

Welcome to the HTAi Newsletter!

It is a great pleasure for me to welcome you to the inaugural issue of the HTAi Newsletter. Since taking up my role as Executive Director on October 1, the staff of the HTAi Secretariat and I have explored a variety of ideas to better engage with our members and key stakeholders. While there is no single answer in this regard, we feel strongly that a monthly newsletter can offer a consistent touchpoint highlighting key developments within the Society. I hope you find the content interesting and useful and I welcome your feedback. Email me at rabbott@htai.org.



I come to the Secretariat after nearly 30 years at the forefront of social responsibility research and work in Canada and abroad. This includes experience as CEO of the Canadian Genetic Diseases Network (CGDN), one of Canada's Networks of Centers of Excellence. This required me to regularly discuss advances in gene-based medical research on the one hand, and the translation of that research into practical diagnostics and therapeutics on the other. I have also served as an Executive Director in multiple divisions of the British Columbia Government, as well as Practice Leader for both PwC and Deloitte.

I have taught courses and delivered lectures at several Universities in North America including the University of Toronto, the University of British Columbia, and Harvard. I have also taught at Universities in China, Thailand, and Mexico.

I look forward to bringing my collective experience and expertise to HTAi and working closely with our partners to chart a path forward that helps us remain at the forefront of HTA work globally.

ROB ABBOTT



Executive Director

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2020 BEIJING VIRTUAL ANNUAL MEETING

The 2020 Annual Meeting is coming to an end on December 10! This year, HTAi offered 39 sessions which provided an environment for our valued members to interact with colleagues from different countries, exchange ideas and expertise, reconnect with old friends, grow new collaborations, and gain lifelong connections. Look out for the final sessions: **“Generating and Using Real World Evidence for Health Technology Assessment”** Dec 8, 2020 at 7:00 a.m. MST and **“The Role of HTA in Achieving and Progressing Universal Health Coverage”** Dec 10, at 8:30a.m. MST. You can register by heading over to [the 2020 Annual Meeting website](#) and clicking on the session date in the agenda and opening the corresponding registration link.

Thank you to the many contributors who have made the 2020 Beijing virtual Annual Meeting a success.



2021 MANCHESTER ANNUAL MEETING

The Secretariat has been actively working on HTAi’s 18th Annual Meeting to be held in Manchester, United Kingdom, June 19 - 23, 2021. Due to the current situation and ongoing uncertainty around in-person gatherings, we are seeking your feedback and input to ensure we design and deliver an event that will have meaning and value for you.

The 2021 Annual Meeting is currently planned as a hybrid event (in-person and virtual components) with contingency plans in place for a transition to a virtual only event at any time. We strive to provide an in-person conference experience to our members, as we recognize the importance it holds with our attendees but will only do so if it is physically safe and feasible. The well-being of our participants is our highest priority.

To gain a better understanding of your level of comfort with our conference design, as well as the feasibility of you being able to travel and attend an in-person event, we would kindly ask you to fill out the following [short survey](#) before Dec 10, 2020.

As a valued member, your pre-event feedback to this important HTAi initiative is very much appreciated.

If you have any Annual Meeting inquiries, please contact us at annualmeeting@htai.org



POLICY FORUMS

HTAi's mission is to support and promote the development, communication, understanding and use of HTA around the world as a scientifically based means of promoting the introduction of effective innovations and the effective use of resources in health care. We are appreciative of the continuous commitment the Policy Forum Organizing and Advisory Committees have shown during this challenging year in helping us achieve this mission.

Global Policy Forum

The Global Policy Forum recently accepted 5 new organizational members. We would like to extend a warm welcome to AQuaS, BC Cancer, IETS, W.L. Gore and Associates and Boehringer Ingelheim!

The 2021 Global Policy Forum topic is "**Considering and Communicating Uncertainty in HTA**" and is scheduled to take place virtually February 22, 24 & 26. Registration opens to Global Policy Forum Members Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020.

Asia Policy Forum

The 2020 Asia Policy Forum has been postponed to 2021, but that didn't stop us! On November 18, we hosted a session for Asia Policy Forum members focused around a University of Singapore background paper. There will be two additional COVID-19 focused sessions that will be made available to Asia Policy Forum members in early 2021.

