

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

WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Technology Assessment and Management



NEWSLETTER

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The 18th China Health Technology Assessment Forum and Young Scholars Forum Successfully Held

On December 20, 2025, the 18th China Health Technology Assessment Forum and Young Scholars Forum was successfully held in Shanghai. Hosted by the Research Center for Medical Technology Assessment, Fudan University; the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University); and the Chinese Medicinal Biotechnology Association, the forum invited interdisciplinary experts, scholars and professionals from governments, universities, research institutes, medical institutions, pharmaceutical enterprises and other sectors. They delivered special reports and held discussions on the theoretical methodologies and decision-making applications of "Health Technology Assessment Reshaping the Health Service System", aiming to advance health technology assessment to better serve resource allocation and further unleash its value in supporting evidence-based decision-making and improving the efficiency of health services. The forum also built a communication platform for young scholars, highlighting their vibrant role in driving health technology assessment from methodological exploration to decision-making application, as well as their key part in disciplinary development and practical innovation.



On the morning of December 20, Secretary-General Zhao Beihai of the Chinese Medicinal Biotechnology Association and Professor Chen Yingyao, Director of the Key Laboratory of Health Technology Assessment, National Health Commission (Fudan University), delivered speeches at the forum respectively. The forum emphasized that China's health cause is at a critical stage of transformation from scale expansion to quality improvement and from factor-driven to value-driven. Under the constraints of limited resources, the role of HTA (Health Technology Assessment) has become increasingly prominent in optimizing the allocation of health resources, guiding the adjustment of service supply structure, and improving system efficiency and governance capacity. Young talents will surely contribute greater value to the modernization of health cause with Chinese characteristics.



The morning plenary session focused on "Health Technology Assessment Empowering the High-Quality Development of the Health Service System". The first half was chaired by Professor Chen Yingyao. Professor Pan Jie from Sichuan University focused on deepening reform and innovation in the pharmaceutical and medical device sector. He discussed pathways and directions for promoting the high-quality development of the pharmaceutical industry from the perspectives of policy and institutional optimization, innovation incentive mechanisms, and coordinated industrial development. Professor Wang Jun from Renmin University of China delivered a report covering the background, theoretical foundations and current research hotspots of high-quality development of public hospitals, the refinement of key scientific issues, as well as future research directions and paradigms in hospital management. Focusing on key statistical issues in the design and implementation of clinical research, Professor Yu Yongfu from Fudan University systematically explained the important role of statistics in ensuring the scientificity and standardization of research, covering study design, sample size estimation, and result interpretation. Addressing the challenges of health technology assessment for innovative oncology drugs under evidence uncertainty, Professor Guan Xiaodong from Peking University deeply analyzed the main challenges and corresponding solutions in current assessment work from the aspects of evidence generation, methodological selection, and decision support. The second half of the plenary session was chaired by

Professor Shi Lizheng from Tulane University, USA. Associate Professor Liu Jue from Peking University focused on the health technology assessment of medical large language models. Combining research cases, she discussed the opportunities and challenges of their application in medical scenarios, and provided an outlook on the future standardized assessment of digital health technologies. Focusing on the relationship between blood lead exposure and the risk of Alzheimer's disease in middle-aged and elderly individuals, Professor Zhou Chengchao from Shandong University, based on empirical research and from the perspective of the moderating effect of physical activity, elaborated on the mechanisms by which environmental factors and lifestyle influence cognitive health. With the theme "From Average Effects to High-Value Healthcare", Associate Professor Shao Hui from Emory University, starting from the analysis of heterogeneous treatment effects, systematically discussed the theoretical basis and policy implications of precision payment reform in lifestyle interventions.



On the afternoon of the 20th, focusing on "HTA and Innovation in Healthcare System from Youth Perspectives", the conference held two parallel forums on "Health Management" and "Health Technology Assessment". Young scholars attending the forum delivered enthusiastic presentations combining their own research practices, covering both theoretical and methodological innovations and real-world applications.

