

**Key Laboratory of Health Technology
Assessment, National Health
Commission (Fudan University)**

WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Technology
Assessment and Management



NEWSLETTER

December 2023 / Issue 4



HIGHLIGHTS

- The 16th China Health Technology Assessment Forum was held in Shanghai.
- The Health Technology Assessment Youth Forum was held in Shanghai.
- The Academic Committee Meeting of the Key Lab of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University) was held in Shanghai.

Innovative Methods and Capacity Building: The 16th China Health Technology Assessment Forum was held in Shanghai



From December 1 to 3, 2023, the 16th China Health Technology Assessment Forum was successfully held in Shanghai, co-hosted by the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University) / WHOCC (hereinafter "KLHTA"). The forum has invited interdisciplinary authoritative experts and scholars from various fields, including government, universities, research institutions, medical institutions, and pharmaceutical enterprises. They delivered special reports and participated in discussions on the theme of "Innovative Methods and Capacity Building". This initiative injected new thoughts and momentum into the development of HTA. It effectively leveraged the decision-making transformation efficiency of HTA outcomes, contributing to the high-quality development of China's health and medical industry.

At the opening ceremony, Officers from Shanghai Municipal Health Commission, Shanghai Municipal Medical Security Bureau, the Association of Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, and Director of the KLHTA, delivered speeches, emphasizing the significant development potential of health technology assessment in supporting the rational allocation of medical resources, the construction of a fair, efficient, and high-quality health system, and the overall establishment of a Healthy China.



New Challenges: Emerging Intersections of Interests and Technical Issues Prompt Considerations

The theme of the first plenary session was "New Challenges in HTA in China". Secretary Li Wenxiu of the Hainan Provincial Medical Security Bureau shared real-world data supporting healthcare decision-making in Hainan, emphasizing Hainan has accelerated exploration around real-world applications of healthcare insurance, achieving value-based procurement and the streamlined circulation of data elements. Deputy Secretary Dai Tao of the National Health Commission's Statistics Information Center highlighted the empowering role of digital technology in advancing the construction of a Healthy China. Simultaneously, addressing the governance of large-scale healthcare data remains a critical issue faced by HTA. Director Bai Fei of the Medical Management Center of the National Health Commission provided a detailed overview of the impact of medical technology on patient healthcare experiences. Analyzing from a dual perspective of supply and demand, he explored how improvements in quality could be achieved in medical payments, service processes, medical procedures, and the humanistic environment to meet the actual needs of patients. Professor Tang Jinling of Shenzhen Polytechnic University elucidated the causes and consequences of overdiagnosis. While advancements in instrument technology have made early detection and treatment of diseases possible, it has also led to the practical dilemma of overdiagnosis. He emphasized the need to clarify the boundaries of medical intervention, conduct screening and examinations strictly based on evidence, and prioritize the health interests of the population.



New Trends: Academic Research and Decision-Making Practices Aligning with Contemporary Needs

The theme of the second plenary session was "New Trends in HTA". Professor Chen Pingyan from Southern Medical University presented the current guidelines and frameworks related to real-world research in China. He discussed a series of issues regarding how real-world research progresses from data to evidence, ultimately supporting regulatory decisions in drug management. Professor Zhao Kun from Tsinghua University offered insights into the assessment of innovative medical consumables. Advocating for the adoption of generic names for consumables, he highlighted how this approach could support subsequent healthcare payments and regulation. Professor Wu Jing from Tianjin University explained the use of indirect comparison to address the current lack of head-to-head comparative efficacy evidence in drug HTA. She emphasized the need to sensibly grasp the spillover effects of scientific and technological advancements. Professor Gu Yuanyuan from Macquarie University's Centre for Health Economics provided an empirical perspective on how to realize the threshold adjustments for healthcare payments related to rare disease based on preference analysis tailored to Chinese healthcare decision-makers.

New Discipline: Exploring How to Harness HTA to Propel the Development of Health Initiatives

The third plenary session revolved around the topic of "Whether to Establish a New Discipline in HTA" sparking a debate among experts and professors from institutions such as Anhui Medical University, Zhejiang University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Shanghai CQ Health Development Research Institute, Wuhan University, Shenyang Pharmaceutical University, Xi'an Jiaotong University, and Chengdu University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. They expressed their opinions on the necessity, feasibility, international experiences, and insights for discipline construction in China regarding the new discipline of HTA. While differing opinions were presented on whether to establish HTA as a new discipline, there is a consensus on its critical role in China's healthcare system. The future development of HTA should continue to be deeply rooted in China's specific practices. It should draw extensively from international advanced theories and experiences while integrating innovative approaches tailored to China's unique healthcare system and cultural background. This integration aims to drive the theoretical and methodological development of HTA, ultimately contributing to the high-quality development of China's healthcare and health services.



