

Quality of Life

QUARTERLY

IN THIS ISSUE...

- PAGE 1** President's Message
PAGE 3 From the Editor's Desk
PAGE 5 ISOQOL Annual Conference – Philadelphia 2017
PAGE 6 24th Annual Conference Registration Information
PAGE 7 Apply for ISOQOL 2017 Travel Scholarship Opportunities
PAGE 8 ISOQOL Mentor/Mentee Program
PAGE 9 Explore Philadelphia
PAGE 10 Annual Conference Travel & Logistics
PAGE 12 Committee, Panel, and SIG Leadership Keep ISOQOL Moving Forward!
PAGE 13 ISOQOL Award Nominations 2017
PAGE 14 Members' Corner
PAGE 15 New Investigators SIG Contribution
PAGE 16 The Child Health Special Interest Group – A Brief Update from the Co-Chairs

VOLUME 23 ISSUE 2

Newsletter for
ISOQOL Members
SPRING 2017



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Claire Snyder, PhD, Johns Hopkins School of Medicine



Dear Colleagues,
The countdown is on: less than six months until our annual meeting, which

will be held this year in Philadelphia 18th-21st October. The workshops and symposia are set, and the oral and poster abstracts are now under review. Meeting co-chairs, Roxanne Jensen and Kevin Weinfurt are organizing a terrific program with the theme **"Embracing Complexity: Using Patient-Reported Outcomes to Generate Real World Evidence."** In addition to the plenary and abstract sessions, our special interest groups will be meeting, and there will be ample opportunities to network with colleagues. You definitely don't want to miss it!

Beyond our annual meeting, we're pleased to announce that we'll be holding the second **"Measuring What Matters"** symposium in 2018.

In response to our open call for topic ideas, we received quite a number of interesting proposals. The 2018 meeting will focus on measuring functioning as a marker of clinical benefit in clinical trials. More details will follow regarding the program and logistics, but start making plans now to attend in July 2018.

Finally, an update on our strategic planning process. Last month, I discussed the results of the survey that was conducted among ISOQOL members and other key opinion leaders. As a reminder, we are addressing four key topics and questions:

1. **ISOQOL's Major Focus.** Given ISOQOL's strengths and assets, and diverse perspectives, what should be the major focus of ISOQOL for which we will be the trusted authority?
2. **Member Engagement, Development, and Diversity.** How do we build a diverse, well-resourced, networked, and engaged membership base that can also serve as a source of capable leadership for ISOQOL and

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, USA

Send articles with subject line addressed "Newsletter Submission" to:
info@isoqol.org

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President's Message, Continued from page 1.

the profession, now and in the future?

3. **Marketing and Visibility.** How can we best increase awareness, recognition, and support of ISOQOL as a leader in the field?
4. **Sustainable Resources and Funding.** How can we maintain, expand, and diversify a sustainable revenue base in a changing and increasingly competitive funding landscape to support ISOQOL and its members in advancing our mission?

The Strategic Planning Committee broke into four teams, with each team developing an "Issue Brief" on its topic, including opportunities, threats, and options. These Issue Briefs informed our discussions during a two-day strategic planning meeting held in April. Based on the briefing papers and discussions, we developed strategic objectives and

tasks to address goals related to these four topics over the next 3-5 years. These objectives and tasks are being refined and will be circulated to the membership for comment before being finalized. I look forward to sharing the results of this process with you during the Members Meeting in Philadelphia. We expect the plan will help ISOQOL continue to build its value to members and expand its influence in the field.

As always, comments and feedback are welcome at ISOQOListens.

Sincerely,

Claire Snyder, PhD, ISOQOL President



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

By: Ana Popielnicki, BA



Hello ISOQOL family:

I am pleased to bring you our second issue of the year - I know you are looking forward

to your *Quality of Life Quarterly* news! This issue does not disappoint, as we get closer to our always enriching Annual Conference, and we bring you much information about logistics and our leadership.

Check out our President's Message for updates on the very exciting Strategic Plan, with its four key top-

ics. Dr. Snyder also touches on news on the conference and other educational initiatives.