In the "Health Management" session chaired by Professor Shao Hui, five young scholars—Tang Shangfeng, Shen Mingwang, Wei Yan, Yao Qiang, and Yang Yi—focused on health governance and service system optimization. They presented and shared insights on topics including chronic disease prevention and control, integration of medical care and public health, value-based healthcare and diagnosis-treatment process optimization, measurement of health equity and health-related quality of life disparities, and big data-empowered improvement of health governance capacity.



In the "Health Technology Assessment" session chaired by Professor Shi Lizheng, young scholars Xie Shitong, Liu Shimeng, Jing Rize, Guan Xin and Bai Gengliang delivered presentations focusing on evaluation methodologies and evidence system development. They discussed and exchanged views on key topics including: the pathways for accumulating evidence on health benefits and health utility; real-world evidence exploration on patient health preferences; value measurement and evaluation design for digital health and intelligent technologies; the impact of different utility measurement approaches on cost-effectiveness analysis results; as well as the adoption of innovative drugs in the national medical insurance formularies in typical countries.



The forum specially set up a Q&A and exchange session for participants, where in-depth interactions were conducted on cutting-edge issues such as health management and health technology assessment, building a direct and efficient academic exchange platform for young scholars and senior experts. The collision of ideas and sharing of experience further stimulated the research enthusiasm and innovative thinking of young scholars, and promoted academic communication and disciplinary development.



Professor Chen Yingyao delivered the concluding speech at the forum. Closely aligned with the practical needs of the high-quality development of China's health cause, the forum was themed "Health Technology Assessment Empowering High-Quality Development of the Health Service System". It focused on hot topics including HTA's role in supporting health system construction, medical value evaluation, and drug access to medical insurance. In-depth discussions were held on the innovation of HTA concepts and methodologies, evidence generation and quality improvement, as well as how HTA can more fully and effectively support decision-making practices. The forum further deepened theoretical research and practical exploration, and strengthened exchanges and integration across different disciplines and fields. Meanwhile, the forum provided a more substantial platform for young scholars to present their work and exchange ideas, highlighting their key role in the HTA field. It gathered more young talents with an international vision and practice-oriented mindset, to jointly promote a more important supporting role of China's HTA in serving the national health strategy.

The forum received extensive attention and active participation from young colleagues in the field, fully demonstrating the leading role of the China Health Technology Assessment Forum in promoting the communication, dissemination, application and popularization of HTA. Looking ahead to the 15th Five-Year Plan period, the Key Laboratory will actively align with the major national and industrial development needs, and serve the management decisions and practical work of government departments and relevant organizations at all levels. It aims to build itself into a domestically leading and internationally renowned professional think tank for HTA, as well as a regional cooperation platform for health technology assessment, information dissemination and exchange.

ISPOR News

Study Reveals: Full Medicare Coverage of Semaglutide Could Save Billions in Healthcare Costs Over a Decade

On October 14, 2025, *Value in Health*, the official journal of the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR), published a landmark study showing that full coverage of the glucose-lowering and anti-obesity drug semaglutide (sold under brand names including Ozempic) by U.S. Medicare could save billions of dollars in healthcare spending over a decade.

The study was conducted jointly by researchers from the University of Washington, Curta, and the University of North Carolina. It simulated the comprehensive benefits of semaglutide for patients with diabetes, obesity, and metabolic dysfunction-associated steatohepatitis (MASH) between 2026 and 2035. The results showed that full coverage could prevent nearly 39,000 cardiovascular events and approximately 6,180 deaths, with a net saving of \$715 million. Among these, the diabetes indication saved \$892 million, while the obesity indication increased spending by \$205 million—yet overall savings were achieved through indirect effects such as delaying the onset of diabetes.

The researchers noted that the savings mainly came from avoiding the long-term treatment costs of complications. If combined with a Medicare price negotiation mechanism, the total savings could further increase to \$1.7 billion.

This study provides important evidence for healthcare policy-making, demonstrating that innovative drugs can improve patient outcomes while also achieving healthcare cost containment.

