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VOLUME 21 ISSUE 4 Newsletter for ISOQOL Members **FALL 2015**



Dear

Colleagues, I am honored and humbled to serve as President of the International Society for

Quality of Life Research for the next two years. I have been involved with ISOQOL since 2000, and the professional value is only outweighed by the quality of the personal friendships.

Both the professional and personal benefits of ISOQOL involvement were in action during our recent meeting in Vancouver. With 540 attendees, the annual meeting was a terrific gathering of colleagues where we had the opportunity to explore "The Matrix: Quality of Life in Social **Context."** I want to thank co-chairs Carolyn Gotay and Ida Korfage; committee members Skye Barbic and Simon Pickard; as well as our excellent speakers, moderators, discussants, session chairs, and participants. Special thanks also to our patient partners Amye Leong and

Mario Di Carlo, the Mentor/Mentee chair Cindy Gross, Workshop chair Nancy Mayo, and our sponsors and exhibitors. Finally, hearty congratulations to Galina Velikova for her outstanding tenure as President. It has been a privilege to work with Galina on the Executive Committee over the past year, and ISOQOL has benefited greatly from Galina's service. I hope to continue her excellent work.

With that in mind, I would like to

highlight several of the initiatives that I hope we can work on together over the next two years. During this time, ISOQOL will be focusing on two substantive themes, "Measuring What Matters" and "Making Measurement Meaningful." Measuring What Matters seeks to address the recurring questions that we face in our professional lives of "What patient-reported outcomes should I measure?" and "What instrument should I use?" Similarly, Making Measurement Meaningful aims to strengthen the field by addressing questions related to "What do the PRO scores mean?" and "What Continued on page 2.



The ISOQOL Newsletter is published four times a year by the International Society for Quality of Life Research.

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Ana Popielnicki, BA, USASend articles with subject line addressed "Newsletter Submission" to:
info@isoqol.org

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is important?" and "How can these results be applied?" Building off the extensive wealth of knowledge and experience within ISOQOL, we aim to develop tools, resources, and initiatives to help our members answer these questions – or at least provide guidance on how to go about answering them.

As a first step in this effort, I am pleased to announce the inaugural Measuring What Matters Symposium, which will be held in the Washington, DC, area July **25-26, 2016.** This initial symposium will focus on how to develop and implement a PRO measurement strategy that addresses regulatory requirements while assessing issues that are important to patients and clinicians. In addition to plenary presentations, the symposium will include an interactive component that will provide attendees the opportunity to actively engage with the topic. I want to thank Sara Ahmed and Steven Blum for chairing the first in what we hope will be a series of successful symposia on these topics, and I hope many of you will be able to join us at the meeting.

In addition to our substantive themes, ISOQOL will be working to re-organize and re-invigorate our committee structure. The goals of this effort include greater engagement of our membership, better alignment of committee efforts with the strategic plan, stronger connections between the Board and committees, improved coordination across committees, and clearer roles for Board members.

Finally, there are two administrative topics that we will be exploring. One is whether, with a higher annual meeting registration fee, we can make membership complimentary for anyone who attends the annual meeting. The second is exploring whether moving our annual meeting dates to a Sunday-Wednesday pattern would afford advantages when contracting with hotels.

If you have any feedback on these or other ideas, please submit them to <u>ISOQOListens</u>. I look forward to working with you all to advance the scientific study of health-related quality of life and other patient-centered outcomes.

Sincerely,

Claire Snyter

Claire Snyder, PhD, ISOQOL President

ISOQOL

ISOOOL STAFF CHANGES

We would like to welcome Marjorie Struck to the ISOQOL team. Marjorie will be the Program Coordinator for ISOQOL assisting with our social media, newsletter, website, annual meeting and other areas. Please help me welcome Marjorie to ISOQOL.



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By: Ana Popielnicki



Family:
Welcome to this year's last issue of our Quality of Life Quarterly!
It was great

Dear ISOQOL

seeing you all – and meeting new colleagues – at the Annual Conference in Vancouver last month.

