



Minutes of the IRG Business Meeting

19 June 2007 Barcelona

Present:

Becky Skidmore (Chair), Malene Fabricius-Jensen (Chair-Elect), Elaine Alligood, Greg Bak, Olwen Beaven, Susan Bidwell, Andrew Booth, Louise Foster, Cynthia Fraser, Anne Fry-Smith, Elisabeth Giesenhagen, Julie Glanville, Cliff Goodman, Beate Gube, Lotte Groth Jensen, Lisa Korsbek, Carol Lefebvre, Diane Lorenzetti, Dev Menon, Sari Ormstad, Toni Parada, Alison Price, Karin Rydin, Therese Syanberg, Inaki Gutierrez Ibarluzea, Janice Varney, Suzanne Wilson

Becky welcomed everyone to the meeting.

10th anniversary of the Information Resources Group.

The Special Interest Group- Information Resources (SPIG-IR) was formed at the ISTAHC meeting in Barcelona in 1997. After the transition to HTAi, the name was changed to the IRG. Elaine Alligood presented founding members Cliff Goodman, Julie Glanville, Dev Menon, and Toni Parada with an *InfoStars Award* in recognition of their contribution to our group which has grown in size and influence within the HTA community. Awards for the other founding members Leigh Ann Topfer and Ione Auston who were not able to be present will be forwarded to them.

Report on the HTAi Board meeting

Becky reported on the Board meeting held on 16 June at which she and Malene were invited to give a short presentation on issues relating to the IRG.

Vortal: Progress has been made with 3 categories completed, 2 drafts received, content was updated for several categories and a Google search tool was implemented by Elaine Alligood. The Vortal was also promoted in the HTAi newsletter. However, momentum has slowed and the number of volunteers is depleted. There is a need to keep the technical level current and volunteer labour cannot be relied on for that. A proposal for moving forward presented to the Board meeting in November was not accepted. This has now been reworked into a request for a stipend for an internship or special interest project for a Masters or PhD student. The Board was fairly receptive to the proposal. Becky and Elaine are willing to provide some supervision. The value would be \$3000 Canadian over the course of 1 year. Work would be for technical aspects and editing of content, checking links and quality control.

Workshop



Health Technology Assessment International

An International Society for the Promotion of Health Technology Assessment

The growth in the calibre of speakers at the IRG workshop and a growing interest in our group's activities by non-information specialists were noted. The workshop was promoted in various journals and on national and international listservs. HTAi provided generous support for this year's workshop and CADTH again provided promotional gifts for the speakers and volunteers.

Despite these successes, financing the workshop continues to be problematic. There is ongoing reduction in funding from NLM and IRG organizers are constrained by a lack of any formal budget for planning. Costs were high this year, particularly for the catering. Also, the registration fee was low and was not available to IRG for offsetting workshop costs. Upon learning of these difficulties at the Board meeting, the LOC generously offered to cover the catering costs.

Becky and Malene have recommended to the Board that money be allocated to the Special Interest Group for the annual meeting and other activities. Allocations need to match the activities offered (e.g., the IRG workshop is a FULL day). Registration fees should be matched to cover the costs of any activities offered (e.g., annual workshop). An operations manual for HTAi workshops would also be very helpful.

Although participation for this year's workshop was the highest yet, attendance by Spanish-language speakers was minimal despite extensive recruiting and marketing to this group. The reasons for this are not fully understood.

Other activities

Specific initiatives for the IRG were proposed to the Board and are to be discussed further within the IRG membership. These include and are not limited to:

- Collaboration with other groups (e.g., Cochrane and INAHTA)
- Possibility of developing an online module in HTA searching
- Updating of the HTA eText using collaborative working space on the HTAi Web site.

It was indicated that space on the web site for developing our activities would be useful. The implications IRG members who are not paid-up annual HTAi members needs to be considered.

Comments from those present on the report to the HTAi Board

Members present at the meeting were asked to consider whether they knew of anyone who might be interested in taking up the internship for the Vortal. In reply to Andrew Booth's question regarding the time commitment needed, Becky estimated it would be equivalent to one semester but it may require a concentrated shorter period. Diane Lorenzetti asked whether just one short-term project was envisioned or if the internship would be offered on a regular basis.



Andrew Booth suggested that we could revamp the Etext as a Wiki, as it would be easier to update and would allow us to use logos from our organisations to identify contributions.

Cliff Goodman asked about the current status of the Vortal. Becky in reply outlined ongoing activities to de-duplicate content, complete all categories and work with web developers to explore and implement something that will be suitable for the HTAi web site. Malene suggested further activities such as marketing to other organisations like the MLA and the European Association for Health Information and Libraries, and promoting incorporation into library school programmes.

Report of Cochrane Information Methods Research Group – Carol Lefebvre

The Cochrane handbook update coming out in October 2007 will have a section on locating studies to be included in systematic reviews. The chapter is to go out for consultation in the next few weeks. Carol will circulate to the listserv.

The EHTS project will be a full CADTH report. The first draft is now out for comment.

The Cochrane library is to have a new search engine – not publicly announced yet.

HTAi is interested in developing closer links with the Cochrane library. Carol has suggested to Reiner Banken that he have discussions with the chief executive of the Cochrane Collaboration.

Other business

Becky was farewelled as Chair and Malene welcomed as incoming Chair. Sari Ormstad was welcomed as Chair-elect.

Malene gave a short speech on her thoughts on Becky's contribution to IRG during the past few years:

I = integration of our work into the full programme of HTAi and less of an appendage

R= rising amount of people attending our activities – more than 40 this year

G= Gracias for all the work everyone has done.

Dev Menon, on behalf of the Local Organising Committee for Montreal, urged the IRG to put forward ideas for the panel sessions next year.