

Dear friends,

Greetings!

We hope you had a pleasant entry into the New Year 2012.

This email contains some updates about the HTAi 2012 Annual Meeting at Bilbao, as well as some other issues. Please do respond.

With best regards,

Joseph L. Mathew (Chair) and Paulo Picon (Co-Chair)

HTAi DC ISG

15 February 2012

Copy:

Dr. Cliff Goodman, President HTAi.

Dr. Laura Sampietro-Colom, Past President HTAi

Dr. Carole Longson, Vice-President HTAi and Chair ISG Steering Committee.

Mr. Logan Mardhani-Bayne, HTAi Secretariat

1. HTAi 2012 Annual Meeting

The 9th HTAi Annual Meeting will be held at Bilbao, Spain. The last date for Abstract submissions and proposals for panel discussions; has passed. The ISPC has finalized the list of workshops and panel sessions to be presented at the Annual Meeting. The evaluation of abstracts submitted for oral and/or poster presentations is in progress.

Unfortunately, a workshop proposal that we submitted on behalf of the HTAi DC ISG (proposal given below as Appendix I) has not been approved.

One of the proposals submitted for a panel session (**HTA capacity building in developing countries- Exploration of different models**) has been conditionally accepted; and we are trying to fulfill the conditions set for the same. In case you are aware of any selected panel sessions/workshops relevant to developing countries and/or the DC ISG, please do let us know.

As in previous years, we will try and have a face-to-face meeting of the ISG at Bilbao. Could you please indicate if you would be able to participate in the ISG meeting. As in previous years, this is likely to be during lunch break on one of the conference days. An agenda for the meeting will be circulated in due course. It is proposed that every participant will be offered upto 3 minutes to present 1 or 2 slides of his/her work (oral or poster) **submitted** to HTAi-2012 (**approved or not approved**). Please do confirm at the earliest.

2. Utilization of the Webspaces (*Please note that we have not yet had a very encouraging response to this; therefore, please do see if you could contribute material that is free of copyright issues.*)

We have received very limited response to our frequent requests and reminders for optimal utilization of the ISG web-space. We once again request all members to kindly contribute materials that can be put up on the ISG webspaces. These could include:

- (i) *Journal papers/ articles (after obtaining appropriate copyright permissions) authored by members or otherwise; that are relevant to DC issues.*
- (ii) *Powerpoint slides presented at Meetings/Conferences etc that could be general in content or on specific research findings. If too specific, then the content could be reviewed and decisions taken on a case-by-case basis.*
- (iii) *Other important documents/materials authored by members or otherwise; with copyright permissions (where required).*

3. Member profile (*Here too we have not had a very encouraging response to this; please do complete this at the earliest.*)

As noted above, frequent requests and reminders to prepare a database of ISG members; has also not generated the expected response. We are grateful to all those who have sent their contributions; and would be grateful if others could kindly send their details as per the template attached below. Please note that the template is only a guide and members are encouraged to add/delete points as appropriate. Please also note that we cannot put up the available profiles until we have a sufficient number.

Template Draft

Please feel free to add more information if you prefer

Name:	
Designation:	
Contact details:	
HTA-related work:	
HTA-related interests:	
Academic expertise interests.	
Research interests.	
Brief CV.	
Informal Photo	

4. Future activities

Please give your comments/suggestions on activities/actions that the DC ISG can undertake in the near as well as distant future.

Appendix I: DC ISG Workshop Proposal

Title	Current Status and Future Direction of the HTAi Developing Countries ISG
Background:	Since its inception, the “Interest Sub Group on HTA in Developing Countries” has been active in advocating HTA, evidence-informed decision-making and capacity building- in developing countries and other resource-limited settings. This workshop is proposed to assess the current status and future directions of the ISG.
Objectives/Goal	<p>Objectives/Goal:</p> <p>To sensitize the HTA community, health-care professionals and patients about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The functions of the ISG (ii) Current status as per the original work-plan (iii) Future direction(s) with specific reference to (i) revision of the work-plan, (ii) capacity building, (iii) development of online training resources. <p>To provide a platform for networking and sharing.</p>
Description of session and speaker topics	<p>I. Introduction (15 minutes)</p> <p>Presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current status of the DC ISG (Joseph Mathew)
	<p>II. Significant achievements (3x15=45 minutes)</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHO-HTAi Memorandum of Understanding (Laura Sampietro-Colom) • SIGNET Capacity-building Programme (Lazar Mathew Thalakkotur) • Guideline development and implementation (Paulo Picon)
	<p>III. Discussion-Revision of the work-plan</p> <p>All participants (45 minutes)</p>
	<p>IV. Future directions (3x15=45 minutes)</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposal for online teaching/training (Paulo Picon and Andres Pichon-Riviere) • Proposal for networking with other institutions/agencies (Rabia Kahveci and Wija Oortwijn) • Proposal for a research study on mapping decision-making in developing countries (Joseph Mathew and Janet Hiller)

	<p>IV. Discussion on Future directions (45 minutes) Moderated Discussion in 3 groups (30 minutes) Feedback to the whole group (15 minutes)</p> <p>V. Participant' and members' inputs (30 minutes) Opportunity for all members to present new/innovative ideas briefly.</p> <p>VI. Summary and Conclusion (15 minutes)</p>
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