



International Society for Quality of Life Research

Volume 8 Issue 3

Newsletter for ISOQOL Members

December 2003

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*Albert Wu, MPH, MD
Baltimore, MD, USA*

I envy people who can tell jokes. I can manage an occasional story, but cannot produce entertainment on demand. I think my problem is that I have only one available slot in my brain, which can be used to store a maximum of one joke at a time. The people I am talking about have a vast store of tales that they reel off one after another at social events. How do they do it? Is their DNA different from mine? The other day, a joke-enabled friend confided in me that the secret for those of us with un-funny DNA is the following: When you hear a joke that you like, tell it to three people in the next hour, and it will be yours.

Which brings me back to our just past Annual Meeting in Prague. I was sad to leave Prague and our cozy, exciting, thought-provoking gathering. Several of our colleagues confessed the same sentiment to me. The hotel, although on the East-bloc institutional-side (not that there is anything wrong with that), was suffused with a secure and encouraging atmosphere. Despite having already been there for a week, I was still tempted to keep my room key, and to explore more of the city with our friends. I think I am more creative during these meetings, but unfortunately this state of mind seems to require the presence of a network of colleagues. I became anxious that the many ideas that I had scribbled down during the sessions would float away from me.

The dilemma is how to convert all of these ideas into action. I suggest you start by telling at least three people back home what a terrific meeting it was, and describe some of the things

you learned, people you met, and ideas that occurred to you. I also recommend that you pull out those business cards, and send an email message to each of them, with a recollection of what it was that you shared, and possibly a suggestion for following up.

As one of the benefits of ISOQOL membership, we are just now working to collate the hundreds of comments we got from registration forms and the roundtable discussions at the business meeting. We will delete duplicates, those that are too general and too specific, and then conduct a nominal grouping exercise to help us discern what you are interested in.

We will also begin to activate our special interest groups, or SIGS. Three new groups just underway are the Translation interest group, and new groups formed for Young Scientists, and based around the SEIQOL, and the ICF. What the groups do will be entirely up to their constituent members. We would suggest determining what person or people will lead and take other roles in the group, and to send periodic messages to one another. The translation methods SIG has a leader in the person of Katrin Conway. For each SIG, ISOQOL will provide a webhome on the website (www.isoqol.org). We will also invite SIGs to submit ideas for sessions or symposia for our annual meeting in Hong Kong in October 2004. If you have additional interests, please email us about a SIG you would be interested in joining. We will have an appointed time during the HK meeting so you can meet your fellow SIG member in person.

Happy New Year. May yours be healthy, creative, exciting and productive.

ISOQOL EDUCATION COMMITTEE - NEW PROJECT

*Marcia Grant, DNSc,
Duarte, CA, USA and
Melanie Calvert, PhD,
Birmingham, UK*

The Education Committee of ISOQOL is embarking on a project to identify sources of curricula or educational materials that could be used when developing courses, workshops, etc., for the purpose informing undergraduate and postgraduate medical students about the potential applications of QoL assessment and research, the training of young investigators and clinicians in developing, testing and implementing QOL initiatives and promoting the research activities of ISOQOL. We would like to invite you to participate in this project.

The first step is to participate in a survey and answer a few questions regarding educational materials you have access to about QOL, as well as your need for and use of such materials. The second part of this project is to identify representatives from the various regions, languages and cultures represented in ISOQOL to help coordinate this activity.

Please visit the ISOQOL website at www.isoqol.org to participate in this survey and send recommendations of colleagues who may be interested in participating to Marcia Grant at mgrant@coh.org.

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The ISOQOL Newsletter is published three times a year by the International Society for Quality of Life Research with the cooperation of Degnon Associates.

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Deadline for articles for our next issue is March 30, 2004

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PRESIDENT'S AWARD

*Mirjam Sprangers, PhD
Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

The ISOQOL President's Award is given annually to someone who has made outstanding contributions to the field of health-related quality of life research. I feel very pleased and honored to announce this year's recipient of the president's award: Dr. John E. Ware, Jr.