Our Special Interest Groups have been very active, and we bring you here news on leadership changes, as well as of course our always welcome contribution from the enthusiastic New Investigators SIG. But watch out, NI-SIG! The Child Health SIG exciting activities are also featured in this issue – please see both articles here for excellent opportunities to get involved, network, and advance our Society's mission, and your career in this wonderful field.

In this issue you can also find information about travel scholarships, the

Mentor/Mentee Program, and what to do in Philadelphia – take advantage of this year's AC venue and explore this historic city in the US!

As usual, you can send any questions, comments, or submissions for our next issue to info@isoqol.org with "Newsletter" as your subject line. Happy reading!



Ana Popielnicki
Editor



SUBMIT AN ARTICLE TO THE *QUALITY OF LIFE QUARTERLY*!

Quality of Life Quarterly is an excellent opportunity to network, share ideas and disseminate information about important industry happenings, article reviews, keynotes, and special events. Although we cannot guarantee that all submissions will be published, we invite you to submit short articles and topic suggestions, achievement announcements, calendar of events, or comments.

Quality of Life
QUARTERLY

Send your submission info@isoqol.org with the subject line "Newsletter Submission". Please include a completed copy of the [copyright release form](#), both for original and reprinted material.

For more information on the QoL Quarterly, including submission deadlines, advertising opportunities, and more, visit: <http://www.isoqol.org/research-publications/quality-of-life-quarterly>





IPRO Course

Intro to Patient-Reported Outcomes



Introduction to Quality of Life and Patient-Reported Outcomes: Theory, Measurement, and Applications

<http://www.isoqol.org/education-events/ipro>

ISOQOL is proud to present the ISOQOL Intro to Patient-Reported Outcomes (IPRO) Course in conjunction with the 2017 PROMS Conference in Oxford.

Collecting and acting upon Patient-Reported Outcomes (PROs) is one of the cornerstones of patient centered care. PROs include symptoms, some aspects of function, health perception, health-related quality of life and quality of life. Choosing the right set of PROs can be challenging as there are many options, each with advantages and disadvantages. This one day, intensive and interactive educational course offers a curriculum that will provide a basic level introduction to the why and how of using PROs in research.

Attendees will be given the opportunity to apply their learning throughout the course. This training is aimed at health professionals; medical scientists who are not experts in the use of PROs; consultants; pharmaceutical and medical device representatives; new investigators and research students; policymakers; and other associations and individuals who are interested in acquiring familiarity with the terms and methods of research on PROs.

Those that participate in the course will receive a certificate of attendance, upon completion of the course evaluation.

Course Agenda

- Introduction of Faculty and Overview of Course
- Conceptual and Historical Foundations of Patient-Reported Outcomes
- Main Measurement Approaches
- Development of a New PRO
- Evaluation of Patient-Reported Outcomes
- Cross-Cultural Translation & Adaptation of PRO Measures
- Adapting PRO Measures for Selected Populations – Youth Populations
- Adapting PRO Measures for Selected Populations – PRO Measure in Clinical Practice
- Strengths and Weaknesses of Different PRO Measures (Group Exercise)
- Introduction to ISOQOL

Upcoming Live-Course Offering:

Wednesday, 7 June 2017 • 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM
St. Anne's College • Oxford, United Kingdom

Registration Rate:

Regular Members - \$350.00
Non-Members - \$450.00
Student Members - \$150.00
Student Non-Members - \$200.00
Special Member - \$150.00

*Registration includes: materials, copy of official ISOQOL Dictionary, official course certificate, and lunch.

Can't make it to the course in Oxford? ISOQOL will bring the course to you!

ISOQOL offers to bring its one-day IPRO Course to interested universities, companies, and groups of at least 25 individuals. If you or your employer are interested in collaborating with ISOQOL to host this course at your place of work or study, please contact the ISOQOL office at info@isoqol.org.

ISOQOL ANNUAL CONFERENCE – PHILADELPHIA 2017

By: Roxanne Jensen, PhD and Kevin Weinfurt, PhD



We invite you to join us in Philadelphia to enjoy the 2017 ISOQOL Annual Conference. As scientific co-chairs, we are pleased to announce this year's theme-- **"Embracing Complexity: Using Patient-Reported Outcomes to Generate Real World Evidence."** This theme reflects the growing use of PROs to support clinical care, research, and quality assessment in complex real-world environments that involve a confluence of multiple health conditions, stakeholders, measures, and technologies.

