

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

WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Technology
Assessment and Management



NEWSLETTER

September 2024 / Issue 3



HIGHLIGHTS

- National Continuing Medical Education Program on Enhancing Theoretical and Practical Competencies in Health Technology Assessment Successfully Held
- PCIG Steering Committee Positions 2024 Open for Application
- HTAi Annual Meeting 2024 Successfully Concluded
- SDCB Global Call for Experts 2024 Launched

NATIONAL CONTINUING MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM ON ENHANCING THEORETICAL AND PRACTICAL COMPETENCIES IN HEALTH TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT SUCCESSFULLY HELD

From July 1 to July 5, 2024, the National Continuing Medical Education Program on "Enhancing Theoretical and Practical Competencies in Health Technology Assessment" was held in Shanghai. The program was organized by the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment (Fudan University) under the National Health Commission. Sixty participants from over 30 relevant research institutes, medical institutions, and pharmaceutical companies—including Peking University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Jinan University, Guangxi Medical University, Nanjing University of Chinese Medicine, and the Shanghai Health and Health Development Research Center—attended the full training program.



During the training, instructors conducted in-depth discussions and lectures on foundational theories and practical skills related to Health Technology Assessment (HTA), including problem formulation, analytical methods, and modeling design. The curriculum covered the latest advancements and trends in HTA, fundamental methodologies for assessing safety and efficacy, economic evaluation, and social-ethical impact assessment, alongside information retrieval techniques. It also provided in-depth explanations of new methodologies applied in HTA. Using case studies on screening HTA, oncology drug HTA, medical device HTA, and traditional Chinese medicine HTA, the course helped participants deepen their understanding of the differences among various HTA types through practical examples. Finally, the course introduced specific operational methods for HTA-related models in Excel, enhancing participants' practical capabilities in health technology assessment.

Following the training, participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback and expressed strong support for the continuation of this national continuing medical education program in the future.

HTAi NEWS

PCIG STEERING COMMITTEE POSITIONS 2024 OPEN FOR APPLICATION

On July 4, 2024, the HTAi Patient and Citizen Involvement Interest Group (PCIG) is now soliciting expressions of interest for multiple positions on its Steering Committee, including Treasurer, HTA Agency Representative, Medical Device/Diagnostic Industry Representative, and E-Communications Coordinator. The application deadline is July 31, 2024. The positions sought include:

(1) Treasurer (responsible for sponsorship management, requiring industry connections); (2) HTA Agency Representative; (3) Industry Representative (preference given to medical device/diagnostic company background); (4) E-Communications Coordinator (responsible for monthly newsletter production). Requirements include: (1) Practical experience promoting patient or citizen engagement in HTA; (2) Ability to fulfill steering committee duties and actively participate in interest group activities; (3) Capacity to represent relevant stakeholders, ensuring diverse perspectives within the committee; (4) Willingness to engage in related work for other HTAi committees. Members with prior active involvement in PCIG activities will receive priority consideration. All positions carry a three-year term, and applicants must be active members of both HTAi and PCIG. For detailed position descriptions, visit: <https://htai.org/call-for-expressions-of-interest-pcig-vacancies-2024/>.

HTAi ANNUAL MEETING 2024 SUCCESSFULLY CONCLUDED

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the International Society for Health Technology Assessment (HTAi) was successfully held in Seville, Spain, from June 15 to 19, 2024. This gathering brought together over 1,000 delegates from more than 60 countries worldwide. Participants engaged in five days of academic exchange and professional discussions through a hybrid online and in-person format, including a two-day pre-conference workshop and a three-day main conference.

Pre-conference workshops addressed multiple core and cutting-edge topics in HTA, covering: (1) foundational concepts and emerging trends in HTA; (2) innovative models for patient involvement in HTA; (3) holistic methodologies for AI assessment; (4) applications of real-world data and advanced statistical methods; (5) Lifecycle HTA approaches for managing uncertainty. These workshops provided a valuable learning and networking platform for HTA professionals, researchers, and policymakers from diverse backgrounds.

The main conference sessions delved into key issues shaping the future of HTA:

(1) Opening Ceremony & Keynote Address: Professor Rifaat Aton from Harvard University delivered a keynote speech on health system performance and transformation, emphasizing the urgency of health

system innovation to address global challenges; (2) Plenary Session I: Focused on HTA's role in sustaining health systems, exploring how to balance technological innovation with systemic resilience; (3) Plenary Session II: Examined the significant impact of global collaborative networks on enhancing HTA capacity, optimizing decision-making, and improving healthcare services; (4) Plenary Session III: Analyzed the multifaceted value of medical innovation and how to adapt existing evaluation frameworks to effectively integrate emerging technologies.

This year's conference featured multiple networking sessions: (1) Activities like "Speed Dating" provided participants with round-the-clock opportunities for one-on-one and small-group in-depth discussions; (2) The second "Career Kickstart Exchange" established direct connections between emerging practitioners and HTAi Board members and senior experts.

The HTAi Annual General Meeting reviewed organizational achievements and financial reports, voted on key bylaw amendments, and completed board transitions—honoring departing directors while welcoming new Treasurer David Elvira-Martínez and Secretary Anke Peggy Holtorf.

Highlights included multiple industry awards presented during the conference: (1) The International Journal of Health Technology Assessment Awards (including the Egon Johansen Award and Best Reviewer Award); (2) HTAi Education Scholarships recognizing individuals demonstrating exceptional potential and dedication; (3) Conference Presentation Awards (Best Oral Presentation, Best Poster, etc.) encouraging innovation and dissemination of research findings.

Dr. Rabia Suku, HTAi President, summarized the conference outcomes and outlined the association's future direction during the closing ceremony. It was officially announced that the HTAi 2025 Annual Meeting will take place from June 14 to 18, 2025, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with the theme "Next Generation Evidence: Expanding and Advancing Health Technology Assessment to Meet Global Needs." The Seville Annual Meeting served not only as an academic gathering but also as a unifying force for the global HTA community, injecting fresh momentum into future collaboration, innovation, and development.

SDCB GLOBAL CALL FOR EXPERTS 2024 LAUNCHED

On August 1, 2024, the HTAi Scientific Development and Capacity Building (SDCB) Committee opened a global call for expressions of interest to fill two newly established positions. The application deadline is August 30, 2024. As a standing advisory body under the HTAi Board of Directors, this committee is responsible for guiding the scientific direction of the association and advancing global HTA capacity building. Its primary responsibilities include: (1) Developing strategic directions and priorities for scientific development and capacity building; (2) Participating in peer review of HTAi applications; (3) Exploring

development models for online materials, resources, and capacity-building toolkits; (4) Establishing potential collaborations within HTAi projects; (5) Reviewing HTAi scholarship applications; (6) Overseeing the evaluation process for the Egon Johansen Award and Sigrid Droste Ethics Award.

This call targets two candidate categories: (1) Senior experts from Europe or North America: Requiring over 15 years of HTA experience and having held key HTAi leadership roles (e.g., former Chair, former Board member, or Committee Chair); (2) Ambitious emerging talents: Currently engaged in HTA work, demonstrating willingness to participate and enthusiasm for learning, with experience in developing capacity-building projects and publishing/reviewing scientific journals.

Ideal candidates should demonstrate strong commitment to HTA and HTAi. Applicants must be active HTAi members and submit their interest via the designated application form. Committee members are appointed by the Board of Directors for a three-year term, renewable once. For further details and to submit applications, visit: <https://htai.org/call-for-eoi-sdcb/>.



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