Latin America Policy Forum

The 2020 Virtual Latin America Policy Forum took place October 19 – 21 with over 50 members in attendance. The meeting looked a bit different this year, but we remained focused in our goal to provide a unique opportunity for senior representatives from public and private sector organizations using HTA from the Latin American region.

A huge thank you to Laura Sampietro-Colom for 5 amazing years as the Latin America Policy Forum Chair. We are sad to see her go but look forward to her ongoing collaborations as an active member of the HTAi Society.

The 2021 Latin America Policy Forum, Chaired by Hector Castro, is scheduled to take place in Brasilia, Brazil. The topic for this event is "**Deliberative Processes for Informed Decision Making by Health Technology Assessment**".

If you would like more information about the Policy Forums, please contact Ali Powers at apowers@htai.org

CALL FOR TECHNICAL OFFICERS!

We recently opened a call for [HTAi Interest Group Technical Officers](#). If you are a dedicated and enthusiastic member who is willing to provide coordination support to Chairs and exclusive committees of Interest Groups, this role is for you!

If you have questions or would like more information about the call for Interest Group Technical Officers, please contact Sydney Ruller sruller@htai.org



MEMBERSHIP

We invite you to renew your membership with us. Our members have generated, and continue to generate, some of the most important and impactful contributions to the world of health technology assessment.

Your membership allows you to be part of an international network of HTA experts and leaders in the HTA field. HTAi members share a commitment to extending the conversation beyond the traditional bounds of industry or professional bodies by including those impacted by the conversations, and those whose decision making is influenced by the outcomes of HTA research. The HTAi membership cycle runs January 1- December 31.

HTAi members will receive:

- Access to registration for the HTAi 2021 Annual Meeting
- Annual Meeting resources such as the abstract book and presentations
- Access to the online International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care (IJTAHC) subscriptions
- Access to HTAi job postings and RFPs
- Access to join one of HTAi's ten Interest Groups
- Access to digital content, including on-demand recordings
- HTAi e-newsletters and bulletins

Renew your HTAi Membership by following the steps:

- [Login to your HTAi account](#)
- Confirm your contact details
- Select your membership level
- Proceed to payment

If you have any membership inquiries, please contact Bryce Doherty at bdoherty@htai.org

SECRETARIAT

Are you familiar with the individuals who make up the Secretariat?

We have some new faces and welcome you to find out more about us through the [HTAi Secretariat bio page](#).

Rob Abbott, Executive Director rabbott@htai.org
Ali Powers, Manager, Events apowers@htai.org
Marlene Hanke, Manager, Annual Meetings mhanke@htai.org
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Naomi Suwinski, Lead Communications nsuwinski@htai.org



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT **NICE** National Institute for Health and Care Excellence



The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) is an independent organization which provides national guidance and advice to improve health and social care across the UK. NICE's role is to improve outcomes for people using the National Health Service and other public health and social care services by:

- Developing best practice recommendations and advice for front line practitioners.
- Evaluating technologies to determine funding decisions and new procedures to assess safety.
- Providing a wide portfolio of evidence-based information and advice.

The overall aim of NICE is to be the national point of reference for advice on safe, effective, and cost-effective practice in health and social care.

As members of HTAi we have access to the global HTA community which broadens our opportunities for networking, partnerships, and collaboration internationally. We can share our knowledge, learn, and participate in discussions about the role of HTA in healthcare systems around the world.

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

BULLETIN BOARD

As an HTAi member, you have access to the bulletin board page to submit job postings, RFP's, and much more!

[Check out the recently added job opportunities available with ICER](#)

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

SEASONS GREETINGS!

Our office will be closed December 24 – January 4 for the holidays.

We wish you and your loved ones a happy and healthy holiday season!

WE'RE HERE TO LISTEN!

We are here to actively listen to our members and value your feedback!
If you have content or feedback to provide to our monthly newsletter, please contact

Naomi Suwinski nsuwinski@htai.org.