of exciting topics available, there is sure to be something to spark your interest from beginner to advanced. [Read the workshop descriptions and schedule.](#)

[Register here](#)

Hotel Reservations

Not sure where to stay for the Annual Meeting? Let us make your trip planning a little bit easier!

For best hotel availability and to receive immediate confirmation, make your reservation online on our official Annual Meeting hotel booking site.

[Book your hotel here](#)

Coming to Utrecht Safely

As we look toward welcoming you to the 2022 Annual Meeting, our top priority is the health and safety of our delegates, speakers, sponsors, staff and volunteers!

[Please keep up to date on the latest COVID-19 restrictions and travel requirements on our website](#)

Social Events

Welcome Reception

The HTAi Annual Meeting Team has been eagerly working behind the scenes to kick off HTAi's 2022 Annual Meeting!

Experience an unforgettable night where you'll enjoy spectacular food, and entertainment. You won't want to miss the chance to network with delegates and the HTAi Secretariat prior to the start of the meeting.

Full Annual Meeting registration includes one Welcome Reception ticket. Guest tickets are available for purchase for \$75.00 before June 8, 2022.

[Purchase a guest ticket here](#)

Conference Dinner

We invite you to a special evening at the [Sporwegmuseum](#) for the Annual Meeting Conference Dinner, one of the most popular networking events with tickets often selling out.

The Conference Dinner offers a chance to relax and network with your fellow peers and dance the night away. with award-winning entertainment.

Tickets for the Conference Dinner can only be purchased until June 8, 2022.

[Purchase your tickets here](#)

Speaker Announcements

The list of confirmed speakers is growing each day and we will be announcing them over our social media channels in the coming weeks. Keep an eye on our [website](#) to see whose voice will join the debate and conversations at the HTAi 2022 Annual Meeting.

[Meet the Speakers here](#)

Schedule at a Glance

The 2022 Schedule at a Glance is now posted on our website! We are excited about the opportunity to see each other in person again and to continue offering a vibrant, rich program to enable meeting with our global members.

[View the Schedule at a Glance](#)



Global Policy Forum

It's a wrap!

The 2022 Global Policy Forum attracted attendees worldwide who engaged in strategic discussions around the topic "HTA 2025 and Beyond: Lifecycle Approaches to Promote Engagement and Efficiency in Health Technology Assessment" from March 26 – 28. This year, over 40 representatives attended the meeting in-person in Vancouver, Canada and over 50 representatives attended the meeting virtually. Although we couldn't see all Global Policy Forum members face to face, it was sure nice to be able to host the meeting with in-person AND virtual features.

Many thanks to Global Policy Forum Chair, Dan Ollendorf and Scientific Secretary, Rebecca Trowman for putting together an extraordinary meeting and to all the speakers and attendees for their contributions. The next Global Policy Forum will take place March 26 - 28, 2023, in The Hague, Netherlands.

Latin America Policy Forum

Topic Announcement

We are delighted to announce that the topic for the 2022 Latin America Policy Forum is "Real World Evidence: Experiences and Challenges for decision making in Latin America." This meeting will take place August 14 – 16 in Brasilia, Brazil, at the Royal Tulip Hotel. As in previous years, there will be a mix of formal presentations, breakout sessions and networking opportunities. A big thank you to Latin America Policy Forum Chair, Dr. Manuel Espinoza, and Scientific Secretary, Andrés Pichon-Riviere for their hard work and dedication over the past several months.

Asia Policy Forum

Asia Policy Forum Organizing Committee

The Asia Policy Forum Organizing Committee recently opened a call for nominations to fill two not-for-profit vacancies. We are pleased to announce that Dr. Hong Ju with ACE (Agency for Care Effectiveness), Singapore and Dr. Yingyao Chen with Key Lab, China, have been accepted into the committee. Thank you, Hong and Yingyao for volunteering and we wish you all the best in your committee work!

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.



Have you missed any of our recent webinars? If you are interested in watching on your schedule, you can access HTAi's impactful sessions and webcasts, all on our official [YouTube channel](#).

Check out our latest webinar, "**HTA in Childhood Diseases**," presented by experts: Dr. Avram Denburg Fleur Chandler, Wendy J. Ungar, Brent Fraser and Karen Facey.