We have planned plenary sessions that highlight different elements in our conference theme. The first plenary, "PROs in Patients with Multiple Chronic Conditions," will explore the unique challenges for the growing numbers of patients with multiple chronic conditions and the potential for PROs to enhance research and care for these patients. Our speakers include Cynthia Boyd, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Susan Smith, HRB Centre for Primary Care Research; and Lynn DeBar, Kaiser Permanente Center for Health Research. The second plenary, "Communicating PRO Data to Support Complex Decision Making," will examine opportunities for organizing health care systems to capitalize on the rapidly increasing amount of real-time patient-reported data available in clinical care settings. Our speakers will include Helen Burstin, National Quality Forum;

Ida Sim, University of California – San Francisco School of Medicine; and Michael Seid, UC Department of Pediatrics. The third plenary session is dedicated to "Cutting Edge Research" which will feature some of the highest ranked and innovative research in our field.

Our fourth plenary, "Past Wisdom for Present Problems," will be a little different. Though ours is still a relatively new field, we have a rich intellectual history. In this session, we take a look back at two influential papers in the field of quality of life research and their current relevance and applications in both research and practice: Bergner's "Quality of Life, Health Status, and Clinical Research" and Gill & Feinstein's "A Critical Appraisal of the Quality-of-Quality of Life Measurements". Both of these articles provided a critical empirical and theoretical survey of the field over 20 years ago, and advanced ideas about what could make the field stronger. How well has our field answered the challenges raised in these papers? What wisdom might they provide for addressing contemporary problems? To answer these questions, we are lucky to have the help of the following esteemed colleagues: Albert Wu, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Bryce Reeve, University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill; Madeleine King, School of Psychology and Sydney Medical School, University of Sydney; and Karon Cook, Northwestern University.

The ISOQOL 2017 meeting will include a variety of programs to allow attendees to learn new skills, meet new colleagues, and be exposed to the most recent scientific developments. There will also be opportu-

nities to spend time with mentors and to collaborate with colleagues who share your special interests. Additionally, we are making a special effort this year to make it easy for attendees to meet potential sponsors from the National Institutes of Health, the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and other organizations to learn about potential funding opportunities and get tips for submitting applications. Please check the website (www.isoqol.org) regularly to find updates about programs and speakers.

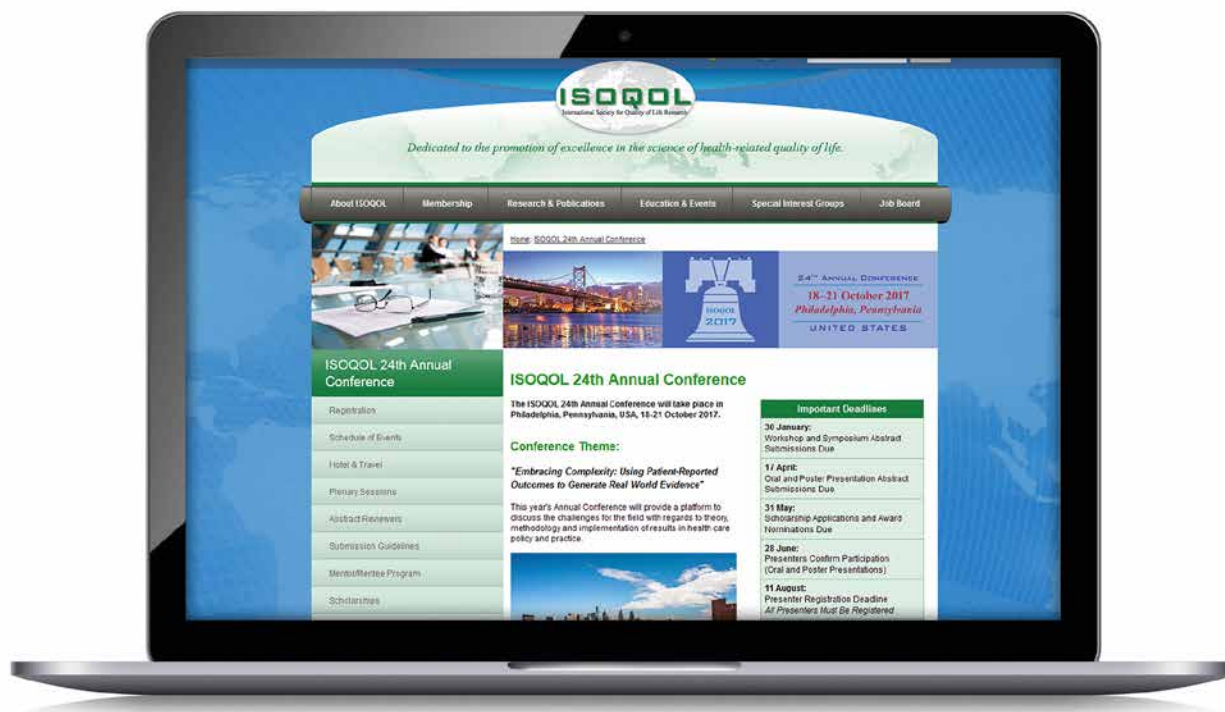
Lastly, we hope you take a little time to step outside and take advantage of some of the many sites Philadelphia has to offer. From the Liberty Bell just up the street from the hotel, to the "Rocky" Steps on Museum Mile, there is a great deal of U.S. history, tasty food, and fun for you to discover throughout the city. So we hope you will join us in Philadelphia for an engaging intellectual and social experience. As in years past, we wholeheartedly welcome anyone from around the world to attend this meeting and contribute to the rich diversity of perspectives, so that we may learn how best to promote the health and well-being of all.



