



# International Society for Quality of Life Research

Volume 9 Issue 3

Newsletter for ISOQOL Members

December 2004

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

David Feeny, PhD  
Edmonton, AB, Canada

It has been a banner year for ISOQOL! We have had two very successful meetings in the same year. The June 27-29 Symposium in Boston (228 attendees) featured stimulating presentations and lively hallway discussions. Again thanks to Dennis Revicki, William Lenderking, and many others for organizing the event!

Four hundred thirteen attended the meeting in Hong Kong October 16-19. Thanks to Kwok-fai Leung, Margaret Tay, Madeleine King, the Hospital Authority of Hong Kong, and many others for a great meeting. One hundred six people from Hong Kong and 30 from China attended! This is a tangible benefit of holding the meeting outside of North America and Europe. The Conference Banquet featured performances of traditional Chinese music by the Hospital Authority Chinese Orchestra and a superb "changing mask" dance performance that gives new meaning to "response shift". Another benefit of the meeting in Hong Kong were satellite meetings such as the Regional Conference on Cost-Effective Healthcare held in Singapore, October 21-23 in which many ISOQOL members participated. Thanks to the willingness of "senior" (where did I leave my glasses?) members of ISOQOL and the organizing efforts of Claire Snyder and others, the mentee/mentor session in Hong Kong was a great success. Please bring this feature of our meetings to the attention of your graduate students and postdoctoral fellows. It is a great opportunity for some one-on-one time with experienced investigators.

Of course, we would not have been able to hold two successful meetings in the same year without the help of Laura and George Degnon, Bette Anne German, Sarah Shiffert, Daglyn Carr, and others on the Degnon staff. Many thanks!

In a separate item in this Newsletter Diane Fairclough has contributed an item providing the rationale for the increase in dues. Through the generosity of QualityMetric, ISOQOL is able to offer a very tangible and valuable benefit for those who renew their membership or join ISOQOL. QualityMetric has prepared a series of 9 educational compact discs covering the assessment of health status, uses of such assessments, and interpretation of the results. Interviews with leaders in the field such as John Ware and several past Presidents of ISOQOL including Donald Patrick and Robert Kaplan are featured. Yet another great reason to renew your membership!

Although Boston and Hong Kong are "tough acts to follow", you can be confident that the 2005 meeting in San Francisco will reach new heights. The meeting is scheduled for October 19-22 at the Hyatt Regency Embarcadero and will overlap with the Annual Meeting of the Society for Medical Decision Making (October 21-24). Holding a meeting in conjunction with another major association is a major experiment for ISOQOL. I hope that the involvement of decision analysts and clinicians who regularly attend the SMDM meetings will enrich our proceedings. I also feel that members of ISOQOL have a lot to contribute for those who regularly attend SMDM meetings. Ron Hays, Leo Morales, Ted Ganiats, and Anita Stewart are already hard at work organizing the San Francisco meeting. Typically Fall is a

great time to visit the Bay Area! Please plan to join us for our 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting.

A relatively new feature of ISOQOL is the Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Lively and productive meetings of various SIGs in cyberspace and during the Hong Kong meeting have been held. Please visit the ISOQOL web site ([www.isoqol.org](http://www.isoqol.org)) and get involved. As a member of the Quality of Life in Clinical Practice SIG, I can attest that involvement is rewarding.

ISOQOL is a very special organization. It brings a diverse group of methodologists and practitioners together. As Albert Wu remarked in Hong Kong, we are "keepers of the science". Our science gives voice to patients, family members, and the general population about one of the most important elements of their well being, their health. Transparency and accountability in healthcare and health policy depend on knowing how those who are supposed to be served feel about both process and outcome. Members of ISOQOL have made major contributions to "knowing how to know" about how patients feel. Keep up the good work! May the force be with you. See you in San Francisco "high on a hill, it calls to me. . ." 🎵 🎵

## IN APPRECIATION . . .

ISOQOL would like to thank  
**Madeleine King, PhD** and  
**John Ware, PhD**  
for their service as Board Members;  
and **Mirjam Sprangers, PhD**  
for her service as immediate  
Past-President.  
Their hard work and dedication  
have helped to further the  
message of ISOQOL.



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**Deadline for articles for our next issue is March 31, 2005**

Send articles and/or suggestions to:  
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## **REPORT FROM THE CHAIR OF THE 2004 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM COMMITTEE**

*Madeleine King, PhD  
Broadway, Australia*

I have always enjoyed ISOQOL's annual scientific conferences – Hong Kong was my sixth conference, so why should this one be any different? Well, this time ISOQOL was well outside its comfort zone of Europe and North America and I was in the hot seat. Following the success in Prague 2003, there were big boots to be filled. I always knew this was going to be a big job, and there were many times on the long road to Hong Kong when I wondered how I would ever get there. Time passes and big dates arrive. October 16, 2004: I was in Hong Kong, and the conference was about to begin. This was it! Slipping into my sensible sling-backs, I took a deep breath and headed for the shuttle bus queue.

