

Summer 2021

International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

Student Council Newsletter



Greeting from the ISPE 2021 Midyear meeting chair

I still remember the excitement I felt when attending my first ICPE conference as a student many years ago. The excellent educational and scientific elements of the program, the strong focus on methods and outstanding presentations presented by peers that I held in high regard. What I also do remember, and what made ISPE different from other societies I was involved in, is how open and welcoming the society was. Early on I was invited to participate in various ISPE activities, both in SIGs as well as committees. It was a great opportunity to expand my network and meet new people that later had an important role in my professional development and career.

For some, taking the first steps towards being engaged in ISPE might seem difficult but there are so many opportunities for you to get involved. One is the ISPE Mentor-Mentee match program, a resource that you can use to expand your network as well as for your professional development. As a society, ISPE has members with different areas of expertise, from various geographical regions and different professional sectors. Thus, there is something for everyone.

The ISPE Student council is a good place to start for those that want to get involved. Not only do they play a key role in connecting students from all over the world, but they provide an important voice within ISPE. Their contribution to the planning and organization of the virtual 2021 Midyear meeting, one of the largest to date, was imperative. It was an honor and pleasure to work with these bright minds in the past year. For those of you that are taking your first steps within ISPE, my advice is to get involved and make use of all that ISPE has to offer.



Helga Gardarsdottir, PhD, FISPE

Program Chair ISPE 2021 & 2023 Midyear meeting, ISPE RWE Taskforce Co-lead

Greeting from the Student Council and Editors

Greetings to everyone!

Last year we introduced the first ISPE Student Council Newsletter. It is amazing to think about how much the world has changed in that time. Across the globe, the COVID-19 pandemic has altered everyday life. Students and trainees have dealt with unprecedented challenges as they have shifted research focus, taken on additional work, and adjusted to online modalities of research, training, and socialization. On top, they have done this while experiencing losses on individual, community-level,

and global scales. Yet, in spite of all of this, students and trainees across SISPE have confronted these new challenges with tenacity and grace. You have found ways to support each other socially while distancing physically, to navigate your education and training, to continue to gather as Chapters virtually, and to continue to conduct and share your research with the world.

The first wave of the pandemic necessitated the cancellation of the Mid-Year 2020 meeting in Orlando. Thankfully, the society adapted fast, and we were able to experience the first completely virtual ICPE meeting ever, with ICPE All Access, of which you can read more [below](#). Students and trainees who had been invited to present their work at the 2021 Mid-Year Meeting were invited to present a poster at ICPE All Access. Furthermore, for the first time, Mid-Year abstracts were published in PDS. The Mid-Year 2021 meeting was originally planned to take place in “The land of fire and ice” (Iceland), and ultimately was transitioned to a completely virtual format. You can read more about that [below](#), but one thing is for sure, it was a great success!

Given the omnipresence of the current pandemic, and the remarkable resilience of SISPE members throughout, this newsletter edition is paying special attention to COVID-19 and how Student Chapters navigated through this unprecedented time. This information, as well as information about all of the activities of our chapters can be found [here](#). Finally, [here](#), you will find involvement opportunities, as well as announcements that you should mark in your calendar!

We hope that this newsletter will further increase the engagement in the SISPE community and also helps to navigate through this challenging time, and serves as a nice and easy read from everyday academic literature. It has been a great joy to see what all of our Student chapters achieved in the last year, and we are super excited to see how this journey will continue.

Warmest Wishes!



M. Elle Saine, ISPE Student Council Chair



Sebastian Jugl, ISPE Student Council Co-Chair



Jannat Saini, ISPE Student Member & Co-Editor



Earl Morris ISPE Student Member & Co-Editor



Pilar Maria Hernández Con, ISPE Student Member & Co-Editor

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ISPE MID-YEAR MEETING ORLANDO (2020)

The ISPE Mid-Year meeting is always particularly exciting for SISPE as all of the oral and poster presentations are by students and trainees. The planning for the 2020 Mid-Year meeting in Orlando started in the fall of 2019 and was shaping up to be another exciting meeting. Of the 119 abstracts submitted, 36 were accepted as oral and poster presentations. Additionally, Amir Sarayani and Brianna Costales from the University of Florida Chapter collaborated with Student Council to plan a student social. Unfortunately, as the world began to lock down in March 2020, the Mid-Year meeting was cancelled and we were not able to get together as intended.