Dr. Ware has achieved a very high degree of academic accomplishment. His vitae is long and impressive. I can only give a thumbnail sketch of his professional career. Dr. Ware was trained as a psychologist with a specialization in educational measurement and statistics.

After completing his dissertation in 1974, Dr. Ware was a Senior Research Psychologist for 14 years at the Rand Corporation in Santa Monica, California, where he was involved in the Health Insurance Experiment.

In 1988, Dr. Ware moved to Boston where he served for 12 years as Senior Scientist at the Health Institute, Tufts New England Medical Center. Here he continued his work as the Principal Investigator for the Medical Outcomes Study.

In 1997, Dr. Ware founded QualityMetric Incorporated, a for-profit health care information technology company. He serves as its Chief Executive Officer, Chief Science Officer, and Chairman of the Board. QualityMetric has a strong affiliation with the not-for-profit Health Assessment Lab, which Dr. Ware also directs.

Dr. Ware also maintains faculty appointments as Research Professor in the Department of Medicine at Tufts University School of Medicine and as Adjunct Professor at the Harvard School of Public Health.

Dr. Ware is also a member of the prestigious Institute of Medicine, National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. Ware's reference list approaches 400 publications and he has been the recipient of many awards and honors.

While this overview is sufficiently impressive to warrant a president's award, it is not the reason why the ISOQOL Board has elected him.

Dr. Ware is one of the pioneers of health-related quality of life research. He has advanced the measurement of health-related quality of life, as no other person in our field. In the late '70s of the past century, he developed the first series of health status and patient satisfaction measures in the context of the Health Insurance Experiment.

In the subsequent '80s he developed the SF-36 Health Survey and other tools that are widely used in monitoring patient outcomes. The prevalence of this tool is in part related to its psychometric characteristics, but may even be more a testament to Dr. Ware's ability to anticipate and respond to market and consumer needs.

In the '90s he directed the International Quality of Life Assessment (IQOLA) Project, a large-scale project with the goal of translating, validating, and norming the SF-36 Health Survey in 45 countries.

Dr. Ware was also one of the first who began creating and evaluating pools of items that culminated in the application of item response theory methods and computerized adaptive testing. He thus furthered the field of health-related quality of life by conducting excellent research that extended the use of 'modern' psychometric methods to health-related quality of life, and capitalized on new technology, such as hand-held PCs and the Internet.

Dr. Ware is also one of our best teachers. He can make complex issues seem transparent, such as IRT, and will always tell the practical applications of such complex issues for health care. He is also a generous teacher. He is willing to share what he knows with others. He believes that by sharing what we know more widely, our field will advance more

rapidly and we will be able to develop and implement our applications in practice much sooner. Dissemination of knowledge, education, and diffusion of technology are issues high on his priority list.

Dr. Ware's talents are not restricted to the academic world. He is also a pioneer in reaching out to the public, for example via cyber-seminars on the Internet or a series of videotapes that educate various stakeholders on the use of patient-reported outcomes. Dr. Ware applies his intelligence, enthusiasm and entrepreneurial acumen to every segment of the health care industry. He is largely responsible for a greater awareness of emerging opportunities for quality-of-life researchers at the intersection of business and science.

We all know that quality of life is a multidimensional construct. You may now have learned that John Ware is a multidimensional talent. What marks his activities is his ability to think differently about things.

Dr. Ware can be characterized as a visionary who is always a few steps ahead of the rest of us. This quality too is one of the defining characteristics that justify this award.

Congratulations to Dr. Ware for receiving the 2003 ISOQOL Presidents Award.

A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE: ISOQOL 10TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 12-15, 2003 PRAGUE, CZECH REPUBLIC

*Pia Svedberg, PhD Student,
Karolinska Institute, Stockholm,
Sweden*

Until a year ago I was unaware of the existence of a lively community organizing annual meetings with discussions about quality of life issues. I attended the 10th annual meeting in Prague, not knowing exactly what to expect and if my own interests of global

health ratings would fit in to this specific area.