Following local tradition to ensure an auspicious start, the Lion Dance in the opening ceremony set the tone for the conference – energetic! Hong Kong is a really exciting place. As Albert Wu so sagely said in his presidential welcome, “Hong Kong leaves New York for dead.” Were we all infected with the energy of HK? Or was it the conference venue? The sunlight streaming through vast glass walls into tall open spaces where we mingled for coffee and tea, nibbling on exotic snacks, perusing posters, catching up with old friends and meeting new ones, sometimes glancing out to the luscious green hills rising to the right and left of the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine Jockey Club Building. Or was it because the Chinese have a long and strong tradition as gracious hosts and an irrepressible sense of humor? These two characteristics certainly helped make our meeting warm and friendly. Was there a first-timer effect? For the many Asian participants, this was their first ISOQOL conference – I guess they loved it for all the reasons we all love

ISOQOL conferences - they are always such stimulating and broadening experiences. Or was it the buses that shuttled us from our hotels in bustling downtown Hong Kong to the conference venue? I had feared the shuttle buses would cause inconvenience and complaint, but in fact they brought us together. Whether waiting for the buses or riding in them, we gathered and chatted with old friends and new. Even when tired at the end of busy days when, unable to stop at the Excelsior Hotel due to extreme traffic congestion, the bus went endlessly around the block, we seemed united in our adversity. Whatever the causes, there was an unbelievable sense of goodwill and fun at this conference!



*Delegates networking during the 2004 Conference*

Numbers-wise, the conference was a great success with over 400 participants. And it ran smoothly, thanks to: Dr Ho and the Hong Kong Hospital Authority (HKHA) for co-organising and promoting this event; our sponsors for their much appreciated financial support; my HKHA co-chairs, Kwok Fai Leung and Margaret Tay, for their good ideas and good humor; and the members of the Scientific Program Committee who suggested topics and invited speakers, organised sessions, raised funds and promoted the conference. Rick Berzon, Beng-Li Ting and Mona Martin deserve a special mention for leading the fundraising and promotion efforts, Carol Moinpour for organising the workshops, Cindy Gross

*Continued on page 6*

## REFLECTIONS ON HONG KONG

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

In an unexplained convergence of forces, in the year of our first annual meeting in China, ISOQOL also had a president of Chinese heritage.

Chinese-American, to be sure. As if to emphasize this, my opening address served as a kind of equalizer, whereby participants of all nations and languages could be comforted to learn that their English is better than their President's Mandarin. But mixing of ethnicity, language and culture is business as usual for ISOQOL. We are an international society, both collectively and as individuals.

We are also a society with a broad audience that includes a core of scientists and practitioners, as well as a constellation of users and sympathizers who are more interested in improving quality of life of people than they are in measuring it.

A challenge for ISOQOL: While continuing to advance the science, how do we move quality of life assessment from the technical and esoteric to the mainstream of practice and policy, and even into public awareness?

For those of you who missed it, the meeting was a treat, characterized by energy and high spirits in a city that is much more part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century than either Orlando, which is so "Twentieth Century" or Prague which hovers between the middle ages and 1989.

A few of my personal highlights include:

★ The eagerness of first time poster presenters to share their work with fellow members in the spacious exhibition hall.

★ Bob Kaplan, coming to us on home-made video to accept his President's

award for outstanding contributions to science and ISOQOL.

★ The diligent crews of videographers who unobtrusively and efficiently captured the plenary sessions and symposia on DVD - a first for ISOQOL.

★ The colorful shuttle buses which ran on time to the second and provided an unexpected opportunity to get acquainted with other members.

★ Margaret Tay in action, rushing elegantly to be in all places at all times, making sure of every detail (I was unsurprised to learn that she is responsible for an important part of the health care of the 7 million inhabitants of Hong Kong).

★ Jakob Bjorner and John Ware, accepting their award for article of the year.

★ The winners of the new investigator awards, crowded onto the stage of the Jumbo floating restaurant, surely representing the most talented crop in the history of ISOQOL.



*ISOQOL 2004 New Investigator Awardees*

★ The inaugural sessions of Special Interest Groups, which will sustain activity between and beyond our annual meetings.

★ Victoria Park at 7 am, full of people performing every imaginable variety of structured physical activity.

★ The secret alleys, packed with food stands and vendors, that branch off from the busiest streets and avenues.

★ The onslaught of very fashionable street life that surged around us at every corner.

★ The stunning natural harbor, lined by peaks and vertical walls of high-rise towers.

★ The preternaturally well-marked subway system.

★ Really good food at every turn.

To all of you who were fortunate enough to attend the meeting in Hong Kong, I am sure you will remember it for a long time to come. To those of you who were not able to attend, there is our 2005 annual meeting in San Francisco, an international venue with its own breath-taking cityscape and harbor views, as well as very respectable Chinese food. We are in the unique position to be meeting in concert with the Society for Medical Decision Making. We will welcome an infusion of their members who aspire to the international flavor of our own meeting. In addition, there will be all the things we are accustomed to at our meetings: first rate science, the opportunity to spend time with like-minded colleagues and friends. Do not take these things for Granted! I look forward to seeing you there.