SISPE @ ALL ACCESS ICPE

For the first time in history, the annual meeting went completely virtual, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. ICPE All Access took place from September 16-17, 2020. There was lots of student involvement in the conference; from oral and poster presentations to participation in symposia and workshops. Oral and poster presenters from the cancelled Orlando Mid-Year Meeting were offered

poster presentation spots at ICPE ALL ACCESS. Additionally, for the first time, accepted abstracts from the ISPE Mid-Year Meeting were published in *PDS*.

A special congratulations to the student award winners: Rachel Ross (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Elena Dudukina (Aarhus University), Joris Komen (Utrecht University), Jessica Young (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Kimberley Lee (Johns Hopkins).

On the second day of the conference, the Student Council annual meeting was held virtually by Zoom. Nearly 40 students and trainees attended, including representation from many ISPE Student Chapters. Over the course of the meeting, we discussed student chapter activities that had taken place over the academic year 2019/2020. The out-going SISPE Chair & Co-Chair (Caroline Walsh & Elle Saine) presented an overview of innovative chapter activity ideas and members discussed ways to maximize virtual technology for meeting and networking. Issues relating to the impact of the pandemic on training and the new challenges of virtual conferences were discussed. Finally, members took a moment to thank Caroline Walsh for her tenure on the Student Council (2018-2020) and commitment to SISPE.

Co-Chair elections took place with a single candidate, Sebastian Jugl (University of Florida), who gave a lively pitch and was elected unanimously as Co-Chair of the student council. Congratulations Sebastian!

SISPE @ ISPEMY21

In fall 2020, the decision was made to move the ISPE 2021 Mid-Year Meeting, originally planned for Iceland, to a virtual platform given the ongoing pandemic. The Student Council Chair and Co-Chair took on a larger role on the Scientific Program Committee for the Mid-Year Meeting this year, including helping to plan plenary sessions and invite speakers and moderators. It was an awesome opportunity to work with Scientific Program Chair, Helga Gardarasdottir, and the rest of the Committee to plan a virtual meeting.

There were 87 abstract submissions to the ISPE [2021 Virtual Mid-Year Meeting](#). Students, trainees, and senior members of ISPE participated in the abstract review, which was coordinated by the Student Council. There were 16 abstracts selected for oral presentations and 24 abstracts for poster presentations. Abstracts from the meeting were published in *PDS*.

We also had our first virtual social event ever on Gather.Town, which was organized with support from Brianna Costales, Phuong “Phoenix” Tan Tran, and Ikenna Unigwe, a big thank you to all of you! The event itself lasted the complete two hours, and students from Asia, Europe and the United States joined to enjoy fun games and stimulating discussions. We also had a raffle for a free registration to ICPE 2022 and the lucky winner turned out to be Amos de Jong, congratulation Amos!

NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

Despite a global pandemic which has changed almost every aspect of training, our ISPE Student Chapters had a busy year, finding innovative ways to meet and hold educational and social meetings virtually. We have been inspired by the resilience and commitment of SISPE members while navigating these unprecedented challenges. Read ahead for some highlights of the happenings across Chapters.

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI

Board: Mohammed Alsultan (President; alsultmd@mail.uc.edu), Fatimah Alyami (Vice-President; alyamifh@mail.uc.edu), Abdulrahman Alsuhibani (Secretary; alsuhian@mail.uc.edu), Marwan Alrasheed (Treasurer; alrashmn@mail.uc.edu)

EDUCATIONAL AND NETWORKING EVENT

Our chapter invited Dr. Lorenzo Villa (clinical assistant professor) from Mercer University, Atlanta, GA on January 28th, 2021 to a seminar for students and faculty in the UC College of Pharmacy (online event). Dr. Lorenzo Villa gave a presentation in the field of health economics. Students learned about health economics concepts and their implications in the clinical area. A networking and lunch event was held to further engage discussions between students and faculty members, as well as the members of the ISPE student leadership at the University of Cincinnati. Finally, our coming plan is to invite other speakers to the University of Cincinnati.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

COVID -19 affected our chapter negatively at the beginning of the pandemic. We faced obstacles in conducting ISPE activities that were planned last year. Additionally, we miss gathering and seeing each other as ISPE members. However, we started overcoming all these challenges by hosting everything online. Indeed, it was a new experience that nobody expected, and we hope to see each other soon.