New Journey: The Path of Medical Device Evaluation in China Is Still a Long Way to Go

The theme of the fourth plenary session was "New Journey of HTA: Advancing Medical Device Evaluation". Professor Zhao Kun from Tsinghua University discussed how to focus on adjusting the prices of medical services related to equipment and consumables in hospital scenarios. He also explained the inclusion of relevant consumables in the medical insurance catalog through centralized procurement. Researcher Yang Li from Peking University presented the differences between medical devices and pharmaceuticals, emphasizing the use of real-world evidence to support the clinical application of medical devices. Professor Huang Weidong from Harbin Medical University highlighted the unique characteristics of medical devices. He advocated for the establishment of an effective coordination mechanism that encompasses different stakeholders and the development of a multidimensional value assessment decision-making process that is transparent and standardized. Vice President Fan Changsheng from the Beijing Medical and Health Economics Research Association pointed out the difficulty in determining standards for service prices of medical devices. He suggested driving policies at the national level and harnessing the role of medical devices in enhancing the quality of healthcare services. Director Wang Haiyin from the Health Technology Assessment Research Department of the Shanghai Health and Health Development Research Center proposed establishing a negotiation entry mechanism for medical devices, improving the generic name management system, and enhancing the overall policy layout to better integrate medical devices into the healthcare system. Professor Hu Shanlian from the School of Public Health at Fudan University provided the concluding remarks. He emphasized that evaluating medical

devices should adhere to the conventional PICOS principles while reflecting the specificity of medical devices. He suggested approaching medical device evaluation from a hospital perspective for a more practical and contextual assessment.

A Splendid and Diverse Academic Exchange Feast

Following plenary sessions, the forum featured a diverse array of academic exchange activities, including 12 panel discussions, a youth forum, oral presentations, and poster presentations. There were 12 panel discussions covering topics such as the progress and challenges in pharmacoeconomic evaluation methods, value assessment and practical applications of high-value medical consumables, hospital HTA, overdiagnosis, the application of new methods in HTA, technology value assessment, chronic diseases and patient preferences, screening evaluation, innovation and challenges in healthcare insurance systems, healthcare payment and innovative medicine, technological fairness, and ethical evaluation. Oral presentations and poster papers drew active participation and discussion from a large number of attendees. The lively exchange of ideas and discussions on-site facilitated the collision of viewpoints and the exchange of thoughts, injecting more vitality and depth into academic discussions. This forum received a total of 119 submissions from various universities and institutions nationwide. The winners of the poster and oral presentations were also selected and awarded by professors from KLHTA at the closing ceremony.



Driving Evidence Translation to Meet Strategic Needs

The forum focused on hot topics such as the demands, challenges, practical applications, and future prospects of HTA development in China. There were lively discussions on innovative concepts and methods in HTA under new circumstances, how to more fully and effectively apply HTA in decision-

making practices to support the high-quality development of China's distinctive healthcare system, and other related issues. As the first HTA institution in China, the KLHTA will actively align itself with national and industry development needs, supporting the transformation of HTA research into policies. We look forward to driving cutting-edge research in HTA, promoting its comprehensive development, and contributing more wisdom and strength to the sustainable development of healthcare and health services in the future.

•The Health Technology Assessment Youth Forum was held in Shanghai

On the evening of December 2, 2023, the Youth Forum on Health Technology Assessment was successfully held in Shanghai, China. Leveraging the 16th China Health Technology Assessment Forum, this Youth Forum was organized by the Center for Medical Technology Assessment at Fudan University, the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University) / WHOCC, and the China Association for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology. Outstanding young scholars from different fields delivered keynote speeches focusing on "The Growth and Development of Young Scholars". They shared their personal growth experiences, academic research, and insights gained from their scientific endeavors during the forum.



Professor Tang Wenxi from the School of International Pharmaceutical Business at China Pharmaceutical University presented on the topic "Teaching, Research, and Talent Cultivation – How to Break Through as a

'Green Pepper'". Beginning with a personal overview, she delved into three key aspects: teaching, research, and talent cultivation. She explored, in a clear and concise manner, how young educators can overcome career growth bottlenecks. His discussion included topics such as aligning personal development with the overall goals of the institution, refining academic labels and elevating research capabilities, fostering student development, and motivating students' internal drive and self-exploration.

Professor Chen Zhongming from the School of Management at Weifang Medical University delivered a presentation titled "Cultivating Oneself – Growing through Self-Breakthroughs". Starting from his personal experiences, Professor Chen shared insights on how to choose a research direction. He discussed the application experience for young projects from the perspectives of personal strengths and organizational needs. He concluded by emphasizing six factors—time, emotions, energy, opportunities, funding, and external forces—as essential inputs for self-cultivation.