In this issue we have our first President's Message from Dr. Claire Snyder – please check out her article for information on upcoming educational opportunities, projects, and initiatives being planned for this coming year. We are also including a featured article on Dr. Snyder, who I had the opportunity to interview recently – details inside!

The Annual Conference co-chairs, Drs. Carolyn Gotay and Ida Korfage, bring us a comprehensive review of the meeting. Many thanks to both of them and to the members of the Scientific Program Committee for a wonderful and enriching experience.

The outstanding quality of the published works in our *Quality of Life Research Journal* would not be possible without the collaboration of many dedicated reviewers. The Journal's Co-Editors-In-Chief, Drs. Carolyn Schwartz and Frans Oort, recognize the Top Reviewers of this past year – please read their article in this issue. If you wish to contribute as a reviewer, see details and links there.

Please see news from our Patient Engagement SIG co-chairs, and hear from this year's Patient Engagement Scholars, Amye Leong and Mario Di Carlo, who enthusiastically participated in and actively contributed to several sessions and activities throughout the conference.

Look out for several pertinent announcements – the publication of our Dictionary of Quality of Life and Health Outcomes Measurement, edited by Dr. Nancy Mayo; staff changes in our Executive Office (welcome, Marjorie!), out two new Special Interest Groups (the Canada-PRO SIG and the Australia SIG, welcome!). Check our webinar announcement, as well as a much-deserved thank you to our departing Board members for their dedicated service.

Do keep in mind that we welcome your questions, comments, or submissions for the 2016 Winter issue! Please send your queries/comments to your Communications Committee at info@isoqol.org with "Newsletter" on your subject line. Enjoy!

Ana Popielnicki Editor

AN INTERVIEW WITH ISOQOL'S PRESIDENT, DR. CLAIRE SNYDER

By: Ana Popielnicki, Editor

I have been a member of ISOQOL since 2009 – and it was at that year's Annual Conference in New Orleans that I met Claire, when a good mutual friend introduced us at the Welcome Reception. I'm sure she doesn't remember this, but I made it a point to say hi to her every time I came across her from then on, until she might have been convinced we had been friends from childhood ©

In the following years, I've been privileged to witness Claire's enthusiastic and amazing dedication to our Society. She has served ISOQOL in some capacity for many years now: She has been a member of the Board of Directors, has co-chaired the Annual Conference (coincidentally, the very one where I met her!), was one of the founders of the QOL in Clinical Practice Special Interest

Group, was one of the keynote speakers at the 6th Ibero-America Quality of Life Research Meeting in 2012 in Brazil, has chaired Committees, as well as having presented her research in countless plenary, symposium, oral, and poster sessions.

You will learn more about her in this issue's President's Message, where she talks about all her initiatives and projects for the year. However, I did manage to ask her some general questions that will give you a good snapshot of the whole Claire, not just the Fearless Leader President Claire.

When asked about her favorite part of being our Society's President, Claire quickly stated that it wasn't the "being President" part – just being involved with ISOQOL is what she loves – the important work we do, and most of all the opportunity

to collaborate with such amazing, talented, dedicated, wise, caring, wonderful friends and colleagues all over the world.

What else can I tell you about Claire Snyder? She graciously responded to my silly un-ISOQOL-related questions: She doesn't have a favorite color – but likes different colors for different things: She rarely wears yellow, but likes yellow houses, for example. If she ever gets any free time, she can be found trying out new restaurants, or watching her beloved New Orleans Saints football and Duke Blue Devils basketball teams. Claire is a longtime yoga aficionado, and has recently taken up running.

Now you know a little bit more about our President!

ISOQOL

MEASURING WHAT MATTERS

An ISOQOL Symposium 25-26 July 2016

Washington, DC, United States

"Bridging industry regulatory needs with what matters to patients and clinicians."

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THE 22ND ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN REVIEW



Several groups of mentors and their mentees meet during the Mentor/Mentee Reception on Thursday night of the Annual Conference.