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Board: Brianna Costales (President; b.costales@ufl.edu), Phuong “Phoenix” Tan Tran (Vice-president; phuong.tran@ufl.edu), Nicole Smolinski (Secretary; nsmolinski@ufl.edu), Sebastian Jugl (Treasurer; s.jugl@ufl.edu), Earl Morris (PharmD Liaison; earl.morris@ufl.edu), Ruba Sajdeya (Epidemiology Liaison; rubasajdeya@ufl.edu), Boya Lin (Health Outcomes and Bioinformatics Liaison; boyalin@ufl.edu)

CHAPTER UPDATES - NEW WITHIN-UF AND OUTSIDE COLLABORATIONS

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, our chapter exclusively held meetings and events via Zoom. While this was a new challenge, it opened the opportunity for more collaboration with other departments at the University of Florida (UF). We had increased participation from graduate departments of Epidemiology and Health Outcomes and Biomedical Information (HOBI) as well as the PharmD program. In the past our chapter has had Liaison positions for Epi and PharmD, this year we added a HOBI Liaison. Along with within-UF collaboration, we also began a collaboration with UPenn where each chapter invited all members of both chapters to attend respective events. This new collaboration is something we hope to continue in the future to provide more resources to student members. In the 2019/2020 year, we gained “funded” status from the UF Student Government which increased financial support for events and travel (e.g., conferences). In the 2020/2021 year, we were able to continue funding students’ attendance at conferences including ICPE All Access and ISPE Mid-Year. This was offered to members of our student chapter at UF.

CAREER AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT EVENTS

Our events this year focused on career development and data skills related to the field. We worked with alumni and current students to put together activities that would be helpful to a wide range of members regardless of skill level. Our Medicare workshop was a success and members are excited for new workshops in this series that introduces data sources used by members of our department. Our “From POP Student to Professional” event was held in collaboration with UF’s ISPOR Student Chapter and was an opportunity to hear from alumni regarding their experiences during and after PhD.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

While COVID-19 changed how we held meetings and events for ISPE, it also increased our collaboration both at UF and beyond. With the new reality of using Zoom for meetings and events, we embraced this change and had two career development events with various alumni working at different locations across the world who shared their experiences after graduating from the pharmaceutical outcomes and policy (POP) program. We also hosted a holiday trivia event after the winter semester to have a get-together with members to hang out, relax, and play trivia games. This was a fun way for members to end the calendar year even if we were unable to be together in person. Finally, since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we learned that seeing pets on Zoom and virtual meetings brings brightness to our days. Therefore, for the first time, our Chapter created honorary ISPE Student Chapter pet memberships for our non-human friends. Their membership will continue indefinitely. Meet the 2020/2021 ISPE Student Chapter pet members:



Shang Smolinski



Cinderella “Cinder” Smolinski



Pepper

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Board: Connie Yan (President; yan33@uic.edu), Danny Quach (Vice-President; dquach4@uic.edu), Claire Huang (Secretary; hhuang80@uic.edu), Huiwen Deng (Treasurer; hdeng26@uic.edu)

SOCIAL EVENTS

The UIC ISPE-SC held two virtual socials to keep chapter members connected and updated of chapter events. During our virtual social events, we organized virtual games and asked people to provide interesting facts about themselves. We also utilized the time during social events to promote ISPE Student Chapters and all the upcoming events.

EDUCATIONAL AND NETWORKING EVENTS

The UIC ISPE Student Chapter hosted a series of six virtual events this past academic year. Events ranged from guest speakers from the pharmaceutical industry, government, academia and non-profit organizations, with topics surrounding professional development, career pathways, and advice for graduate students interested in pursuing research in pharmacoepidemiology, drug safety, health policy and health outcomes.

To better understand how we could host events tailored to students' interests and needs, we distributed surveys after the conclusion of events. To incentivize attendance to events and completion of the surveys, we offered students who completed the surveys a chance to enter a raffle to win a prize at the end of the academic year. We also promoted the chapter events to students in the College of Pharmacy and School of Public Health.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

The COVID pandemic forced us to move all our events to a virtual environment for the whole academic year. However, we utilized the virtual space and made the best out of it. Instead of only inviting guest speakers within the Chicago area, we were able to invite guest speakers from all around the United States. We used our funds, which are normally applied towards food during events, as incentives to motivate people for attendance and completion of the post-event surveys. We recently held an open

conversation forum with ISPE members and a professor from our graduate program to discuss the impact of COVID on our graduate student life, and shared strategies to cope with stress and loss. There is no doubt that COVID pandemic has made this year challenging, however, the UIC ISPE-SC broad worked hard and made this year unique.

JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Board: Kayte Andersen (President), Morgane Mouslim (Vice President), Jamie Heyward (Secretary), Ayobami Akenroye (Academic Events Coordinator), Emaan Rashidi (Treasurer), Corey Joseph (Special Events Coordinator)

MONTHLY EDUCATIONAL EVENTS

We organize a trainee mentoring session once a month with visiting faculty. We continue to hold monthly journal clubs, with students, faculty and staff actively participating.

