



Getting Down to Work

By Rob Abbott

The great scholar and theologian, C.S. Lewis, in a sermon he delivered in England at the peak of World War II, put his finger on an aspect of human nature that I think is especially relevant right now. He said:

Never, in peace or war, commit your virtue or your happiness to the future. Happy work is best done by the man who takes his long-term plans somewhat lightly and works from moment to moment...The present is the only time in which any duty can be done, or any grace received.

Elsewhere in the same sermon he lauded our ancestors who “wanted knowledge and beauty now and would not wait for the suitable moment that never comes.”

What, you might well ask, does this philosophical musing have to do with health technology assessment? It seems to me a great deal.

For over two years we have all been living in the long shadow of the global pandemic caused by COVID-19. HTAi’s *Strategic Plan 2020-2025*, unveiled just 2 months before the World Health Organization declaration, was set aside for nearly a year as the organization rearticulated its services to members. Today, as we step cautiously into a “new normal” that has yet to fully reveal itself, it is tempting to look to the future and dream of what might be, or to set an intention to do something grand when conditions are right.

The conditions will never be right. What was true at the peak of World War II is just as true today. The suitable moment never comes.

This is not to suggest that we acquiesce to fate and adopt a laissez-faire attitude. Instead, it means that rather than setting an intention to do something “in the future”, we do it now – informed by a desired future state. Think of where you’d like HTAi to be in 5-7 years, for example. What are its attributes? How has its influence and impact changed in the intervening period? What is its unique selling proposition? Now back cast to the present and consider where we are today. What can we do, today, that will move us toward that desired future state?

I thought about this a good deal during the recent HTAi Asia Policy Forum (APF) in Singapore because I was so inspired by the way in which Forum members, both for-profit and not-for-profit, had shown remarkable acumen in the way they navigated the darkest hours of the pandemic. In every presentation and every conversation, I was struck by the extent to which a desired future state, sometimes explicit, other times not, set the tone and guided day-to-day choices and decisions. You might say that this is nothing new or novel, that it is simply the stuff of good strategy. I'm not so sure. I think many people can talk a good game about strategy, but actual execution or implementation is more difficult. So, it was heartening to hear stories of capacity building that were grounded in a healthy appreciation for what can be done now that will make a difference in the lives of patients – today *and* tomorrow. Suffice to say, I found the members of the APF acutely aware of duty, and in their discharge of duty a palpable grace was evident.



Membership Renewals

Membership renewals are right around the corner!

Keep an eye on your inbox throughout the month of November, as membership renewal notices will be delivered to your inbox this month. Please remain patient, however, as it may take until November 30 to receive your notice.

A Note to Organizational Members

Organizational Membership renewals were sent out November 10 and 11, 2022. Please ensure you speak with your organizational membership representative to secure uninterrupted access to your member benefits.

Share your event with the HTAi network!

NEW! The HTAi website now offers a [community events page](#)! Members can list all speaking engagements, conferences, webinars, and meetings that may be of interest to the HTAi network.

Do you have an event you'd like to add? Send your event to info@htai.org, attn: Events Calendar. Please include event information, such as time, place, and relevant links.

HTAi Award submissions are now open!

HTAi is now accepting nominations for the David Banta and the Sigrid Droste Award.

David Banta Award

The David Banta Distinguished Career Award recognizes those individuals who have made outstanding and lasting contributions in advancing the development and use of HTA

internationally. Nominees should demonstrate a lifetime (over 25 years) commitment to progress in HTA, in over five (5) countries, through scientific advancement and/or leadership. Nominations are accepted November 1 – December 15, 2022. Any HTAi member in good standing can nominate an individual for the Award.

Sigrid Droste Award

The Sigrid Droste Ethics Award, established this year in memory of Sigrid Droste, recognizes Society members in good standing who are making (or have made) important contributions in Ethics in HTA. Nominations for the 2023 Awards are accepted November 1 – December 15, 2022. To make a contribution supporting the Sigrid Droste Award fund, please email finance@htai.org.

More Information

For more information on all HTAi awards, including nomination criteria, prizes, and how to nominate, please visit the [HTAi Awards](#) page.

HTAi Endorsement Program

The HTAi Endorsement Program aims to acknowledge high-value and quality products, programs, events, and resources related to HTA.