After attending workshops, seminars and panel discussions on a variety of topics covering basically everything from instruments, statistics, psychometric, and interpretations, I was both impressed and inspired. Interactions with competent researchers in the field gave me new input and ideas to bring home. I also discovered that global self-ratings of health seem to fit well into this area of research as a dimension of health related quality of life. I would like to acknowledge the organizing ISOQOL committee for carrying out such a well organized and interesting arrangement in the beautiful city of Prague.

UPDATE ON THE 2004 ISOQOL ANNUAL CONFERENCE - HONG KONG 16-19 OCTOBER 2004

*Madeleine King, PhD,
Sydney, Australia*

Having decided the dates and booked the venues, the next step in defining a conference is to choose its theme. This year, our theme is 'Harmonizing International Health-Related Quality of Life (HRQOL) Research'. Sounds good, but what does it mean? Reaching for the nearest, biggest dictionary, I found that harmony is 'the combination or adaptation of parts, elements or related things, so as to form a consistent and orderly whole'. Of course, there were some other definitions, as for any word, but I won't trouble you with those, since this one seems to fit so well. For when I think about the current state of international HRQOL research, it seems somewhat fractured – there are so many different cultures and languages around the globe and indeed within countries and cities; there are different ways of defining and conceptualizing HRQOL, and following from that, so many different instruments and scales to measure HRQOL. Finally, there are so many different uses and users of HRQOL results. So the theme of harmonization gives us a very timely

and appropriate focus for developing the scientific program for our next annual conference.

Members of the 2004 Scientific Committee joined in a spirited e-discussion of possible topics that would fit under the 'harmonizing' theme, and several strands emerged. Many of the strands related to the 'international' aspect of the theme – that is, the different countries, cultures and languages around the globe. For example, can we compare and combine data from different cultures and languages? Now, more than at any other stage in the development and evolution of international HRQOL research, there is a need for the translation and cross-cultural adaptation of HRQOL instruments, and consequent retesting of the measurement properties of new variants of established instruments. An even more fundamental theme emerged - conceptualization of HRQOL: Is it appropriate or wise to apply a concept of HRQOL developed in one culture to another culture? How is HRQOL best conceptualized for indigenous populations, where adversity of social and political history and context come into play? There were also more pragmatic strands, including methods of collecting and communicating HRQOL results in different countries and cultures. Mental health and determinants of HRQOL, including sociodemographic and psychosocial factors, in different countries, cultures and contexts, were also identified as important topics to consider and debate at this time. Yet another topic, of particular interest to those involved in the pharmaceutical industry, was regulatory and ethical issues in the approval and supply of pharmaceuticals and medical technologies: how do these vary across countries? A related topic was the value of HRQOL measurement for different health care systems, and how it is used in different countries. Finally, this is the perfect opportunity to discuss the integration of Western medical and research paradigms and practices with Chinese Traditional Medicine.

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QUALITY OF LIFE INSTRUMENTS DATABASE AVAILABLE ON THE INTERNET

ISOQOL Board of Directors recently approved a plan that will enable the organization's members to take advantage of a generous discount on yearly subscriptions to QOLID (the Quality of Life Instruments Database) through the MAPI Research Institute. ISOQOL members can now take advantage of a discount (from 20% to 25%) on annual subscriptions to this information-packed online database.

The project of a Quality of Life Instruments Database (QOLID) was launched in January 2002 by Mapi Research Institute in collaboration with Dr Marcello Tamburini, Istituto Nazionale Tumori, Milano, Italy, to provide all those involved in health care evaluation with a comprehensive and unique source of information on Patient-reported Outcomes (PRO) and quality of life (QOL) questionnaires available through the Internet.

Yearly subscriptions to the advanced level are proposed to universities, hospitals, institutions, non-profit organizations, as well as pharmaceutical and profit-making companies. Access is granted through the allocation of five personal passwords for each subscription. A subscription is valid for one local subsidiary. Individual subscriptions (one password provided) may also be proposed to individual academics and students. Dozens of pharmaceutical companies, academic institutions or researchers, and regulatory agencies are already depending on the information they gain from the subscription level of QOLID.