### **12th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL)**

**"Building Bridges to Enhance Quality of Life"**  
October 19-22, 2005

The Hyatt Regency  
Embarcadero  
San Francisco, CA, USA

*Visit [www.isoqol.org](http://www.isoqol.org)  
for more details.*

## ISOQOL'S 2004 CONFERENCE: MEMBER REPORTS

Donald Bushnell, MA  
Seattle, Washington, USA

喂 Ni Hao (Hello),

Hong Kong...what an experience. From the earliest moments discussing with Madeleine King (early in 2003) the possibilities of having an ISOQOL meeting in Hong Kong, then feeling the excitement of its reality at the meeting in Prague, it felt good to finally be there. It was a long time in preparation but it seemed to arrive quickly and pass even quicker. As always it was a pleasure to see friends and colleagues (most of whom I seem to see only once a year) and to meet the new investigators fresh to quality of life research, especially the contingent from the surrounding Asian countries. It's exciting to see such interest and desire in this area of the world. I thoroughly enjoyed the talks, both in sessions and outside, dealing with Traditional Chinese Medicine and its effect on QOL and look forward to more being published on that topic.

It started with the opening ceremony. Not only did we get to hear from the always impressive Dr. John Ware, there was a Lion Dance. What a better way to start a conference.

Then, as enticing as it was to skip and explore the city, I did attend the sessions and, as always, I had to prioritize which presentations to attend as many were held concurrently. I was happy to see the continuation of research including responsiveness, clinical interpretation, measuring utility, and translation issues; and more intrigued with the increasing focus on proxy measurement, response shift, and the use and applications of Item Response Theory including differential item functioning and computerized adaptive testing.

In addition to the inspiring meeting, I did find a little time to get out. Of the things I was able to see and do, my recommendations include going to Stanley Market, exploring the "hawker" markets in Kowloon, having dinner (roast



*The Lion Dance -- an exciting introduction to Hong Kong!*

duck and century eggs) in the "Central" area, and having a foot reflexology massage.

From the sessions on "application of QOL theories across cultures" to "cross-cultural performance of QOL measures" to "the use and value of HRQOL assessment in different countries" this year's ISOQOL meeting was truly one of harmonization. I, on behalf of all attending, again wish to thank Madeleine, Kwok-Fai Leung, Margaret Tay and the entire organizing committee for such a wonderful meeting in such an impressive city.

福 Good Fortune



*Susan D. Mathias, MPH  
San Francisco, CA, USA*

ISOQOL annual meetings are not quite like other professional meetings I attend during the year. ISOQOL attendees are typically there for one of two reasons. They either want to learn from their professional colleagues to keep current in the ever-growing field of PRO research and/or they want to network in order to keep tabs on who is doing what research or to learn about results that may not yet be published. Secondly, the meeting is low key. There are few exhibitors present try to sell you their

wares, and even the well-known, established "gurus" of HRQoL are accessible and approachable.

The 11th Annual Conference seemed to be successful on many fronts. It was truly international in representation as well as in its agenda. Plenary sessions as well as Invited Symposia tackled important issue areas relevant to all of us, ranging from measurement models for international HRQOL Research to the Use and Value of HRQOL assessment in different countries. The Business Meeting lunch was well attended. The ISOQOL Board encourages participation by providing attendees with a free lunch. Attendees gain additional perspective into the upcoming activities of the Board, and in return, hopefully volunteer to help with committees that are of interest to them.

Once I returned home from Hong Kong, I put October 19-22, 2005 on my calendar for the 12th Annual Conference!



*Nutjaree Pratheepawanit, PhD  
Khon Kaen, Thailand*

The ISOQOL meeting is an opportunity for me to keep abreast of the latest developments in the research area. There are many new and innovative ideas that are often not picked up from the publication literature elsewhere. The meeting also gives me a feeling for the direction in which research in QOL is heading; where various strategies are leading and where other groups are focussing their research energies and efforts.

Attending ISOQOL also gives me a sense of community. It is particularly true for this event, because it is cross-disciplinary and cross professional, with many different perspectives,

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expertise, and opinions coming from the varied backgrounds of the participants. This was my fourth time at this event, and for me, the opportunity to meet old friends, make new acquaintances and reaffirm professional relationships is an important part of this event.



*The Jumbo Floating Restaurant, scene of the closing Dinner and Awards Ceremony*

Perhaps the thing I would like to emphasize the most, is the importance of supporting the “new researcher”. As recipient of such support in the past, I cannot overstress how important it was in promoting my research in the field early when I first started, and motivating me in my career. ISOQOL is doing an excellent job in this respect, and I would like to see this extended even further. The mentor initiative is an excellent idea, and I hope we can strengthen and build on this in the future.



*I-Chan Huang, PhD  
Baltimore, MD, USA*

This was my second time attending the ISOQOL annual conference. I was interested in the ISOQOL conference initially because it provides me dual opportunities—to absorb cutting-edge knowledge in quality of life (QOL) research and to travel around the world as well. Actually, I was not disappointed this year!