24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Register today for the 24th Annual Conference to receive the advance registration discount. Advance registration is available through 11 September.

**VISIT THE REGISTRATION PAGE FOR DETAILS
AND TO ACCESS THE REGISTRATION FORM**



PLENARY SESSIONS

SYMPOSIA

WORKSHOPS

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE



APPLY FOR ISOQOL 2017 TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The ISOQOL Scholarship Program has been developed to increase the opportunity for members in the early stages of their careers, members from developing countries, and patient partners to attend the annual conference by providing funds to help defray the expenses associated with travel to the annual conference.

All scholarship application deadlines are **Wednesday, 31 May 2017 at 11:59 pm CDT**. Applications will be reviewed by the ISOQOL Scholarship Committee and decisions will be made in June.

DEVELOPING COUNTRY & STUDENT AND NEW INVESTIGATOR SCHOLARSHIP

APPLY HERE

Eligible applicants for the Developing Country Scholarship must be current ISOQOL members, and hold their primary residence in one of the eligible emerging and developing countries. List of [Eligible Countries](#).

Eligible applicants for the New Investigator Scholarship must be current ISOQOL members, and either a current student or new investigator (within 5 years of completing terminal degree or medical residency).

PATIENT ENGAGEMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

APPLY HERE

In order to contribute to the advancement of patient engagement in outcomes research, ISOQOL has funding for selected patient partners with relevant experience to attend the ISOQOL 24th Annual Conference. The primary objectives for this participation are to:

- Collaborate with the Patient Engagement Special Interest Group (SIG) to develop educational programs and tools suitable for patient partners and researchers.
- Support the development and implementation of activities related to the active engagement of patient partners in research of relevance to the ISOQOL community.

Patient partners will be selected based upon their experience as active partners in research programs (particularly those of relevance to the ISOQOL community), and their potential to contribute to programs during this conference and in the future. In this context, we are defining patient partners as patients who

have actively contributed to the design, development, delivery and/or evaluation of research projects and not solely as patients who have participated as research participants.

This application is not complete without a letter of reference from an ISOQOL member who is nominating you & will accompany you to this meeting. Please address the letter to the Scholarship Committee and e-mail or mail it to the ISOQOL office. If sent via email, please use "Patient Engagement Scholarship Application – Surname" for the subject of the message and send to info@isoqol.org. If mailed, send to the office address is 555 East Wells Street, Suite 1100, Milwaukee, WI USA 53202.

Please direct any inquiries for the scholarship application process to info@isoqol.org.