ISPOR Announces 2025 Health Economics and Outcomes Research Award Honorees

The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) announced the winners of its 2025 Annual Health Economics and Outcomes Research Scientific and Leadership Awards on October 20. In this year's awards, the Impact Award was introduced for the first time, and presented to Dr. Rachael Fleurence and Dr. Jag Chhatwal, in recognition of their collaborative work that used modeling research to support the budget evaluation of the 2025 CURE Hepatitis C Act in the United States and advance the elimination of hepatitis C.

Other major awards included: Adrian Towse received the Avedis Donabedian Lifetime Achievement Award in Outcomes Research; Professor Paul Scuffham was awarded the Marilyn Dix Smith Leadership Award; Dr. Bertalan Nemeth received the Bernie O'Brien New Investigator Award. Professor Eman Hammad from Jordan was honored for her contributions in low-income countries, and several scholars received Excellence Awards for outstanding work in methodology, application, and journal publications.

ISPOR Establishes Institute for Healthcare Transformation to Bridge Research and Implementation

The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) announced on November 10, 2025 the official establishment of the Institute for Healthcare Transformation, aiming to bridge the gap between Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR) and real-world implementation. As an integral extension of ISPOR, the Institute will provide evidence-based support for global health policy formulation through practical initiatives and drive the transformation of healthcare systems.

Rob Abbott, Chief Executive Officer of ISPOR, stated that HEOR is a key enabler of healthcare system transformation worldwide. The Institute will work to enhance the relevance, adoption, and impact of HEOR, helping to achieve the vision of “accessible, effective, efficient, and affordable healthcare for all”. It will focus on shared global challenges facing healthcare systems, including budget constraints, payment for innovative therapies, and population aging.

This move marks an important step for ISPOR in translating evidence into practice. Through policy guidance, capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration, the Institute will meaningfully improve health outcomes for patients and communities.

Further information is available on the official website of the ISPOR Institute.

HTAi News

HTAi Middle East and North Africa Regional Conference 2025 Convenes to Advance HTA for Equitable and Innovative Healthcare

On September 24–25, 2025, the International Society for Health Technology Assessment (HTAi) and the National Agency for Health Evaluation and Accreditation of Tunisia jointly organized the HTAi Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Regional Conference in Tunisia. Under the theme “Advancing HTA in the Region: Promoting Equity, Efficiency and Innovation in Healthcare”, the conference brought together 173 delegates from 28 countries.

The discussions focused on the current state of HTA system development in various countries, the role of HTA in achieving universal health coverage and sustainable health systems, and ways to improve access to innovative medicines. Special sessions addressed key topics including the functional development of HTA, international collaboration, and the integration of a public health perspective into assessment. Through a series of workshops, the conference promoted capacity building and reached a consensus on strengthening regional cooperation and sharing methodologies and experiences, with the aim of jointly advancing evidence-based healthcare decision-making.

International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care Opens Global Call for Reviewers and Associate Editor

The International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care, the authoritative academic journal under the International Society for Health Technology Assessment (HTAi), is now globally recruiting reviewers and associate editors to support its academic publishing activities.

The journal invites scholars with expertise in health technology assessment-related fields to apply as reviewers. Relevant areas include systematic reviews, health economics and pharmaco-economic evaluation, patient engagement, health policy, digital health technologies, qualitative research methods, and others. Applicants should submit their personal biography to the Editor-in-Chief, Dr. Wendy Babidge, by January 31, 2026.

In addition, the journal is recruiting one Associate Editor. Candidates are required to have extensive qualifications in HTA and evidence-based medicine, an excellent publication record, and strong English writing skills. Specialization in health policy, patient engagement, or qualitative research is preferred. The Associate Editor position is voluntary and unpaid; successful candidates will be listed as editorial board members, with an expected time commitment of 4–5 hours per week on average. Responsibilities include handling approximately 20 manuscripts and facilitating the peer review process. The application deadline is December 31, 2025.

This recruitment aims to bring together top global experts to jointly advance academic exchange and development in the field of health technology assessment.



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