I was enthusiastic about the theme this year—**Harmonizing International Health-Related Quality of Life Research**. During workshop and

presentation meetings, I enjoyed speakers who discussed issues of importance in the QOL world, including cross-cultural adaptation and comparisons in QOL measures, and application of advanced approaches to harmonize QOL research. I also formed opinions and made connections between such issues covered in my current work.

When I joined the ISOQOL, I was hoping to develop some social networking opportunities. One of the highlights in the conference is the Mentor-Mentee program. I am very touched to meet a nice mentor—Professor Carolyn Gotay. She shared her time and experience with me in an effort to give me guidance and direction, especially on the topic of cross-cultural comparisons in QOL measures. In addition, I had a chance to develop a network of contacts, including meeting old and new friends who will continue to grow as I begin and progress through my career.

The trip to Hong Kong was also far beyond my expectations. I have never seen such a city like Hong Kong that is so energetic and exciting. I fully enjoyed the traditional Chinese food, shopping, and friendships of local people in Hong Kong.

Of course, everything is never ever perfect. The ISOQOL conference can be improved if it provides members an on-the-spot computer network to check their emails, and invites booksellers to demonstrate and sell QOL-related textbooks and reports.

In general, this years’ conference in Hong Kong was memorable. Definitely, I will join next year’s ISOQOL meeting in San Francisco.



*Silke Schmidt, PhD  
Hamburg, Germany*

This years’ annual meeting of the International Society of Quality of Life

Research took place in Hong Kong, an exotic place for an international meeting which invites one to take a cross-cultural research focus. The conference was very well attended by researchers from various international countries as well as from China.

The conference covered different methodological, conceptual and empirical facets of the conference theme “Harmonizing International Health-Related Quality of Life Research”; starting from conceptualising quality of life across cultures, to developing cross-cultural measures, to testing equivalence across cultures. Furthermore, practical applications were shown using the cross-cultural measures in different national and international public health and health service research programmes and in both clinical as well as psychological studies.



*Scientific Program Committee Chair  
Madeleine King toasts delegates*

Perhaps as a consequence of the conference theme, the conference seemed to reach some consensus in respect to core directions of quality of life research. There was agreement on the distinctive conceptual area and the conceptual domain of each of the most common measures as a result of reconceptualisation, and empirical testing of the measures, e.g. with the WHOQOL tapping subjective experience and including many facets of the social domain, and the SF36 being strong in assessing mental and

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physical health components across a range of layers. There were also some presentations providing different perspectives of a theoretical background on how to conceptualise QoL across cultures, e.g., by Ka-Kit Hui, Ron Hays, Lai Shilong, Mick Power, and Suzy Skevington. New conceptual challenges in international QoL assessment seemed to arise in the process of implementing the International Classification of Functioning (ICF) and testing its association with QoL outcomes.

Another area where there was also a common consensus, was on the necessity to use modern psychometric methods in the analyses of item equivalence across countries. John Ware, David Andrich and Alan Tennant demonstrated the practical use of modern methods, and researchers from different international measures converged in their use of this approach for cross-cultural research despite the different programmatic approaches to test equivalence. Thus there appeared to be much less controversy concerning the use of IRT in international testing than in its clinical use.



*David Osoba, John Ware and Jakob Bjorner after the 2003 Article of the Year Award announcement*

Much more heterogenous were the practical uses of the national programmes using specific methods.

These showed some divergence between USA, Australia, Europe and Asia, which highlight potentials for learning from different national programmes. The methodological consensus for testing international item equivalence suggests future innovative projects for international item banking and calibration.



*Andrea Bezzak, Albert Wu, Madeleine King and Rick Berzon during our reception*

The clinical focus seemed to be slightly less pronounced in the conference despite numerous poster and oral presentations. The conference showed that international harmonisation in specific age and patient populations has been achieved (e.g. in children with chronic conditions), however only a few international clinical field studies were presented. Individualised measurement approaches received much interest and also seem to be promising for multinational approaches, as Donald Patrick highlighted. The awards ISOQOL gave to individual researchers seemed to reward methodological advances when implementing QoL measures in clinical practice. For instance, Jacob Bjorner and colleagues' work on the calibration of the Headache Scale published by colleagues in Quality of Life Research was recognized.

To summarize, the meeting on international harmonization appeared to have reached its goal of harmonizing international measures. The conference organisers Madeleine King, Kwok-fai Leung and Margaret Tay must be thanked for their excellent work in achieving this aim.

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for organising the scholarships, Carolyn Gotay for organising the new investigator awards and Claire Snyder for organising the mentor-mentee program. Thanks also to the people who reviewed abstracts, to Diane Fairclough, Donna Lamping, Laura Degnon and Kwok Fai for helping organise the abstracts into oral and poster sessions, and thanks to the session chairs. Thanks also to all the Degnon staff for their endless help and support. Last but by no means least, thanks to all the participants and speakers – many people commented on the high quality of the conference program, which was an interesting mix of new and well-recognised faces.