Director Wang Miao from the Department of Medical Affairs at Shanghai Children's Hospital delivered a presentation titled "Steady Progress – Overcoming the Peak of Ignorance and Crossing the Valley of Despair". Using the age of 35 as a point, he divided the content into two parts: "Look at Me" and "I Look at". In the first section, he shared his life experiences, ranging from ordinary to extraordinary, during different stages of education and work. He continuously engaged in self-reflection, exploring both his approach to work and team culture. In the second section, he offered perspectives on understanding "evaluation", recognizing "hardship", and understanding oneself.

Associate Professor Wang Pei from the School of Public Health at Fudan University delivered a presentation titled "From Engineering to Humanities - My Research Journey". He began by sharing his personal experience of transitioning from an engineering background to the humanities in both her academic pursuits and professional work. He also discussed her initial shortcomings in research and emphasized the importance of leveraging personal strengths, integrating individuality with disciplinary characteristics, maintaining humility, embracing continuous trial and error to break through challenges.

The audience on-site gained valuable insights, as officials and scholars engaged in in-depth discussions on the future development and challenges facing young scholars, as well as delving into the experiences of four young scholars from various perspectives. The Youth Forum, a highlight of the 16th China Health Technology Assessment Forum, showcased the new landscape of the field of health technology assessment in China. It provided young scholars with a broad academic exchange platform, contributing the youthful wisdom and strength needed for the sustainable development of healthcare and health services.

The Meeting of Academic Committee of the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University) was Held in Shanghai

The meeting of the Academic Committee of the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (hereafter "KLHTA") was held successfully in Shanghai on December 1, 2023. Dr. Baorong Yu, Dr. Xuejin Zuo, Prof. Liang Zhang, Dr. Chaoyang Zhang, Prof. Wen Chen, Prof. Zhi Hu, Dr. Wei Yu, Prof. Hengjin Dong, Prof. Tao Dai were invited to attend the meeting. Dr. Hong Lu, Deputy Director of the Research Division of Shanghai Medical College of Fudan University, Prof. Yingyao Chen, Director of the KLHTA, Prof. Di Xue, Deputy Directors of the KLHTA, Prof. Xu Qian, and key staffs of the KLHTA also participated this meeting.



The conference was chaired by Professor Zhang Liang, a member of the Academic Committee of the KLHTA. Deputy Director Lu Hong, representing the Shanghai Medical College of Fudan University, delivered the opening speech. She extended a warm welcome and heartfelt gratitude to the experts and scholars attending the conference, acknowledging the significant achievements and social impact the KLHTA has made in the field of health technology assessment (HTA) in China. She also outlined new expectations and requirements for the KLHTA in the coming year.

Professor Chen Yingyao, the director of the KLHTA, presented a summary of the overall work of the KLHTA over the past year. The report focused on the KLHTA's capabilities in undertaking tasks, research

achievements, and the translation of decisions, as well as discipline construction and talent development, open funds and operational management. Additionally, the report outlined the achievements of the past year, the challenges ahead, and outlined initial thoughts on the focus areas and developmental directions for the upcoming year.

After the annual report, all committee members expressed recognition and appreciation for the achievements of the KLHTA over the past year. At the same time, the committee members actively provided valuable suggestions and insights for the future development of the KLHTA.



During the session for committee members' remarks, suggestions were made for the KLHTA to focus on disciplinary development, national needs, and global health perspectives. Recommendations included optimizing organizational structures, prioritizing talent cultivation, enhancing decision translation, paying attention to institutional development, maintaining a leading role domestically, learning from excellent international health technology assessment centers, strengthening connections and collaboration with basic research and healthcare institutions, emphasizing the dissemination of knowledge and achievements in health technology assessment, rallying industry forces, and promoting the high-quality development of health technology assessment. All these efforts aim to contribute to the advancement of China's healthcare sector and serve society.



Professor Zhang Liang summarized the remarks of the academic committee experts, and expressed support for the laboratory's reflections and visions on the development of disciplines. Additionally, he pointed out that in the future, the KLHTA should continue to exert efforts at the strategic level, focusing on organizational structure, research directions, and discipline construction. It should play a leading role in technology domestically and serve as a bridge and platform for international academic exchanges abroad. He also suggested that the KLHTA should strive to produce pioneering research results in the field of HTA, such as comprehensive life-cycle HTA of health technologies in China and assessments related to traditional Chinese medicine and techniques.



Finally, Professor Chen Yingyao, the director of the KLHTA, once again expressed gratitude to all committee members for their insightful perspectives and guiding suggestions. He stated that in the coming year, the KLHTA will fully leverage its strengths and characteristics in the field of HTA, gradually establish its development positioning and direction in the new era and processes. Additionally, it will actively respond to the nation's significant health needs and address societal concerns, continue contributing to disciplinary construction, and support the development of HTA in China.



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December 2023 / Issue 4
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