

Dear friends,

Wish you a very Happy New Year 2013.

Please find attached herewith a brief update on the ISG.

With best regards,

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

HTAi DC ISG

31 Dec 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. Chris Sargent, HTAi Secretariat

1. Scientific contributions during HTAi 2013 Annual Meeting

The list of selected workshop and panel sessions has been recently announced by the LOC of HTAi 2013 Annual Meeting at Seoul. We are attaching both lists here for easy reference. Please update us if you have a selected panel or workshop that is connected to issues relevant to developing countries.

2. DC ISG Pre-conference workshop

We are delighted that this year's ISPC has selected a proposal for a pre-conference workshop that was submitted by J L Mathew on behalf of the DC ISG. This workshop titled, "**Current Status and Future Direction of the HTAi Developing Countries ISG**" will be a full-day workshop, most likely on the Sunday preceding the Annual Meeting dates. The goal is to sensitize the HTA community, health-care professionals and patients about: (i) The functions of the ISG, (ii) Current status as per the original work-plan, (iii) Future direction(s) with specific reference to revision of the work-plan, capacity building, & development of online training resources, (iv) to provide a platform for networking and sharing. We request all of you to kindly make it convenient to participate in this workshop.

3. Online course titled "Scientific decision-making in health-care"

We are delighted to announce that after much effort, we are nearly ready to launch an online teaching/training module titled *Scientific decision-making in health-care*. This 12-week module will be hosted on the Peoples-Uni website (www.peoples-uni.org) which is an open access education initiative to enhance public health capacity building in developing countries. Once the training module is up and running (expected date of launch is in March/April 2013), it will be open to anyone (policy-makers, clinicians, health-care professionals, health-care advocates, patients and other consumers etc) who is interested in learning more about the scientific process of health-care decision-making. The major topics that will be covered include: Decision-making across health-care systems, (ii) Evidence-based decision-making, (iii) Health technology assessment, (iv) Introduction to Health economics, (v) Contextualization of external evidence for local decision-making. There will be an assignment to be submitted by participants at the end of the module which will be evaluated for academic credit.

We request your help for (i) identifying tutors who can commit two to three weeks each semester to facilitate one or more topics, (ii) identifying potential participants who can benefit from this programme, (iii) assisting with the delivery of the module, (iv) sponsoring one or more participants at the individual or institutional level.

4. Utilization of the Webspace

As always we request you to send your contributions (to be posted on the DC ISG web-space) which could include the following:

- (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).*

5. Member profile

Multiple requests and reminders to ISG members to send a brief profile with informal photo, to prepare a database of ISG members and post it on the website; has not generated the

expected response. We are grateful to all those who have sent their contributions; and would be pleased 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	