To start your one-year subscription, log on to www.qolid.org and click on the link in the left column entitled "Subscribe to QOLID".

For more information on QOLID, please contact Marie-Pierre Emery, MSc, Director, Information Resources Centre, Mapi Research Institute, 27 rue de la Villette, 69003 Lyon, FRANCE

Tel: +33 (0)472136667, Fax : +33 (0)472136682, Email: mpemery@mapi.fr

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ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

*Ivan Barofsky, PhD
Sandwich, MA*

I have been asked to give you an update on the Oral History Project. The year 2003, was a year of major accomplishment for the Project. It included the initiation or completion of interviews with 5 major living contributors to the field of quality of life research (George Torrance, Bob Kaplan, Sonja Hunt, John Ware, and Donald Patrick). A symposium was held honoring the contributions of Jim Bush at the ISOQOL 2003 meeting in Prague, and another honoring Marilyn Bergner is in the planning stage. Additional interviews are also planned for those individuals who made contributions starting in the 1970's. The summarization and editing of the live interviews are in various stages of preparation and it is expected that the first material will be available by the spring of 2004.

A second major accomplishment was to decide on how to make this material available. The Committee sees this happening in stages. First, the material will be available on the ISOQOL website as a benefit of membership. Non-ISOQOL members may have access to this material but at a fee. It is hoped that these fees will help finance what will eventually become the second part of this project; the publication of a *web-based book* which can either be downloaded directly or by requesting a prepared copy. We already have an ISBN number so that this publication will be cited by the Library of Congress - so the virtual book exists.

One of the advantages of having a "virtual" historical museum is that it allows you to make a lot more material available than might have been

otherwise. For example, Dr. Torrance has made his doctoral dissertation available so that a reader will have direct access to his original work. We hope to do this with other interviewees.

Obviously accumulating this material takes time, both in the interviewing, transcribing and editing the material, as well as preparing it for a web presentation. If you are interested in participating in the project please contact ibarosky@adelphia.net; 508-833-3587 (Phone) or one of my committee members (Albert Wu, Paul Kind, or David Osoba). This project, you will find is exciting and includes the benefit of learning directly from someone who has made a major contribution to our field.

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UPDATE ON THE 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 16-19, HONG KONG

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Such an interesting set of questions and topics! The Scientific Committee now has the welcome task of organizing a set of sessions and speakers to address these issues, to inform and perhaps challenge us, to help direct our and ISOQOL's thinking and activities into the future. With the conference situated in Asia, this is an opportunity to hear from and about people and places that are often not well-represented at our annual conferences, traditionally held in Europe and North America.

There may be much to be gained from thinking and talking about how to harmonize, or to combine and adapt, what we know about HRQOL assessment, across concepts and cultures, languages and instruments. Harmony - agreement, accord and reconciliation - may not always be appropriate or even possible, but I welcome the opportunity for a wide-ranging debate in Hong Kong 2004. Our next annual conference is shaping up to be a great experience - I hope you will be a part of it.

NIH ANNOUNCEMENT

NIH would like to announce the release of a new RFA. The RFA is entitled "DYNAMIC ASSESSMENT OF PATIENT-REPORTED CHRONIC DISEASE OUTCOMES". The RFA number is: RFA-RM-04-011. This RFA is developed as an NIH Roadmap initiative (<http://nihroadmap.nih.gov/>). All NIH Institutes and Centers participate in Roadmap initiatives.