[View the recording](#)

Please get in touch with Karen Facey to get involved with this topic at karen.facey@btinternet.com.

INTEREST GROUPS



More patients at HTAi 2022 Annual Meeting

This year more patients and their representatives will take part in HTAi's Annual Meeting in Utrecht and online.

Not only does each day's plenary include a patient representative speaker, more than 70 patients will attend either in person or online.

In addition to 13 patients receiving HTAi participation grants, the HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement in HTA Interest Group (PCIG) is excited to report that it has enabled a further 60 patients, patient representatives and/or caregivers to attend for free via the PCIG PASS program.

Thanks to the most generous sponsorship to date from Edwards Lifesciences, Janssen and Novartis, 46 virtual attendees and 14 in-person attendees will be able to represent every region around the world.

Half of these attendees represent low or middle-income countries.

The high level of interest in HTAi Annual Meeting and the subsequent unprecedented number of applications required a huge effort from volunteers in PCIG.

This year, PCIG Steering Committee member and Director of Public Policy for the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics, Barry Liden, is leading the PCIG PASS program. PCIG is grateful to all its members for helping to promote and support the PASS, especially Todd Stephenson (sponsorship and finance) Aline Silva (promotion and review), Anke-Peggy Holtorf (review).

PCIG will be calling on all its members to help with the support program for those who attend, including as in-person and virtual buddies.

Expressions of Interest – Industry Representative - PCIG Steering Committee

PCIG seeks Expressions of Interest for an industry representative (medical device company preferred) to fill a vacancy on its Steering Committee. Please submit an Expression of Interest (no more than 200 words) to the PCIG Technical Officer, Veronica Lopez Gousset addressing the criteria below by Friday, May 13 2022. Full details of the role can be found in PCIG's Terms of Reference.

Criteria

Able to demonstrate active participation in the field of patient or citizen involvement in health technology assessment

Able to meet the expectations of Steering Committee membership as set out in the Terms of References, e.g. commit to take an active role in driving the work of the Interest Group and providing practical assistance to activities undertaken by the group as appropriate and complete a three-year term

Able to participate in additional HTAi committees

Preference will be given to those members who have actively participated in the Interest Group.

Patient Insights Research for HTA – Report for Consultation

While social media research has been used to gain consumer or patient insights on many levels, its use by HTA bodies as a standard part of the assessment process has been limited.

The promise of social media research is that in discussion with their peers in the patient community, patients or carers reveal in unfiltered and unsolicited manner their experiences and needs, and that this information could enhance the scope and relevance of HTA.

The Patient Insight Research Platform (PIRP) project of the HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group (PCIG) has examined what the expectations for such research would be from different stakeholder perspectives and the requirements for a best practice approach.

The multi-stakeholder sub-committee has drafted a whitepaper for consultation, which summarizes the research based on literature reviews relating to methodologies, case studies, and ethical considerations, as well as stakeholder interviews concerning their expectations and reservations.

The subcommittee is seeking feedback on the findings and recommendations in the draft white paper. The feedback gained through the consultation will be incorporated into a manuscript to be published latest this month. Feedback is due April 19, 2022.

If you are willing to review the report, please contact the PCIG project coordinator Anke-Peggy Holtorf (pcig.projects@health-os.com).

Call for interest to HTA agencies in Europe: Patient involvement in European HTA

A HTAi research project looking at practices, processes, and methods in Europe as perceived by the stakeholders involved

HTAi is looking for HTA agencies which have involved or are involving patients in the assessment processes and who are interested in participating in a European initiative for identifying valued patient involvement processes used in HTA through a 360° (with HTA practitioners, patients, industry) analysis of current processes, experiences, and perceptions. The ask would be to select up to three case studies from the last few years that illustrate the agency's approach to patient involvement in the assessment of medicines, to share the reports or other relevant material on these case studies, and to be available for an interview – altogether about 2-3 hours of time. Towards the end of 2022, a co-creation workshop will be conducted to build consensus on the findings and reporting of the study.

This project is conducted by the Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group (PCIG) of HTAi.

If you are interested in this research project, please contact us at PCIG.Projects@health-os.com to set up an exploratory telephone discussion.

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.