Vancouver has played the host to the 2010 Winter Olympics, several games of the 2015 Women's Soccer World Cup, and now, ISOQOL's 22nd Annual Conference! The Conference took place last month from October 21-24, 2015, at The Fairmont Hotel – Vancouver. The hotel is located in the center of Downtown Vancouver, just blocks from the beautiful Stanley Park and minutes from delicious Vancouver dining options and entertaining local attractions.

Scientific Committee Co-Chairs, Carolyn Gotay, PhD, University of British Columbia, and Ida Korfage, PhD, Erasmus MC, are to be commended for their passionate work and dedication in coordinating an excellent program centered around the theme, "The Matrix: Quality of Life in Social Context."

The Conference kicked-off in style with a welcome reception, following a day of well-attended workshops. The reception boasted a 21-piece jazz band composed of local musicians, and attendees were able to mingle and network to the sultry sounds of some of the world's best jazz pieces.

The Conference ended with just as much style as it began, as the Closing Dinner was held on The Roof, located on the top floor of The Fairmont Hotel. Saturday evening, attendees were able to hear a representative

from The First Nations speak on the rich culture and history of Vancouver and its people, followed by a local jazz singer. The night ended, in true ISOQOL fashion, with fun and laughter on the dance floor.

Final Conference registration was at an all-time high with 540 registrations and 184 first time ISOQOL attendees. To date, this has been one of our most well-attended conferences!

In total, there were 473 Oral/Poster Abstract submissions, 145 of which were accepted as Oral Presentations and 301 as Posters.

Of the abstracts submitted, several stood out and were judged during the conference to receive the Student and New Investigators Award to both an Oral and a Poster, as well as Outstanding Poster Awards. Award finalists were determined by abstract reviews, but the presentations were judged by a panel of volunteer judges in order to determine the winners.

In fitting with the social theme of the 22nd Annual Conference, the final plenary session on Saturday featured review and discussion of the role of social media on QOL and PRO research. Attendees at the session, as well as throughout the conference, were able to enhance conference engagement using this year's mobile



Past-President Galina Velikova and President Claire Snyder pose for a picture after President Snyder receives the official gavel during the 22nd Annual Awards Ceremony and Member Business Meeting.

app, which featured a live polling system, as well as traditional social media platforms such as Twitter and Facebook. Thank you to Shire, our mobile app sponsor. To view some of the photos, discussions, and insights that were shared by attendees, search the hashtag #ISOQOL15.

The Friday night "Dine-Arounds," were another very successful feature of the 2015 Annual Conference. Approximately eight restaurants around the downtown Vancouver area hosted groups of seven or more conference attendees as they dined together, networked, and enjoyed an evening of socializing and good company, very much in-step with the conference theme.

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the post-conference evaluation. Congratulations to Dr. Ronald Hays, the winner of the drawing for the Amazon.com gift card.



The 22nd Annual Conference Co-Chairs, Carolyn Gotay and Ida Korfage, pose together after a very successful day of conference activities.



A Dine-Around group meets in the lobby of The Fairmont and prepares to venture out to their dining destination.

AWARDS PRESENTED AT THE 2015 MEMBER BUSINESS MEETING

PRESIDENT'S AWARD

The President's Award is presented to an individual who has advanced HRQOL research and has made outstanding contributions to the Society in one or more of the following areas: education of professionals, patients, or lay individuals about the value of HRQOL research; promotion or execution of HRQOL research or other scholarly activities; and facilitating or furthering policy initiatives that have an impact on HRQOL.

The 2015 ISOQOL President's Award was presented by President Galina Velikova to Carol M. Moinpour, PhD, United States. Dr. Moinpour has made notable contributions to the field of health-related quality of life research and ISOQOL.

ISOQOL EMERGING LEADER AWARD IN HONOR OF DONNA LAMPING

The Emerging Leader Award recognizes ISOQOL members who have been active in an ISOQOL committee, special interest group (SIG), task force or working group for at least 2 years, and who have shown exceptional leadership skills and potential.