The Institutes and Centers of the National Institutes of Health seek proposals for innovative approaches to measuring patient-reported outcomes (PROs) that will meet the needs of clinical researchers across a wide variety of chronic disorders and diseases. This RFA solicits two types of applications; (1) individual research proposals, with added concept proposals for network-wide collection of self-report data on specific domains of patient-reported outcomes, symptoms, or quality of life in large and diverse samples, and (2) proposals for a statistical coordinating center that will serve as a data repository, conduct analyses, and develop a computerized system to administer, collect, and report PRO data. The principal investigators of each project will become members of a network - Patient-Reported Outcomes Measurement Information System (PROMIS)- to be established immediately following award. Proposals will be funded as cooperative agreements, and PROMIS investigators will work collaboratively to refine and coordinate proposed domains to be measured, to collect, manage, and evaluate the data, and to develop a computerized system that administers dynamic questionnaires (i.e., computerized adaptive tests, CAT), collects and manages PRO data, and creates reports of health-related quality of life status for clinical researchers, patients, and health care providers. The broad objectives of the RFA are to (1) develop and test a large bank of items measuring PROs; (2) create a computerized adaptive testing system that will allow for efficient, psychometrically robust assessment of patient-reported outcomes in clinical research involving a wide range of

chronic diseases, and (3) create a publicly-available system that can be added to and modified periodically and that will allow clinical researchers to access a common repository of items and CAT. This initiative addresses the need, identified as a high priority in the NIH Roadmap process, for improved assessment of symptoms and other patient-centered outcomes in clinical research. For more information see the NIH GUIDE <http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/rfa-files/RFA-RM-04-011.html> or contact Deborah N. Ader, PhD, Tel: (301) 594-5032; Fax: (301) 480-1284, Email: aderd@mail.nih.gov or Lawrence J. Fine, MD, DrPH, Tel: (301) 435-6780; Fax: (301) 402-1150; Email: FineL@mail.nih.gov.

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MEMBER NEWS

Elaine McColl has been appointed as the first Director of the newly established Newcastle Clinical Trials Unit (NCTU), at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne, United Kingdom. The NCTU will offer support and manage high-quality clinical trials of the efficacy, effectiveness and efficiency of therapeutic and service level interventions. It plans to maintain a broad portfolio of work, including Phase III pharmaceutical trials, trials of health technologies, and those of service organisation & delivery, and of complex interventions aimed at behaviour change amongst professionals, patients and members of the public.

Deborah M. Miller, PhD has received \$1,880,171 to conduct a study "Using the Internet to Improve Patients' Self-Management of Chronic Illness" from the NIH. She and her team will design and evaluate software that includes a secure electronic messaging system between subjects and their multiple sclerosis (MS) specialists, uses a disease-specific quality of life measure, the Multiple Sclerosis Quality of Life Inventory (MSQLI) for subjects to monitor and manage their MS and a method to assist subjects to prepare for in-person clinic visits. Two hundred twenty-four subjects will participate in a randomized trial

comparing the comprehensive system with the secure electronic messaging only system. Study outcomes are clinical and self-reported health status, self-efficacy, satisfaction and cost effectiveness.

Fu-Jin Shih has been promoted as a full-time Professor in the College of Nursing, Taipei Medical University (TMU) since 2003/2 and the Director of Global Liaison Center, TMU since 2003/9. Additionally, I received the award for 'The Best Nurse Administrator in the year 2003' from Taipei City Nurses' Association in 2003/11.

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2003 ISOQOL NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARDS

ISOQOL is proud to announce the 2003 New Investigator Awards, which were presented during the 2003 Annual Conference closing dinner. These awards, which replace the "Young Investigator Awards" of previous years, recognize the best overall oral and poster presentations made by full-time students or post-doctoral individuals in the early stages of their career in QOL research, having either received their doctorate within the last five years or having worked as an independent researcher in the field for five years or less.

The recipients of the 2003 New Investigator Awards were:

Outstanding Posters:

Jose-Maria Elorza-Ricart, MD, Spain
Rueya Kocalevent, MS, Germany
Sheri Maddigan, MSc, Canada
Holger Schunemann, MD, Canada
Marja Stuijbergen, MSc, The Netherlands

Outstanding Papers:

Sara Ahmed, MSc, Canada
Eva Baro, BSc, Spain
Carole Brouwer, PhD, The Netherlands

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2003 NEW INVESTIGATORS AWARDS