Visit the [scholarship page](#) of the annual conference website for more information.



ISOQOL MENTOR/MENTEE PROGRAM

JOIN ISOQOL'S MENTOR/MENTEE PROGRAM AT THE 24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE!

The ISOQOL mentoring program promotes career development and provides networking opportunities for students and new investigators within the society. Individuals interested in serving as a Mentor will be paired up with students and new investigators that have signed up for the program. In order to volunteer as a mentor or register as a mentee, please provide the necessary information, as noted on the Annual Conference Registration Form.



Mentors and Mentees will be able to meet and converse at the Conference in Philadelphia, during a special reception on Thursday, 19 October, 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM. This reception provides a forum for the exchange of knowledge in a relaxed atmosphere. Refreshments will be provided.

Mentor/Mentee Program Testimonial:

"For me, ISOQOL's mentor/mentee program is a truly valuable event during the annual conference! At the 23rd Conference in Copenhagen, I had the great opportunity to meet one of the renowned researchers in my field of research. We discussed my PhD project, tweaked my research question(s) and produced new ideas not only for my PhD project but also in terms of my future career. It was the second year I attended the mentor/mentee program and both times I was filled with enthusiasm and new ideas after the meeting!"

Kathrin Fischer, M.Sc.med.
Research Associate, PhD Student
Health Outcomes Research

For more information on this program, please visit: <http://www.isoqol.org/2017conference/mentor-mentee-program> or email the ISOQOL office at info@isoqol.org.

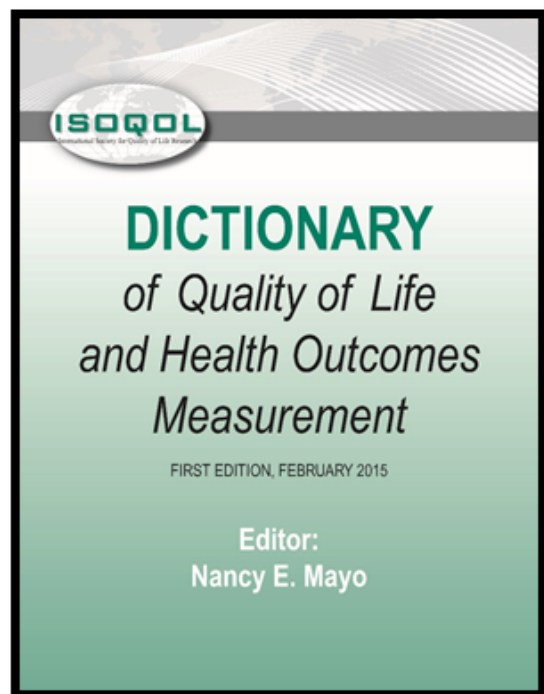
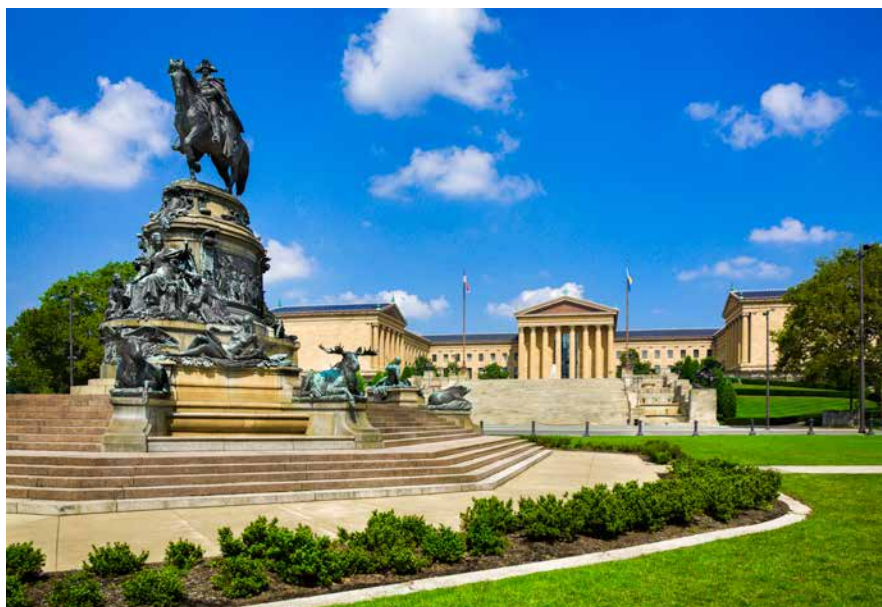


EXPLORE PHILADELPHIA

ARE YOU PLANNING ON EXPLORING PHILADELPHIA BEFORE OR AFTER THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE?