The 2015 recipient of the ISOQOL Emerging Leader Award in Honor of Donna Lamping is Bellinda L. King-Kallimanis, PhD, United States. President Galina Velikova presented the award to Dr. King-Kallimanis at the Awards Presentation during the Members Business Meeting.

ARTICLE OF THE YEAR 2014 IN QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH,

Since 2003, ISOQOL has awarded the "Article of the Year" Award to recognize and honor the single best article dedicated to health-related quality of life (HRQL) research published in *Quality of Life Research* journal during the previous calendar year. This award recognizes the author(s) for significant intellectual contributions that advance state-of-the-art science in HRQL theory, methods, clinical application, or policy.

First Place

Fayers PM, Hays DR. Don't middle your MIDs: regression to the mean shrinks estimates of minimally important differences. QLR 2014;23(1):1-4.

Finalists:

Donneau, A.F., Mauer, M., Coens, C., Bottomley, A., Albert, A.. Longitudinal quality of life data: a comparison of continuous and ordinal approaches. QLR 2014; 23 (10):2873-2881.

Santana, M.-J. and D. Feeny. Framework to assess the effects of using patient-reported outcome measures in chronic care management. Quality of Life Research, 2014. 23(5): p. 1505-1513.

NEW INVESTIGATOR & STUDENT PRESENTATION AWARDS

New Investigator Oral Presentation Award

John Barile, PhD, University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States
Factor Structure of the CDC Healthy Days Core and Symptoms Modules and their Association with Stress, Access to Care, and Social Determinants of Health



Past-President Carol Moinpour, winner of this year's President's Award, poses with Past-President Diane Fairclough and Past-President David Feeney.



Bellinda L. King-Kallimanis receives the Emerging Leader Award – In Honor of Donna Lamping, presented by Madeline King.

Awards Presented at the 2015 Member Business Meeting, Continued from previous page.

New Investigator Poster Presentation Award

Eithne Sexton, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

Does the EQ-5D capture the effect of physical and mental health on subjective well-being among older people?

Student Oral Presentation Award

Elena Tsangaris, MSc, McMaster University, Canada

Determining the Psychometric Properties of the CLEFT-Q Using Two Different Sets of Response Options

Student Poster Presentation Award

Ayesha Mahmud, PhD student, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom

Outcome reporting in UK-based maternity trials: A Systematic review of randomised controlled trials (The Pro-Maternity group)

OUTSTANDING POSTER ABSTRACT AWARDS

The top six (6) posters that scored the highest during the ISOQOL 22nd Annual Conference abstract review process were recognized with a ribbon posted on their poster board and were invited to display their poster throughout the entire conference and present in front of a panel of judges and the attendees at the Annual Conference.

Outstanding Poster Abstract Award Winner:

Skye P. Barbic, Post-Doctoral Fellow, Faculty of Medicine

How can Rasch Measurement methods inform a measurement paradigm shift in mental health care?

Outstanding Poster Abstract Award Finalists:

Antoine Regnault; Ian Porter, PhD; Ellis Chow, MBA; Haomiao Jia; San Keller, PhD

ISOQOL



SAVE THE DATE PHO Annual Conference October 23-24, 2016 Radisson Blu Scandinavia Hotel Copenhagen

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TO OUR DEPARTING ISOQOL BOARD MEMBERS FOR THEIR PROFOUND LEADERSHIP AND DEDICATION.



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WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE ADDITION OF NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS TO ISOQOL, THE CANADA-PRO SIG AND THE AUSTRALIA SIG!

AUSTRALIA SIG:

The Australia SIG brings together Australian-based researchers in the field of quality of life research. Given geographical remoteness of Australian quality of life researchers from colleagues in the northern hemisphere, the SIG fills a need for a local-based organization of like-minded individuals. We aim to:

- Foster the connections between local researchers
- · Provide a forum for exchange of ideas
- Facilitate development of collaborative opportunities
- Promote discussion and dissemination of current and evolving methodologies in quality of life research
- Support emerging local researchers working in the area of quality of life research

Quality of life researchers residing in Australasia and Asia-pacific region are invited to join the Australia SIG.