Fabio Efficace, MSc, Belgium
Joanne Greenhalgh, MPH, UK
Carlo Marra, PharmD, Canada
Simon Pickard, USA
Afsane Riazi, PhD, UK
Henk van Stel, MD, The Netherlands
Katheleen Yost, PhD, USA

A panel of judges reviewed these top 15 presentations and the top-three (two oral and one paper) were awarded an additional monetary amount of \$300US. The following three abstracts were announced at the closing dinner in Prague:

Overall Best Poster: Sheri Maddigan, MScPharm, Canada - STRUCTURAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN BELIEFS, SELF-EFFICACY, ADHERENCE TO SELF-CARE REGIMENS, BODY MASS INDEX AND HRQL IN TYPE 2 DIABETES

Best Overall Papers (2 awards): Eva Baró, Spain - PATIENT SATISFACTION ASSESSMENT WITH PHARMACOLOGICAL PAIN TREATMENT: DEVELOPMENT AND VALIDATION OF A NEW MEASURE

Simon Pickard, Chicago, IL, USA - A NOVEL APPROACH TO ASSESSING AGREEMENT BETWEEN RATERS OF MULTI-DIMENSIONAL MEASURES AT THE INDIVIDUAL LEVEL USING FUZZY SET THEORY

ISOQOL congratulates all of these bright New Investigators and encourage other new investigators to submit abstracts for the 2004 ISOQOL Annual Conference in Hong Kong.

If you are interested in serving on the New Investigators Subcommittee, contact Kathleen Wyrwich at wyrwichk@slu.edu and for more information about the ISOQOL award programs, visit our website at www.isoqol.org.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

*Elaine McColl, MSc
Chair Membership Committee*

Current membership of ISOQOL stands at 622, comprising of 6 corporate members, 511 regular members, 13 members from non-industrialized nations, 5 members retired from employment and 81 student members. The recent, highly successful annual scientific meeting in Prague led to 70 new members joining us – a very warm welcome to all those new folk! We're also writing to people who attended the Prague meeting despite not being members of ISOQOL, inviting them to join us – we hope that the positive experience of an excellent meeting will entice them to sign up! Existing members should have received a renewal notice recently – we look forward to welcoming you back for another year.

In the preceding paragraph, you will have noted a reference to members from 'non-industrialized nations'; these individuals – like students and the retired – can take advantages of a significantly reduced membership fee, a boon in countries where, despite a great interest in academic affairs and quality of life issues, salaries are low, especially for those employed in the public sector. At the recent ISOQOL Board Meeting, we agreed an explicit definition of 'non-industrialised nation', based on the GDP index, which forms part of the Human Development Indicators compiled by the United Nations Development Programme. If you would like to check whether members from your country are eligible for this special rate, please visit the website at www.isoqol.org and visit the membership section or contact the ISOQOL office via email at info@isoqol.org.

We have two priorities for the coming year. The first is to ensure that ISOQOL is providing the types of benefits that its current and potential members expect and desire. To this end, we plan a number of 'stake-holder' investigations, including membership surveys. Watch your e-mail and post

for these. The second is to widen our geographical base and to attract more members from South America, Africa, Asia and Australasia, especially since next year's annual scientific meeting will be in Hong Kong. To this end, it would be great to have a 'link' person in each country, to act as a point of contact for people from that nation who might be interested in ISOQOL. If you would like to fulfil this role in your own country, please contact me at e.mccoll@newcastle.ac.uk.

Wherever in the world you are, do spread the word about ISOQOL, and encourage your colleagues to join us! To this end, the membership committee has produced a 'Please Join' letter, to alert those with an interest in quality of life research to the existence of ISOQOL and to the benefits of membership. We can make this letter available to any ISOQOL member and it can be tailored to suit particular circumstances (e.g. emphasising reduced rate membership for students or those from non-industrialised countries) before sending it to targeted colleagues. If you would like to help our membership drive by sending this letter of invitation to colleagues, please contact the ISOQOL Executive Office at info@isoqol.org or by calling 703-556-9222.

New for 2004 - renew your dues online at www.isoqol.org.