HOSTING FDA OFFICE OF PHARMACOVIGILANCE PRESENTERS

We hosted Dr. Jamie Klukken and Dr. Emeri Potter from the Food and Drug Administration, Office of Pharmacovigilance in October, 2020 for a presentation on the activities and opportunities within their division.

ISPE-MY/ICPE ATTENDANCE

Students from our chapter are active with the ISPE Mid-Year 2021 meeting; we have two students with accepted oral presentations. We are hosting a practice session, so that presenters can receive feedback and other students can get practice giving constructive feedback. We have four student members in our chapter with abstracts under consideration for the Annual Conference in August, and several have served as abstract reviewers.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

Our institution remains 100% remote learning. Despite the challenges, we have had several doctoral candidates defend their dissertations, masters students complete their training, and doctoral students pass oral examinations. We are proud of our members' resilience and flexibility.

NATIONAL CHENG KUNG UNIVERSITY (NCKU), TAIWAN

Board: Hsing-Chun (Miyuki) Hsieh (President; s1234567y@gmail.com), Chin-Yao (Steven) Shen (Vice-President; steven_shen0507@hotmail.com), Nai-Yu Chen (Secretary; nychen3387@gmail.com), Ju-Ling Chen (Treasurer; ericababa@msn.com)

ADVANCED PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM

Each semester, we invite international/domestic scholars to give special talks on different topics in pharmacoepidemiology. In the past year, these topics concerned methodologies of handling time-varying variables, self-control case series study designs, mixed-effect and GEE models, vaccine safety,

machine-learning in pharmacoepidemiology, and others. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we had all our lectures and courses both on-site and online. We were thrilled to learn more research methods and apply it in our future work!



2020 ICPE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic broke our chance to visit Berlin in 2020, we still felt excited to participate in the 2020 virtual conference – All Access. Our students presented a total of 13 poster presentations with diverse research fields ranging from methodology, drug utilization studies to outcomes research. In order to get the most out of the conference educational resources, we formed a student club and took turns to share what we had learnt from the conference educational session/speeches.

LAB TRIPS - ALISHAN



Our annual lab trip last year was held in January, which was great luck because the COVID-19 pandemic had an outbreak in Taiwan. We went to Alishan where the mountain is well known for its ancient trees, railways and sunrise. All faculty and students of the lab, along with their families joined the trip and we had a lot of fun enjoying the forest tour and brilliant cuisine.

UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

Board: Alekhya Lavu (President; lavua@myumanitoba.ca), Sai Krishna Gudi (Vice-President; gudisk@myumanitoba.ca), Laila Aboulatta (Secretary; aboulatl@myumanitoba.ca), Kevin Friesen (Treasurer; friese13@myumanitoba.ca), Donica Janzen (Social media executive; janzend6@myumanitoba.ca)



4TH ANNUAL PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY WORKSHOP AND OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS

On November 26-27, 2020, the ISPE University of Manitoba student chapter hosted the Fourth Annual Pharmacoepidemiology Workshop. The two-day virtual workshop featured top academic and research experts in pharmacoepidemiology. Invited speakers included Dr. Samy Suissa from McGill University, Dr. Mina Tadrous from University of Toronto, and Dr. Lisa Lix from Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba, who spoke on advanced concepts in pharmacoepidemiology. On the other hand, alumna Dr. Amani Hamad gave an introduction to pharmacoepidemiology to the 33 workshop participants. Finally, Ph.D. candidate Kevin Friesen conducted a hands-on session in SAS/SQL coding. This year we had the highest ever recorded number of participants attending our virtual workshop, including students from other faculties of the University of Manitoba and pharmacoepidemiology students from McGill University.

Additionally, monthly journal clubs were held every first Wednesday of the month.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

The ISPE (2020-2021) University of Manitoba student chapter started by holding online virtual elections. Our annual in-person fall pharmacoepidemiology workshop was adapted to virtual format due to COVID-19. Having a virtual workshop had its advantages, and we were able to invite top researchers in the field. We had Dr. Samy Suissa from McGill University, Dr. Mina Tadrous from the University of Toronto, and Dr. Lisa Lix from Community Health Sciences. Also, the University of Manitoba presented seminars at the workshop. We also had the highest recorded number of participants in this year's 4th Annual Pharmacoepidemiology Workshop.

UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Board: Jannat Saini (President), Haeyoung Lee (Vice President), Blessing Enobun (Secretary), Udim Damachi (Treasurer), Yoscar Ogando (Social Chair), Shankia Mardenborough & Eposi Elonge (Journal Club Coordinators)

ISPE/ISPOR ALUMNI CAREER EXPERIENCE SEMINAR

On October 2nd, 2020, the UMB ISPE Chapter collaborated with UMB ISPOR to organize a successful virtual alumni career experience seminar. This was aimed at providing insight into invited alumni's career fields to doctoral students in pharmaceutical health services research.