As the conference drew to a close, we all agreed the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference had been a resounding success. The intrepid travelers headed home with fond memories of a conference that moved ISOQOL beyond its boundaries. Lets hope we go there again one day.

### **Share your Special Interest with Colleagues!**

*ISOQOL members have the opportunity to participate in the following Special Interest Groups (SIGs). Contact the Executive Office to learn more about membership and how to join one or more of these SIGs:*

- ~ Clinical Significance/ Interpretation
- ~ Cross Cultural Research/ Translation Methods
- ~ HIV/AIDS ~ IRT ~ Oncology
- ~ Psychometric Methods
- ~ Qualitative Methods
- ~ Response Shift
- ~ New Investigators
- ~ Statistical Methods
- ~ Utility Measures
- ~ SEIQoL (Schedule for the Evaluation of Individual Quality of Life)
- ~ QOL in Clinical Practice
- ~ Translation and Cultural Adaptation

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## MEMBER NEWS

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**Editor's Note:** *This column about ISOQOL members will appear as often as there is news worthy of note. Members are encouraged to submit information about new positions, awards, assignments, and memberships of themselves and/or their colleagues.*

*Please keep announcements brief, ie, one or two short paragraphs maximum length. Given space limitations, the editor reserves the right to abbreviate contributions exceeding the recommended length.*

Barbara L. Andersen, PhD, Professor of Psychology at the Ohio State University, is a recent recipient of the following awards/honors: Elected as a Fellow to the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS); Research Career Award in Cancer Prevention, Control, Behavioral, and Population Sciences (K05; NIH/NCI); and recipient of the Minton Hero of Hope Research Medal of Honor, American Cancer Society.

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Dr. Katherine Ross from Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center, Phoenix Arizona, was awarded an Advanced Research Career Development Award by the Rehabilitation Research and Development Service of the Veterans Health Administration. The proposed research, "Environmental Impacts on Quality of Life With and Without Aphasia," will explore differential influences on quality of life with and without aphasia, including impairment, activity limitation, participation restriction, personal and environmental contextual factors, patient-reported health status, and subjective well-being. The overall purpose of the planned program of research is to determine specific therapy targets for improving the quality of life of aphasic people. Dr. Patrick J. Doyle, Associate Director for Research, VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System Geriatric Research Education & Clinical Center, and Dr. Robert T. Wertz, Senior Rehabilitation Research

Career Scientist, VA Tennessee Valley Healthcare System, will be serving as Dr. Ross's mentors during the period of this award.

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Julia Fox-Rushby, PhD, will be taking up Chair of Health Economics at Brunel University in London from December onwards. Her contact details have been updated in the members only section of the ISOQOL website.

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Ms. Aihua Ou, senior researcher, member of the China Health Statistics Association, is Dean of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology, the 2nd Institute of Clinical Medicine, Guangzhou University of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

My research interest includes the Quality of Life (QOL) especially QOL of old people and the middle-aged, the health issues concerning minority ethnic groups in China, the treatment for SARS (Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome), etc. Thanks to the painstaking work of my team members, many of our research projects have achieved promising results. And our latest research projects include: 1) *The research of health condition and requirement of health service among the middle-aged educated people*, 2) *The research of the QOL of SARS patients after release from hospital who had received Western-TCM combination treatment.*

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Alex C. Michalos received the 2004 Gold Medal for Achievement in Research from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. The medal is the Council's highest research honour, and "is awarded to an individual whose leadership, dedication, and originality of thought have significantly advanced understanding in his or her field of research, enriched Canadian society, and contributed to the country's cultural and intellectual life."

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Researchers at Northwestern University Medical School and the Center on Outcomes, Research and Education (CORE) have obtained two large awards in support of building national infrastructures for common patient reported outcomes across several diseases. Dr. David Cella (Professor, Psychiatry and Behavioral Science and Director, CORE) is principal investigator of the statistical coordinating center for a five-year cooperative group agreement under the NIH Roadmap Initiative to build and maintain a Patient Reported Outcome Measurement Information Service ("PROMIS"). This award became effective September 28, 2004, and may revolutionize the way clinical trials research outcome data tools are selected and employed. It will also establish a national resource for accurate and efficient measurement of patient-reported symptoms and other health outcomes in clinical practice. In addition, on September 30, 2004, Dr. Cella and colleagues at CORE were awarded a five-year contract from the National Institute for Neurologic Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) to develop and test item banks for quality of life measurement in clinical trials of neurologic conditions.

**To share your reaction to this column, please contact the Newsletter Editor at [Carola.Bardage@meb.ki.se](mailto:Carola.Bardage@meb.ki.se)**

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## 2004 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

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*Albert Wu, MPH, MD, ISOQOL  
Immediate Past President  
Baltimore, MD, USA*

The President's Award is given annually to an individual who has advanced Quality of Life Research, and who has made outstanding contributions to ISOQOL in one or more of the following areas: education of professionals, patients or lay individuals about HRQOL's value; promotion or execution of HRQOL or other scholarly activities; and facilitating or furthering policy initiatives that have an impact on HRQOL. The awardee is selected by the Executive Committee and endorsed by the Board.