From the members only section, you can now renew your dues with a credit card. You will need your user name and password to access the program. If you need to be reminded of your user name and password, please contact the ISOQOL Executive Office via email at info@isoqol.org.

Be sure and sign up for a Special Interest Group. New groups have been added for 2004!

HR-QOL SYMPOSIUM BEING HELD IN TURKEY

Erhan Eser, MD
Manisa, Turkey

The Turkish Society of Health Related Quality of Life (SAYKAD) is organizing the first scientific meeting dealing with HR-QoL in Turkey; 1st Symposium on health-related quality of life will be held at 8-10 April, 2004, in Izmir. The main theme of the meeting is determined as “**fundamentals of health-related quality of life**”. Professionals working on QoL from Turkish medical communities are expected to pay great attention to this meeting. The official language of the meeting will be Turkish, but the six invited speakers from abroad will carry out their presentations in English. All of the scientific papers will be presented as poster presentations with abstracts in English.

The second announcement of the meeting will be reached from the official website of SAYKAD: www.saykad.org. The registration fee will be modest (50 Euros), not to hinder the young scientists to participate. Deadline for submission of papers is 15 February 2004; this is also deadline for early registration.

The list of speakers from abroad is as follows:

- Prof. Mick Power**, Head of Project (WHOQOL-OLD), Edinburgh; (confirmed)
- Ulrike Ravens-Sieberer**, PhD, MPH; Head Research Unit, Quality of Life & Child and Adolescent Health, Berlin; (confirmed)
- Doan Fidan**, PhD M.D, Health Economist, Appraisals Team, National Institute for Clinical Excellence, London; (probably)
- Prof. George van Andel**, Once Lieve Vrouw Gasthuis, Dept. of Urology, Amsterdam; (confirmed)
- Lynda Doward**, PhD Galen Research, Manchester, (confirmed)
- Bedirhan Üstün**, M.D., WHO Mental Health Dept., Geneva; (confirmed)
- **Prof. Andrew Finlay**, Cardiff University Dept of Dermatology, Cardiff. (confirmed)

Izmir is the third biggest city of Turkey located on the Aegean coast, with a history of more than 5,000 years. She covers many Ionian, Aiolian and Carian cities in her borders such as Smyrna, Ephesus, Pergamon, Miletos, Sardes, Prienne and many others, their ruins are within 5-100 km's away from Izmir. The symposium participants will be given opportunity to visit those magnificent cities if they wish.

QUALITY OF LIFE MEETING IN LATIN AMERICA

The **II Ibero-American Congress of Quality of Life** will take place in Porto Alegre, South Brazil from August 19th to 21st, 2004. In the framework of the XXII Congress of Dynamic Psychiatry of the State of Rio Grande do Sul, researchers and clinicians interested in HRQL will have the opportunity to attend a high standard meeting in their native languages. Portuguese and Spanish will be the official languages of the meeting. Seven international speakers are expected to attend Dr. John Ware, Dr. Monika Bullinger, Dr. Jordi Alonso, Professor Mick Power, Professor Martin Eisemann, Professor Guus Van Heck and Dr Silke Schmitt.

The **IV Meeting of Brazilian Researchers in Quality of Life** will also be held during the Congress. The Chair of the Meeting will be Dr. Marcelo Pio de Almeida Fleck, MD, MSc, PhD, (Brazil), ISOQOL member. Dr. Laura Schwartzmann (Uruguay), ISOQOL Board member has joined the Scientific Committee.

The program includes 2 Conferences, 2 workshops, 4 international symposiums and 6 thematic tables. Conceptual, methodological and cross-cultural issues in HRQL will be included through these activities, with a special emphasis on mental health. The encountering and alive discussion of Ibero-American researchers is thought to promote the use of HRQL measures in daily clinical practice as well as population studies to detect specific subjective needs in our countries. Information for

registration and poster submission will be available on the web (www.ufrgs.br/psiq/celg.html).

