

Health Policy NEWSLETTER

Jeff-ISPOR Student Chapter Chartered out of the Department of Health Policy

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The **Jefferson** Chapter of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (**Jeff-ISPOR**) debuted to Jefferson students during the Student Organizations Fair held on September 12, 2006. The attendees, including Jefferson Medical College students, enjoyed their first glance at this new, thought-provoking group on campus.

Today more than ever before, studying the healthcare systems is crucial. Access to health care, the provision of quality care, paying for care, and the effects of care are all areas that working healthcare professionals recognize need improvement for the benefit of patients. **Jeff-ISPOR** will strive to uniquely bring educational and networking opportunities within health services, pharmacoeconomic and outcomes research to Jefferson students, enabling them to think about, and start improving, the healthcare systems in which they participate.

Jeff-ISPOR, based in the Jefferson College of Graduate Studies, is led by fellows and faculty from the Department of Health Policy at Jefferson Medical College. The Department has strongly and consistently been involved with ISPOR at the national level, which has facilitated the natural and needed next step of creating a local student chapter. The Department has attended and exhibited research at every ISPOR international meeting to date and boasts a rich network of knowledgeable researchers, educators, and healthcare professionals, who will serve as a valuable resource for the new chapter's ongoing activities.

ISPOR, the parent affiliate, is an international organization promoting the science of pharmacoeconomics and health outcomes research. ISPOR's mission is to "translate pharmacoeconomics and outcomes research into practice to ensure that society allocates scarce healthcare resources wisely, fairly, and efficiently." As of 2005, ISPOR has over 2,700 members internationally. About 40% of its membership comes from the pharmaceutical industry, 30% from academia, and the remainder from various research, practice and government organizations. Half of ISPOR's members are in the United States, followed by Europe (27%), Asia (5%), and Canada (5%).¹

Currently, there are 30 ISPOR student chapters nationally and an additional six chapters located in Canada, Europe and Asia.¹ ISPOR student chapters overwhelmingly are initiated and supported by schools of pharmacy. **Jeff-ISPOR** is proud to bring innovation to this trend by hosting medical and graduate students within its chartering membership. The chapter plans to lay a strong foundation within the entire Jefferson community creating a network of members from diverse research and practice disciplines. The creation of **Jeff-ISPOR** will also provide an established organization for the future school of pharmacy student body.

The founding Executive Board includes Seina Lee, PharmD, MS and Joshua Gagne, PharmD. Dr. Laura Pizzi, Research Associate Professor of Health Policy, will serve as the Faculty Advisor. If you would like to learn more about **Jeff-ISPOR**, please contact Jennifer Short at seina.lee@jefferson.edu or (215) 955-6639.

References

1. International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research. Available at: www.ispor.org. Accessed September 14, 2006.