To receive the *Endorsed by HTAi* designation, HTA stakeholders must fill in and submit the application form provided at the bottom of the page. Each application is evaluated by the HTAi Scientific Development and Capacity Building (SDCB) Committee on an individual basis in an effort to assess and elevate the wide variety of approaches, elements, and factors that encompass HTA

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants will be asked to comprehensively describe the activity for which endorsement by HTAi is being sought, including (but not limited to) relevant elements, not only related to the content of the event/product, the material, and the pedagogic techniques; but also related to the presenters, the cost for participants, and the evaluation of the event itself.

Example questions applicants will need to answer:

- How does this program fill a gap or need in the field?
- Is the scope of the material and statement of learning outcomes clear?
- Are the assessment processes sufficient to assess learning?
- Is there a conflict of interest for the presenter?
- What is the presenter's background?

Additionally, content will be evaluated for conflict with the interest and understanding of HTAi and ethical, legal, local, cultural or other external sensitivities are considered.

How to Apply

To apply for the HTAi Endorsement program, please download and fill out [this form](#). Submit completed via email to info@htai.org, attention: Endorsements.



HTAi 2023 Adelaide

The 2023 Annual Meeting will be held June 24-28, 2023, in Adelaide, Australia! The Meeting theme is *The Road to Policy and Clinical Integration*, and will include three plenaries:

- Fast-Tracking Clinical Innovation: The Balance of Speed and Rigour
- Making HTA More Efficient: What Can we Learn about Harmonization, Work Sharing, and Adaptation?
- Feasibility of Aligning Technology Evaluation Processes and Decision in an Era of Sustainable Development

[Read the plenary descriptions and more!](#)

Upcoming deadlines

Annual Meeting planning activities are in full swing! Portals are now open for the following:

- Abstract Submissions – Orals and Posters | Deadline: December 8, 2022, at 23:59 MST
- Participation Grants | Deadline: December 8, 2022, at 23:59 MST (please note: as the 2023 Annual Meeting in Adelaide is an in-person event, only in-person Participation Grants are available.)

[Submit your abstract](#)

[Apply for a Participation Grant](#)

Partner with the HTAi 2023 Annual Meeting

Interested in sharing your company or organization's message with the most influential thought leaders in the field of HTA? Partner with the 2023 Annual Meeting! Learn about the opportunities available and what they include:

[For-profit partnership opportunities](#)

[Not-for profit partnership opportunities](#)

To get in touch about a partnership, please email annualmeeting@htai.org.

Help us share the message

The Annual Meeting is made better by active participation from our members! Help us share the event with your networks: visit our [visual gallery](#) to download graphics for use in emails, on zoom, and throughout your social media platforms.

Updates from the HTAi 2022 Annual Meeting

Read our latest blog from the HTAi 2022 Annual Meeting — *Discussion: How can we leverage diverse perspectives to improve value assessment in cancer care?*

The commentary, based on a panel discussion at the HTAi 2022 Annual Meeting which was sponsored by MSD's Global Oncology Policy Grants Program, outlines three components for ensuring diverse perspectives are incorporated into value assessment, and ultimately, health decision-making for cancer care.

[Read more](#)



Regional Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan

The Regional Meeting in Baku, Azerbaijan, took place October 19-20, 2022, with HTA training sessions October 17-18. The meeting had over 60 attendees, and included a policy discussion on October 20.



[Learn more about HTAi Regional Meetings.](#)

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



GetReal Institute: can a multistakeholder collaborative approach advance the use of RWE?

November 24 @ 15:00 – 16:00 CET (07:00-08:00 MDT)

This webinar is hosted by the HTAi Interest Group for Real-World Evidence & Artificial Intelligence (RWE-AI).

Overview

The GetReal Institute, an independent not-for-profit organisation, was established following two IMI-funded projects designed to bring together stakeholders to address issues relating to the use of RWD/RWE in regulatory and HTA decision-making. There are a number of stakeholder and collaborative initiatives making progress towards addressing the issues relating to the generation and use of RWE. At the same time there is a greater call for multistakeholder dialogue and action for the adoption and implementation of RWE for health care decision making. We will discuss the specific role of GetReal and how a multistakeholder collaborative approach can impact the use of RWE in decision-making.

Speaker

Shahid Hanif
Managing Director, GetReal Institute
(United Kingdom)

Webinar Access

This webinar is open to all HTA stakeholders via YouTube Live:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FaBsEx-pkqU>

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.