We are pleased to announce that Robert M. Kaplan, PhD, was the recipient of the 2004 ISOQOL President's Award. He has had a long and luminous record, both in the field of quality of life research, and within ISOQOL as former president (1996) and charter member. I can think of no one who is more deserving of the honor.

Since earning his PhD in 1972, Bob has made lasting contributions to the assessment of health status, and in applications of health status measures in clinical studies, health services research and health policy. As the major exponent of the Quality of Well-being Scale, he has advanced simultaneously the fields of quality of life and utility assessment. And over the years, he has served as trusted advisor and mentor to dozens of students and young investigators, including myself.

Until this month, he was chair of the Department of Family and Preventive Medicine at UC San Diego. He is the newly appointed chair of Health Services Research at UCLA. In addition to ISOQOL, he is past President of the American Psychological Association Division of Health Psychology, Section J of the Pacific Chapter of American

Association for the Advancement of Science, and the Society for Behavioral Medicine. He is a former Chair of the Behavioral Science Council of the American Thoracic Society and President of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the *Annals of Behavioral Medicine*, and author or co-author of more than a dozen books with more than 390 articles or chapters.

On a personal note, I can think of no investigator in our field who possesses greater equanimity and wisdom, or is more encouraging and considerate to the many colleagues and students whom he encounters. He is consistent, fair-minded and sensible. These attributes have allowed him to serve as a bridge between social scientists of different disciplines, physicians and policy makers, often prevailing as the voice of sweet reason above the usual clamor.

This year's President's Award presentation took place during the Business Meeting in Hong Kong.

**RENEW YOUR DUES...**  
*online at [www.isoqol.org](http://www.isoqol.org).*

From the members only section, 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](mailto:info@isoqol.org).

Be sure and sign up for a Special Interest Group. New groups have been added for 2005!

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## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2004 NEW INVESTIGATOR AWARD WINNERS

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The ISOQOL New Investigator Awards 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. This year, the committee selected the top 16 abstracts based on abstract submission. During the Conference, they reviewed papers and posters in order to select the best overall presentations.

### **Outstanding Papers:**

Sara Ahmed, PhD, Canada  
Olatz Garin, Spain  
Rueya Kocalevent, MA, Germany  
Carlo Marra, PhD, Canada  
Anja Mehnert, PhD, Germany  
Stephane Robitail, MD, France  
Silke Schmidt, PhD, Germany  
James Shaw, PhD, USA  
Rosalie Viney, MEd, Australia

### **Outstanding Posters:**

Karine Barrau, MD, France  
Yuan Yuan Cheng, Australia  
I-Chan Huang, PhD, USA  
Sheri Maddigan, MScPharm, Canada  
Christian Schmidt, MD, MPH, Germany  
Feng Xie, MSc, Singapore  
J.C. Yap, MBBS, FANCZA, FHKCA, Hong Kong

We are pleased to announce that the recipients of the outstanding papers were Sara Ahmed and Carlo Marra and the recipient of the outstanding poster was I-Chan Huang.





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## OUTSTANDING ARTICLE OF THE YEAR AWARD FOR 2003

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Mirjam Sprangers, PhD  
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

The ISOQOL “Outstanding Article of the Year Award” is given annually to recognize and honor the single best article dedicated to health-related quality of life research that was published in a peer-reviewed journal during the previous calendar year. This award recognizes the authors for significant intellectual contributions that promise to advance the state of the art in health-related quality of life research methods or theory.

This year, six high-quality papers were submitted for this award. These papers covered a wide range of important topics and each paper represented a significant intellectual contribution to the field of health-related quality of life. It was a joy to read these inspiring papers submitted here:

Bjorner JB, Kosinski M, Ware JE “Calibration of an item pool for assessing the burden of headaches: an application of item response theory to the headache impact test (HIT).” *Qual Life Res* 12 (8):913-933, 2003.

Crosby, R.D., Kolotkin, R.L., Williams, G. R. “Defining clinically meaningful changes in health-related quality of life.” *Journal of Clinical Epidemiology*, 2003, 56, 395-407.

Efficace F, Bottomley A, Osoba D, Gotay C, Flechtner H, D’haese S, Zurlo A. “Beyond the development of health-related quality of life (HRQOL) measures. A checklist for evaluating HRQOL outcomes in cancer clinical trials-does HRQOL evaluation in prostate cancer research inform clinical decision-making?” *Journal of Clinical Oncology* 21(18), 3502-3511, 2003

Norman, G.R., Sloan, J.A., and Wyrwich, K.W. (2003). “Interpretation of changes in health-related quality of life.” *Medical Care* 41(5), pp.582-592.

Schwartz, CE, Meisenhelder JB, Ma A, and Reed G. “Altruistic social interest behaviors are associated with better mental health.” *Psychosomatic Medicine* 2003; 65:778-785.