CANADA-PRO SIG:

The Canada-PRO Special Interest Group members are a diverse group of researchers and clinicians with a common interest in promoting patient reported outcomes (PRO) research and use in Canada. Building on initial efforts of the co-leaders and informal meetings at ISOQOL, we will discuss methodological issues and PRO developments, and generate new ideas to move PRO forward in Canada. Initial goals are to identify priority issues for PRO applications in clinical practice, research, and population monitoring, facilitate networking for Canadian researchers and clinicians, and provide support for students and fellows, new investigators and first time attendees at ISOQOL. Our first meeting will be to develop a shared vision for the group and plan future activity.



PATIENT ENGAGEMENT 2015: TURNING THE 'DREAM' OF PATIENT ENGAGEMENT INTO A REALITY!

Following the success of ISOQOL 2014 in Berlin where ISOQOL hosted its first two Patient Engagement scholars - Anne Lyddiatt and Sam Brace-MacDonnell, the ISOQOL Executive Committee approved an application request from the PE SIG for continued funding for this exciting and pioneering initiative. Following advertisement of the scholarships during Spring 2015, there was yet again an excellent response from the membership, recommending 12 high quality patient applications. The scholarship committee, chaired by Professor Sam Salek and Gloria Juárez, awarded the PE scholarships to two outstanding scholars - Amye Leong and Mario Di Carlo, who, through good humour and rigorous debate made their presence well and truly known throughout the conference.

Amye and Mario participated in a range of activities including as panel members on the IAC symposium and contributors to the Clinical Practice and Young Investigators SIGs – and of course, to the Patient Engagement SIG! In addition, they truly contributed to the liveliness of the two breakfast round-table meetings chaired by Susan Bartlett and Lena Ring, undoubtedly enriching the outcomes of the sessions!

The PE SIG meeting was supported by many and an enthusiastic debate followed the presentations prepared by the PE SIG co-chairs, Sam Salek and Kirstie Haywood. The session closed with clear words of wisdom from our PE scholars, encouraging ISOQOL in the further development of its PE activities. It is clear that there is much passion, experience and expertise pertaining to PE within the ISOQOL membership, and

a great potential for forging strong alliances with external groups undertaking and leading in similar activities. The PE SIG is looking forward to developing strong and sustainable programmes of work which will benefit both the ISOQOL membership and wider community.

It was clear through feedback to both Amye and Mario, and to members of the PE SIG, that ISOQOL participants valued the contribution and presence of our PE scholars. It is hoped that, following the positive report of the PE Taskforce and support from the ISOQOL Board of Directors, this initiative and a number of other short-, medium-, and long-term PE activities

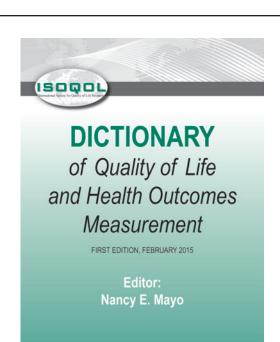
will build on the success of the last two years. In doing so, the PE SIG will seek to continue to work together with our past and future PE scholars in realising the dream of Patient Engagement being fully embraced by ISOQOL and its membership, becoming fully integrated into all activities of the organisation.

"Patients truly wish to partner with researchers for the common good of all parties" (Mario Di Carlo).

Sam Salek, Kirstie Haywood, Amye Leong, Mario Di Carlo



Patient Partners Amye Leong and Mario di Carlo pose with Kirstie Haywood and Patient Engagement SIG Chair Sam Salek.



WE ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THE PUBLICATION OF THE ISOQOL DICTIONARY OF QUALITY OF LIFE AND HEALTH OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT!