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2004 ISOQOL Symposium
“**Stating the Art: Advancing Outcomes Research Methodology and Clinical Applications**”
June 27-29, 2004
Boston, MA

Meeting to include:

- *Workshops *Plenary Sessions
- *Special Invited Speakers *Paper and Poster Presentations and
- *Special Social Events

ISOQOL 11th Annual Conference
Hong Kong
October 16-19, 2004

Join us in this exciting, colorful and truly international city as we extend ISOQOL's activities to Hong Kong.

~Call for Abstracts~
February, 2004

For more information on these events, visit our website at www.isoqol.org.

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Other Events

Society for Medical Decision Making- 9th Biennial Meeting, June 6-8, 2004, Hilton Hotel, Rotterdam, The Netherlands - a forum for the exchange of ideas and insights in how we can optimize decision making in health care. For more information visit www.eur.nl/fgg/emco/esmdm or www.smdm.org.

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We are always seeking new talent and welcome inquiries. MEDTAP scientists perform challenging work in a stimulating, collegial environment where everyone is dedicated to conducting the highest quality research in the industry. MEDTAP values a team-oriented, collaborative approach in its work. Candidates will have an opportunity to work with leaders in the field of pharmacoconomics and health outcomes research. MEDTAP offers a competitive compensation and benefits package as well as the necessary resources and rewards to enhance your

career. MEDTAP is an "Equal Opportunity Employer M/F/D/V," committed to diversity in the workplace.

For consideration, please email careers@medtap.com, fax 301-654-7521 or mail your CV to: MEDTAP International, Inc., Attn: Human Resources, 7101 Wisconsin Ave., Suite 600, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Psychometrician: The Cincinnati Veterans Affairs Medical Center is seeking a measurement expert at the Assistant Professor or Associate Professor level to join a vibrant and growing multidisciplinary team of health services researchers. The Cincinnati group is actively involved in patient safety research and health-related quality of life research.

The candidate would work collaboratively on existing and planned projects and have the opportunity to develop an independent measurement research program. The candidate should have a PhD or its equivalent in a social science discipline emphasizing

quantitative methods and applied measurement theory. Experience in healthcare research is preferred. Salary will be commensurate with experience. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Interested applicants should send a CV and cover letter to: Joel Tsevat, MD, MPH, Director, via email at joel.tsevat@med.va.gov.

The Cincinnati VAMC is an AA/EOE.

Advertising Rates

ISOQOL Members:

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Join an ISOQOL Committee

ISOQOL needs you to participate actively in its work. The more people who participate, the more vigorous the Society. We have openings on the following committees:

1. **The New Investigators Subcommittee for the 2004 Annual Meeting:** This Subcommittee, preparing for the meeting October 16 - 19, Hong Kong, needs your help. Please contact Kathy Wyrwich at wyrwichk@slu.edu if you would like to join Marcel Dijkers, Diane Fairclough, Cindy Gross, Mona Martin, Elaine McColl, Deborah Miller and Kathy with fun and important tasks! By the way, the New Investigators takes the place of the former Young Investigators Subcommittee. A New Investigator is described as "a full-time student or post-doctoral trainee or a person in the early stages of their career in QOL research, having either received their doctorate within the last five years or been working as an independent researcher in the field five years or less."

2. **Become a Part of the Finance/Fundraising Committee:** We are requesting members for participation in the finance/fundraising committee. This committee, under the leadership of the Treasurer, is involved with identifying and securing funds for ISOQOL-related activities. This involves direct fundraising, preparation of grant applications for foundations and government agencies, and further development and recruitment of institutional memberships. If interested, contact Diane Fairclough at dianefairclough@earthlink.net.

3. **Conferences and Workshops Subcommittee of the Education Committee:** Interested in the world and the future? ISOQOL takes a long-term, strategic approach to planning its conferences, symposia and workshops, around the world and into the future. Want to learn about interesting places and meeting interesting people? Tasks include identifying and researching potential host cities and venues, and networking with local people who do or use QOL research. We need people from around the globe, including the Asia/Pacific region, the Middle East, Africa, South and North America, Western and Eastern Europe; in short, a place near you! Contact Madeleine King at madeleine.king@chere.uts.edu.au.