One of the most historic cities in America, Philadelphia is the fifth-most populous city in the nation. Philadelphia is home to many national historical sites that relate to the founding of the United States. Picturesque and friendly streets are lined with parks, rivers, shops, public art, restaurants and museums.

For more information, visit: <http://www.visitphilly.com/>



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.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE TRAVEL & LOGISTICS

RESERVE A ROOM AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE VENUE – THE HILTON PHILADELPHIA AT PENN'S LANDING

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ROOM RESERVATIONS

Conference attendees have been offered reduced sleeping room rates at the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing. Please reserve your room online today using the ISOQOL reservation link below:

RESERVATION LINK

The discounted room rate will be available until the room block reaches capacity, or through **25 September 2017**. Reduced room rates cannot be guaranteed after this date.

TRAVEL INFORMATION

Transportation options from Philadelphia International Airport to the Hilton Philadelphia at Penn's Landing:

The hotel is easily accessible for travelers.

Driving: Take the Philadelphia ramp on the left to merge onto I-95 N. Take exit 20 for Columbus Blvd. Turn left onto S Columbus Blvd. Hotel will be on the right.

Train: The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, SEPTA, provides train service between Center City and the Airport on the Airport Regional Rail Line. Trains run every 30 minutes and operate from 4:52 am to 11:52 pm (Center City to Airport) and from 5:07 am to 12:30 am (Airport to Center City). The train takes approximately 30 minutes from the airport.

Taxi: Private taxis are also widely available right outside the airport. The trip by taxi takes approximately 15 minutes.



A swimmer in a pool, wearing a red swim cap and goggles, is captured in motion, creating a splash of water. The background shows a clear blue sky and some greenery. A dark blue rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing white text.

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COMMITTEE, PANEL, AND SIG LEADERSHIP KEEP ISOQOL MOVING FORWARD!

It is ISOQOL's Committees, Panels, and SIGs that move our mission forward. The ISOQOL Board of Directors and membership are grateful to all of our members serving on a committee, panel, and task force.

Please help us welcome the newest leaders and members of these groups.

COMMITTEES

Education Committee

Co-Chair: Skye Barbic, PhD

Webinar Co-Chair: Claudia Rutherford

Workshop Co-Chair: Rick Sawatzky, RN

Workshop Co-Chair: Elizabeth Unni, PhD

Advisory Council of Past Presidents

Galina Velikova, MD PhD

PANELS

Scholarship Panel

Marcelo Pio de Almeida Fleck

Ana Maria Rodriguez, PhD

Emerging Leader Award Panel

Co-Chair: Carol Moinpour, PhD

Member: Ida Korfage, PhD

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIG)

Child Health SIG

Chair Elect: Nalin Payakachat, PhD

Health Preference Research

Co-Chair: Zoe Winters, DPhil

Ibero America SIG

Co-Chair: Marcos Marti-Pastor, MD

Industry SIG

Co-Chair: Paivi Miskala, MSPH PhD

Mixed Methods SIG

Co-Chair: Skye Barbic, PhD

New Investigators SIG

Co-Chair: Canhua Xiao, PhD

Patient Engagement SIG

Chair Elect: Maartin De Wit, PhD

Psychometrics SIG

Chair Elect: Frances Yan, PhD

Quality of Life in Clinical Practice SIG

Chair Elect: Kathryn Flynn, PhD

Translation and Cultural Adaptation SIG

Chair Elect: Ana Popielnicki

United Kingdom & Ireland SIG

Co-Chair: Anju Keetharuth, PhD

QUALITY OF LIFE RESEARCH JOURNAL



THANK YOU!