Ware JE, Kosinski M, Bjorner JB et al. “Applications of computerized adaptive testing (CAT) to the assessment of headache impact.” *Qual Life Res* 2003; 12: 935-52

We are very pleased and honored to announce this year’s recipients of the “Outstanding Article of the Year Award” are Jakob Bjorner, Mark Kosinski, and John Ware for their article “Calibration of an item pool for assessing the burden of headaches: an application of item response theory to the Headache Impact Test”. The award was presented during the Annual Conference Closing Dinner and Awards Ceremony in Hong Kong.

This paper describes the development of an item pool that can be used for a computerized adaptive test of headache impact. The authors analyzed responses to four tests of headache impact from a population-based sample of recent headache sufferers. They used confirmatory factor analysis and analyses based on item response theory. They thus established a suitable item pool of 47 items. By simulating a computerized adaptive health test, they showed that the item pool can be used as a basis for a computerized adaptive test of headache impact.

The committee chose this paper as the single best article of 2003 for primarily two reasons. First, computerized adaptive testing is considered to be an issue of key importance, as it has potential advantages over traditional fixed-length tests in terms of precision, relevance, completion time involved, quality control, and flexibility. This paper documents the psychometric work underlying the development of the Headache Impact Test, the first computerized adaptive test of any health outcome. Second, this paper provides the most detailed description of the development of an item pool for

computerized assessment of health outcomes that has been published in the literature so far. Given its clarity and didactic, stepwise approach, this paper will pave the way for others who intend to build similar item pools. We therefore expect this paper to be seminal.

One final issue merits attention. This paper is part of a special issue of *Quality of Life Research*, including nine papers that combined, provide a comprehensive description of how item response theory and computer adaptive testing can be applied to the field of health-related quality of life. While we believe that this set of articles represent an outstanding contribution to our field, we have only reviewed this single paper. We would like to recommend the entire special issue to those interested in this topic.

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## ISOQOL WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE SPON- SORS OF THE 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN HONG KONG

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Health Research Associates Asia  
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## 2004 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS

ISOQOL was pleased to offer 11 scholarships for the 2004 Annual Conference. The scholarships are paid for in part by generous contributions from several sponsors. This year's scholarship winners were:

Vlatka Duric, BSc, Australia  
Shona Fielding, BSc, UK  
Charu Gandhi, DPM, India  
I-Chan Huang, PhD, USA  
Wee Hwee-Lin, BSc, Singapore  
Rueya Kocalevent, MA, Germany  
Pei Lin Lua, PhD, Malaysia  
Neil Scott, MA, UK  
James Shaw, PhD, USA  
Mohammad Sheykhi, PhD, Iran  
Abhasnee Sobhonslidsuk, MD, Thailand  
Feng Xie, MSc, Singapore

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## CALENDAR

### **January 2, 2005**

Abstract submission begins for 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the European Health Psychology Society, to be held at the National University of Ireland in Galway from August 31 to September 3, 2005. For more information, please visit <http://www.ehps2005.com>

### **February, 2005**

Abstract submission begins for the 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL), to be held from October 19-22, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco, CA, USA. For details, please visit <http://www.isoqol.org>

### **May 15 – 18, 2005**

ISPOR Tenth Annual International Meeting, to be held at the Marriott Wardman Park Hotel in Washington, DC. For more information, please visit <http://www.ispor.org> or contact [info@ispor.org](mailto:info@ispor.org)

### **October 19-22, 2005**

12<sup>th</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL), to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in San Francisco, CA, USA

### **July 17-20, 2006**

Seventh International Society of Quality of Life Studies (ISQOLS) Conference, to be held at Rhodes University, Grahamstown, South Africa. For details when available, please visit <http://market1.cob.vt.edu/isqols> or contact [conference@ehps2005.com](mailto:conference@ehps2005.com)

## ISOQOL MEMBER- SHIP DUES FOR 2005

The membership dues for ISOQOL have been fixed for at least 7 years. However, the costs of running the society have increased with inflation. During the October meeting, the ISOQOL board voted to increase the annual dues, with a modest increase for Regular, Student and Retired members. Reflecting the educational goals of the society, the dues for Students remain significantly lower than the dues for Regular members. The Board also voted to change the category of "Members from Developing Countries" to "Special" and tie eligibility for this category to income, rather than residence. The reduced fee for this category will hopefully encourage more members from less developed countries to join, while recognizing that there are many potential members residing in countries that do not qualify as developing countries under the criteria used previously. Finally, the Board voted to allow a 3% increase across all dues in future years to match inflation.