Over 600 definitions of terms related to quality of life and health outcomes measurement, study design, and analysis are covered, along with over 350 references. Look up a term, or read the Dictionary from A to Z to see the vast array of terms and concepts that apply to this important field.

Many thanks to Editor Nancy E. Mayo, PhD, for her dedication and hard work on this publication.

Purchase your e-version or print version now at www.isoqol.org. All profits go to support ISOQOL's activities to advance the scientific study of quality of life and other patient-centered outcomes.

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UPCOMING WEBINARS

CLINICAL OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT IN A MULTI-CULTURAL CONTEXT: MEASUREMENT CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Thursday, 17 December 2015 at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm EST (90 minutes)

Presented by: The Psychometric and Translation & Cultural Adaptation Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Clinical Outcome Assessment (COA) in an international study requires particular caution due to the differences in language, culture, education, and standards of care. These differences are likely to be sources of variability in measurement outcomes. If not adequately managed, this variability can potentially jeopardize the accurate capture of the targeted concepts, and make the demonstration of treatment benefit more difficult. Cross-cultural equivalence of COAs used in international studies is, therefore, of particular importance. The webinar will present the challenges and discuss possible solutions related to this question.

A certain amount of cross-cultural variation can be prevented using qualitative methods during the development and translation of a COA. Content can be considered from a cross-cultural perspective using multi-cultural patient interviews and techniques such as Translatability Assessment. Evaluation of cross-cultural equivalence of a measure has traditionally been accomplished using quantitative methods. These methods include investigation of differential item functioning and measurement invariance. Once data have been collected and evaluated quantitatively, further investigation can be conducted qualitatively to focus on specific areas of variability that raise questions about equivalency or comparability. Once the cross-cultural equivalence of a COA used in a multicultural study has been tested and variability addressed using both qualitative and quantitative methods, a more clear demonstration of a treatment benefit can be ascertained with confidence in the results.

These topics and methods for early qualitative and quantitative evaluation will be described, using examples, by speakers from both the Translation and Cultural Adaptation and the Psychometrics Special Interest Groups of ISOQOL. The presentation will be followed by an interactive Q&A session during which the speakers will address questions from the audience.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To anticipate potential measurement issues related to cultural differences in the context of a multi-cultural study
- To outline a strategy to investigate cross-cultural equivalence of COAs using appropriate quantitative and qualitative methods

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Stacie Hudgens, MA (AbD) Managing Partner, Strategic Lead for Clinical Outcome Solutions

Antoine Regnault, PhD Research Director for Mapi

Lori McLeod, PhD Head, Psychometrics for RTI Health Solutions

Mona Martin, RN MPA Executive Director for Health Research Associates Inc.

Sonya Eremenco, MA Director, ePRO New Products for Evidera, Inc.



RESPONSE SHIFT: A REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

Date: Thursday, 14 January, 2016 at 11:00 am - 12:30 pm EST

Response shift (RS) refers to changes in an individual's self-evaluation of his/her health status and quality of life because of changes in internal standards, values, or concepts. According to Sprangers and Schwartz (1999), there are three types of RS: (a) recalibration (change in internal standards of measurements), (b) reprioritization (change in prioritization of component domains constituting the target construct), and (c) reconceptualization (redefinition of the target construct). RS has been investigated in a number of medical conditions where the diagnosis, or treatment, or other factors may act as catalysts that induce change in an individual's self-perceptions of health status and quality of life. It has been shown that response shift could influence assessments of treatment effects and changes in patients' health status and quality of life over time.

A number of methods for measuring and detecting response shift have been developed and tested. Our research team conducted a scoping review on the literature on response shift. In this webinar, based on the results of our scoping review, participants will learn about the literature on response shift, the different types of response shift, the different statistical methods for detecting response shift, and future directions of research in the field.