Carolyn E. Schwartz, ScD

ISOQOL would like to extend their deepest gratitude and appreciation to Carolyn E. Schwartz for her leadership as QLR Co-Editor-in-Chief. Carolyn's dedication and hard work has strengthened the journal over the past years.



WELCOME!

Jan. R. Boehnke, PhD

Jan R. Boehnke will move into the QLR Co-Editor-in-Chief position at the end of June. ISOQOL would like to welcome Jan to the journal.

ISOQOL AWARD NOMINATIONS 2017

ISOQOL IS NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING AWARDS:

EMERGING LEADER AWARD IN HONOR OF DONNA LAMPING

Nominations due Wednesday, 31 May

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.

Nominations: Both peer and self-nominations will be accepted. In addition to a nomination letter, a two-page curriculum vitae (CV) is required.

Note: Current and previous ISOQOL Board members are not eligible for the award.

Eligibility Criteria:

A person will be eligible for the Emerging Leader Award if s/he:

- is a current ISOQOL member
- has been active in an ISOQOL committee, special interest group, task force or working group for at least 2 years (but has not been a member of the ISOQOL Board)
- has completed his/her PhD (or equivalent), MD, or Master's degree within 10 years of application
- has demonstrated leadership in an ISOQOL activity by playing a key role in initiating and/or steering a specific task or project to successful completion



ISOQOL PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Nominations due Wednesday, 31 May

The ISOQOL President's Award honors outstanding contributions to the advancement of the quality of life field in one or more of the following areas:

- Education about the value of quality of life assessment as related to health
- Promotion or execution of quality of life research or other scholarly activities
- Facilitating or furthering policy initiatives that impact health-related quality of life

Nominations: President's Award nominations should include a letter specifying the nominee's contribution, the CV of the nominee and an external letter of support.

For more information and nomination package requirements, visit the [ISOQOL Awards Page](#).

Questions should be directed to the ISOQOL Office
at info@isoqol.org or by telephone at +1 (414) 918-9797.



MEMBERS' CORNER

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ISOQOL MEMBERS

Bernd WM Arents

Yara M. Asi

Christina Baeksted, MSc in Public Health

Diana Barger

Raymond E. Baser, MS

Xavier Debussche, MD

Arseli Dokumaci

Amanda Drury, BSc, RGN, MSc

Cynthia Grossman, PhD

Brittany Lapin, PhD

Richard LeBlanc

Jennifer Mier Cabrera, PhD, CLC

Talia Miller, MSW MPH

Motolani E. Ogunsanya, B.Pharm, MS, PhD

Majid Omidikhankahdani

Timothy Poepsel, PhD

Pear Pongsachareonnont, MD

Dorothy Romanus

Amanda Spraggs-Hughes

Hannah Staunton, MSc

Grace M. Turner



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jobs.isoqol.org

NEW INVESTIGATORS SIG CONTRIBUTION

By: Kathrin Fischer (Co-chair) on behalf of the New Investigators SIG

HOW TO WRITE A GOOD PEER REVIEW FOR AN ACADEMIC JOURNAL

Peer-reviews are indispensable in academia, aiming to increase the quality of publications and thus, scientific communication. As an early career scientist sooner or later one comes into contact with the peer reviewing process.

For most researchers, the first contact with peer reviews is when their own manuscript has been submitted to an academic journal and is reviewed by experts in the field. However, at a certain point in time, one will be requested to review a manuscript due to their own expertise in a respective research field. – That is when the question comes up, *how to write a good peer review?*

As there is hardly any training in peer-reviewing and hence a learning by doing approach is often followed, ISOQOL's New Investigators Special Interest Group organized a webinar asking the question: "How to Write a Good Peer Review for an Academic Journal?"

To answer this question, experienced editors from the official ISOQOL journals – *Quality of Life Research* and *Journal of Patient-Reported Outcomes* – were asked to share their know-how and practical insights into peer reviewing.

The presenters Dennis Revicki, Jan Boehnke, and William Lenderking prepared a very informative and educational presentation. Besides a step-by-step approach on how to perform a review following practical points and recommendations, they gave a general overview on editorial processes and how to become a reviewer as well as questions to ask before agreeing to conduct a review.