### **2005 Dues Structure:**

- Regular (professionals in the field) \$ 90.00 US
- Contributing (suppliers/supporters) \$ 200.00 US
- Student: pre-doc, post-doc, resident, fellow \$ 36.00 US
- Retired \$ 36.00 US
- Special (income of \$15,000 US or less annually) \$ 25.00 US



*San Francisco, CA USA, site of the ISOQOL 2005 Annual Conference October 19 - 22*

## SEARCH FOR A NEW EDITOR-IN-CHIEF FOR *QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH*

Quality of Life Research (QLR) is the official journal of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL), and is one of the key international outlets for research in health-related quality of life and health outcomes. The journal is published 10 times a year by Springer, one of the largest publishers of scientific books and journals. On average, the journal receives approximately 25 manuscript submissions per month, and publishes approximately 130 manuscripts per year. The journal editorial board is currently composed of an editor-in-chief (EiC), 9 associate editors (AE's) representing a broad range of professional disciplines and research areas, and a book review editor. The EiC is responsible for overall editorial policy, planning and coordination. The day-to-day responsibilities of the EiC include: (1) initial screening of manuscript submissions for relevance and quality; (2) assignment of manuscripts to members of the editorial board (including him/herself) for further peer review; (3) monitoring the editorial review process to ensure high quality, consistent and timely review and editorial decisions across the entire editorial board; (4) ensuring sufficient copy flow to produce 10 issues of the journal per year on a regular schedule; (5) development of special supplements to the journal, collaborating with guest editors in determining content and reviewing the quality of manuscripts for such special issues; (6) maintaining close contact with the editorial office at Springer, which coordinates the logistics of the editorial management process; (7) advising the editorial board and the editorial management team on matters arising both of a general policy nature, and regarding specific manuscripts; and (8) serving as a non-voting member of the ISOQOL Board. The term is for 3 years with the possibility of one successive 3 year term. The editorial management process – from initial manuscript submission to final editorial decision – is now fully automated, making use of

web-based system. The Springer team, located in Dordrecht, the Netherlands, provides excellent logistical support to the EiC and the AE's.



The next EiC will take the lead of an already outstanding and well functioning journal. At the same time, the incoming EiC will be expected to put his/her own imprint on the journal. There will be opportunities to expand or shift the editorial focus of the journal, to create new journal features, and to take advantage of new opportunities arising from innovations in electronic publishing and dissemination of scholarly material. Importantly, the responsibilities and tasks of the EiC are primarily scientific in nature; responsibility for the business and financial management of the journal rest with the publisher and the ISOQOL board and executive management team.

The journal is seeking an EiC with a strong scientific background in the field of health-related quality of life and health outcomes research, with a keen interest in and commitment to a rigorous but equitable peer-review process, and preferably with previous editorial experience. (S)he should be in a position to commit a substantial and sustained amount of time (minimally, 8-10 hours per week) to the journal. Although the EiC and the AE's receive a small annual honorarium, all positions on the editorial board of QLR are essentially voluntary in nature.

The current planning is to have the new EiC take over the helm of the journal at or near the time of the 2005 Annual ISOQOL Conference to be held in San Francisco on October 19-22, 2005. However, to ensure a smooth transition, it would be preferable if the incoming EiC could join the editorial board of the journal in the late spring or early summer of 2005.

Applications for the EiC position should be sent to: Albert Wu via email ([awu@jhsph.edu](mailto:awu@jhsph.edu)) by February 1, 2005. The application should include a cover letter describing the applicants' interest in the position, outlining his/her ideas for the future of the journal, names of two references relevant to the position, and a curriculum vita.

*Search and Selection Committee:*  
Albert Wu (Chair), Neil Aaronson, Jordi Alonso, Andrea Bezjak, Diane Fairclough, Donna Lamping, Donald Patrick

### MEMBER SURVEY

In order to continue to provide relevant services, the ISOQOL Membership Committee has developed an online survey to gather feedback on current and potential membership benefits and services. We would like your assistance, and estimate that the Survey will take about 10 minutes to complete — please take the time to give us your opinions.

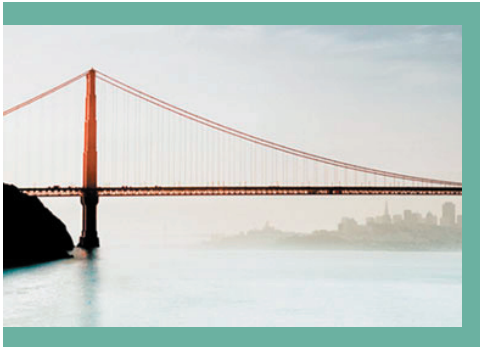
So... if you haven't yet had the chance...log onto the Members Only page of the ISOQOL web site and complete the Members Survey. Thank you in advance for your participation!

# ISOQOL 12th Annual Conference

## San Francisco, CA, USA

### October 19 - 22, 2005

ISOQOL invites you to San Francisco, the city  
that is home to a little bit of everything!  
Abstract submissions will begin  
February 2005.



For more information  
visit us at  
[www.isoqol.org](http://www.isoqol.org)

### 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 2005 Annual Meeting:*** This Subcommittee, preparing for the meeting October 19 - 22 in San Francisco needs your help. Please contact Carolyn Gotay at [cgotay@crch.hawaii.edu](mailto:cgotay@crch.hawaii.edu) if you would like to join in on these fun and important tasks! 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 Fundraising Committee:*** We are requesting members for participation in the fundraising committee. This committee, under the leadership of Rick Berzon, 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 Rick Berzon at [rberzon@rdg.boehringer-ingenelheim.com](mailto:rberzon@rdg.boehringer-ingenelheim.com).

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 Laura Degnon at [info@isoqol.org](mailto:info@isoqol.org).