LEARNING OUTCOMES/OBJECTIVES:

- Participants will learn about the results of our scoping review of the response shift literature
- Participants will be able to explain the potential influence that response shift has on the assessment of treatment effects, as well as assessment of changes in patients' health status and quality of life over time
- Participants will be able to critically evaluate and consider the different commonly used statistical methods of response shift
- Participants will be able to describe the role of response shift in measurement validation (with an emphasis on the modern theories of measurement validity).

FEATURED PRESENTERS:

Rick Sawatzky, PhD, RN, Associate Professor and Canada Research Chair, School of Nursing, Trinity Western University

Tolu Sajobi, PhD, Assistant Professor, Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Calgary

Eric Chan, PhD, Research Associate, School of Nursing, Trinity Western University

Eric Chan, 1 IID, Research Associate, School of Warsing, Trinicy Western University

Ronak Brahmbhatt, MBBS, MPH

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ISOQOL HONORS TOP REVIEWERS

By Carolyn E. Schwartz, Sc.D.¹⁻², and Frans J. Oort, Ph.D.³ — Co-Editors-in-Chief, Quality of Life Research

"Nothing is a waste of time if you use the experience wisely." — Auguste Rodin

So much of what matters in our path as researchers depends on the good will and generosity of others. When we are students, studying and training to be professionals, we rely on our mentors to shape and guide us. Once we have completed this training and find positions in our field, we rely on more seasoned faculty or colleagues to help us navigate and make good decisions on how to spend our time, in what directions to invest our efforts, and with whom to build collaborations. Once we have data to report, we rely on kind editors and anonymous reviewers to help us on our way to achieving what is in fact our key commodity: publications in peer-reviewed professional journals.

With the increasing numbers of journals, the demand for reviewers has become particularly acute. As editors, we can attest to a precipitously declining reviewer-acceptance rate: too many competing demands make many decline invitations to review. This lengthens the review process considerably: at present, we are finding that we have to invite about ten reviewers to get two to agree to review a manuscript.

At *Quality of Life Research*, ISOQOL's frontline journal in the field of patient-reported outcomes, we are looking into ways to acknowledge and reinforce reviewers for their efforts on the journal and in the field. As a first step in this path, we initiated this year at the ISOQOL annual meeting a new badge ribbon for our top reviewers. This ribbon graced the ISOQOL conference badge for all to see (and envy, we hope). Those top reviewers are shown in Table 1. These are people who reviewed at least six manuscripts in the past year, and provided on-time and high-quality reviews. The journal's top functioning is in large part due to their efforts.

As a next step, we will modify the role of our International Advisory Board to be a core of experts in the field who commit to reviewing at least six manuscripts per year on time and with high-quality reviews. We are also looking into possible venues for training so that more potential reviewers know how to do a review properly and efficiently. If you have ideas about the best venue for such a training program, please contact us directly (carolyn.schwartz@deltaquest.org and oort.qolr@uva.nl).

If you would like to step up as a top reviewer for Quality of Life Research, please go to the journal website (http://www.editorialmanager.com/qure/default.aspx) and register as a reviewer; and/or update your profile to make sure your contact information is correct, and your areas of expertise are up-to-date. This will help us to find you.

And thank you to the 70 people listed in Table 1. We are very grateful for your efforts...

- 1 DeltaQuest Foundation, Inc., Concord, MA, USA
- 2 Tufts University School of Medicine, Boston, MA, USA
- 3 University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

| TABLE 1. TOP REVIEWERS FOR QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|--|
| Name | | Institution | | |
| Jenny | Abanto | University of Sao Paulo | | |
| Edimansyah | Abdin | Institute of Mental Health | | |
| Jordi | Alonso | IMIM-Hospital del Mar Research Institute, Barcelona, Spain; CIBER de Epidemiology Salud Pública (CIBERESP), Spain; Dpt. Experimental and Health Sciences, Pompeu Fabra University (UPF), Barcelona, Spain; | | |
| Reza | Amini | University of North Texas | | |
| Adin-Cristian | Andrei | Northwestern University | | |
| Thiago | Ardenghi | universidade federal de santa maria-rs | | |
| Alarico | Ariani | Azienda Ospedaliero Universitaria di Parma - Ospedale Maggiore di Parma | | |