If you missed the opportunity to attend the webinar and/or it caught your interest, the webinar has been broadcasted and is available through the following link: <http://www.isoqol.org/education-events/online-education/archived-webinars>

On behalf of the New Investigators SIG I would like to thank Dennis Revicki, Jan Boehnke, and William Lenderking for their dedicated work and their time as well as the ISOQOL office for their support in organizing the webinar.



THE CHILD HEALTH SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP – A BRIEF UPDATE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

We want to thank all the members that participated in our CH-SIG pre-conference dinner last year, which was held on Tuesday 19th October. It was a huge success with almost 30 colleagues joining together for good food and stimulating conversation.

The Co-Chairs are currently exploring venues for the pre-conference dinner at this year's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. Thank you to Allison Barz, Sheri Vogel and Chris Forrest for generously offering to assist us with this effort. It is greatly appreciated! Details will be posted on Teamwork as plans develop.

After a very productive meeting in Copenhagen, the CH-SIG has been quite active. We are pleased to announce several recent developments.

Spearheaded by Lotte Haverman, a collaborative CH-SIG workshop entitled *Patient Reported Outcome (PRO) Measurement in Paediatric Clinical Practice: Special Considerations from Patient and Family Engagement to Implementation*, has been scheduled for the ISOQOL Annual Meeting in Philadelphia. The workshop will involve several CH-SIG members, and is slated for Wednesday, 18 October 2017 from 01:00 PM - 04:00 PM.

Our colleagues from the CH-SIG John Eric Chaplin PhD and C. Marcela Vélez, MD, MSc, PhD have graciously volunteered to conduct an early review of CH-SIG abstracts for those members submitting to the ISOQOL conference this year. The Chairs have organized this early review opportunity in direct response to requests from members of the child SIG. We hope that it will be a useful and informative endeavour for both investigators and students submitting their work, as well as the reviewers themselves.

Depending on its success, this early abstract review may be adopted as a regular CH-SIG activity.

During last year's CH-SIG Spring Survey, several topics for webinars were proposed, and many members volunteered to "host" or develop a webinar. A spreadsheet of topics, volunteer names, and contact details was circulated to members; interested parties were encouraged to connect with one another to develop a work plan to move a CH-SIG-focused webinar forward. Nalin Payakachat has expressed an interest in organizing a webinar. If you are interested in working with Nalin, please reach out to her directly or contact one of the Co-Chairs.

Briefly, conducting a webinar is similar to preparing a talk. Using the ISOQOL slide template provided by the executive office, the webinar presenter(s) complete the content of their talk/presentation, and forward it to the executive office. The executive office manages all the "production" logistics (email blasts, marketing, and registration) including technical support on the day of the live webinar (slides, sound etc.). A walk-through "practice" session is held one week prior to the live presentation. The live presentation is recorded, produced, archived and posted to the ISOQOL webinar library by the ISOQOL web team.

The process seems quite feasible, and we again encourage members who are interested to reach out to one another. In addition to being a great learning experience and a wonderful addition to your CV, it is also a great way to interact with new colleagues during the year, and increase the visibility of child activities within ISOQOL.

We are excited to welcome Nalin Payakachat to the CH-SIG co-chair position as Nancy Young rotates off this year. Thank you to everyone who participated in the nomination/election process. It really is a chance to get involved and help set the direction of child-focused activities within the SIG.

DON'T MISS OUT! If you have not already done so, please familiarize yourself with TeamWork and secure your username and password. This is the principal communication system adopted by ISOQOL, and is available to members only. The link is provided under the "Special Interest Groups" tab. Real-time updates and other important information (such as details about the CH-SIG pre-conference dinner) will only be posted via this system.

Finally, we would be remiss without a warm shout-out to our co-Chair, Anne-Catherine, who recently had a baby boy. We wish her and Daniel all the best as they settle into their new family life (and new home!), and look forward to her return from leave. She is, without a doubt, an integral member of our SIG leadership, and we miss her tireless efforts to assure the continued success of the CH-SIG.

As always, the CH-SIG's strength comes from the direct involvement and engagement by its members. If you have suggestions, comments, concerns or ideas to further strengthen the CH-SIG, please feel free to contact your co-Chairs.

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24TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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