| Juan Ignacio | Arraras | Complejo Hospitalario de Navarra |
|--------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chris | Barker | Chris Barker Statistical Planning And Analysis Services, Inc |
| Ivan | Barofsky | The Quality of Life Institute |
| Melissa | Benton | University of Colorado, Colorado Springs |
| Christine | Blome | University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf |
| Jan | Boehnke | University of York |
| Kholoud | Bokhary | University of New South Wales; King Saud University |
| | - | |
| W. Jeff | Bryson Cabrero- | Alabama Psychological Services Center University of Alicante |
| Julio | Garcia | · · |
| Joseph | Cappelleri | Pfizer Inc |
| Sungkun | Cho | Chungnam National University |
| Daniel | Costa | University of Sydney |
| M. | Dempster | Queen's University Belfast |
| Michael | Edwards | The Ohio State University |
| David | Ellard | Coventry University |
| David | Feeny | McMaster University |
| Erin | Fekete | University of Indianapolis |
| Eva | Fenwick | University of Melbourne |
| Barbara | Gandek | University of Massachusetts Medical School |
| Pranav | Gandhi | University of Florida |
| Laura | Gibbons | University of Washington |
| Eva | Grill | Ludwig-Maximilians-Universit MÃnchen |
| Ron | Hays | UCLA Department of Medicine |
| Axel | Hirsch | Retired |
| Steven | Hoffman | University of Texas at San Antonio |
| Wilma | Hopman | Kingston General Hospital |
| Hsien-Yu | Hsia | Jin-Wen University of Science and Technology |
| Pilar | Isla Pera | University of Barcelona (Spain) |
| Donna | Jeffe | Washington University School of Medicine |
| Angelos | Kassianos | University of Cambridge |
| Anna | Kieszkowska- Grudny | European Health Centre Otwock |
| Henrik | Lauridsen | Faculty of Health Science, University of Southern Denmark |
| Christopher | Lee | BC Cancer Agency |
| Michael | Lensing | Oslo University Hospital |
| Ling-Yi | Lin | National Cheng Kung University |
| Chaojie | Liu | La Trobe University |
| Cameron | McIntosh | Public Safety Canada |

| Wieneke | Mokkink | VU University Medical Center Amsterdam |
|-------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Peter | Newcombe | University of Queensland |
| Sandra | Nolte | Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin |
| Antonio | Oliveira | Centro Hospitalar Gaia-Espinho |
| Muirne | Paap | University of Oslo |
| Geraldine | Padilla | University of California San Francisco |
| Helen | Parsons | The University of Warwick |
| Brigida | Patricio | School of Allied Health Technologies, Polytechnic Institute of Porto |
| Nalin | Payakachat | University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Pharmacy |
| Thomas | Perneger | Geneva University Hospitals |
| JÃrg | Richter | Center for Child and Adolescent Mental Health |
| Christopher | Sampson | University of Nottingham |
| Veronique | Sebille | University of Nantes, Faculty of Pharmacy |
| Cathy | Sherbourne | RAND |
| Vasily | Shuvaev | Russian Research Institute Hematology and Transfusiology |
| Susanne | Singer | University Medical Centre Mainz |
| Richard | Skolasky | Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine |
| Caroline | Terwee | VU University Medical Center |
| Nada | Tomasovic Mrcela | Eko oporaba |
| James | Varni | Texas A&M University |
| Per | Wandell | Karolinska Institutet |
| Carlos | Wong | The University of Hong Kong |
| Penny | Wright | University of Leeds |
| Susan | Yount | CORE, Evanston Northwestern Healthcare and Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center, Northwestern University, Chicago, IL |
| Hatice | Zahran | Centers for Disease Control and Prevention |
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Abstract Submission Deadlines:

Workshop & Symposium Submission—29 January Oral & Poster Abstract Submission—18 April

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