VIRTUAL JOURNAL CLUB

On November 30th, 2020, our chapter held a virtual journal club, discussing "The association of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor or angiotensin receptor blocker use with COVID-19 diagnosis and mortality" by Fosbøl et al. "Considerations for pharmacoepidemiological analyses in the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic", by Pottegård et al., helped guide our discussion.

BIG DATA IN AGING AND CHRONIC DISEASE RESEARCH PANEL DISCUSSION

In collaboration with our colleagues at the T32 Epidemiology of Aging Program, on April 8th, 2021, we held a machine learning methods skills workshop for chronic disease diagnosis and geriatric clinical care research, via Zoom. An accomplished panel will present on these methods in their own research, followed by a discussion and Q&A session.

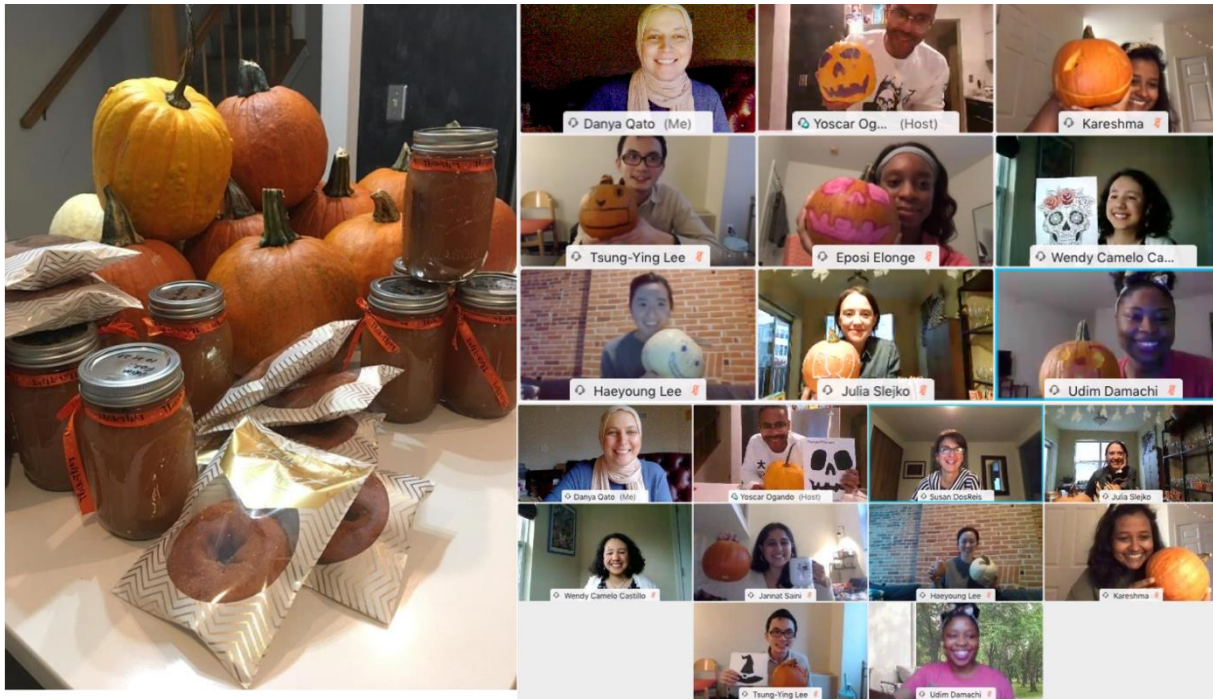
VIRTUAL METHODS CLINIC

Our Chapter organizes a yearly methods clinic, with the aims of 1) introducing novel methods in pharmacoepidemiology to students and faculty, and 2) encouraging interdisciplinary communication. Our topic this semester (on April 29th, 2021) will be on methods for translating evidence between randomized controlled trials and the real world setting. Our student lead will present on "Assessing methods for generalizing experimental impact estimates to target populations" by Kern et al.. We will then have our guest pharmacoepidemiologist discuss using such methods in their own research.

PAINT (PUMPKINS) & SIP (CIDER) SOCIAL

On October 20th, 2020, we held a fun fundraising and social event via Zoom where we decorated and painted pumpkins while sipping some homemade mulled cider. Pumpkins, stencils, and spiced

homemade cider were dropped off following social distancing and safety measures to our attendees.



ONLINE SILENT AUCTION, PLANT SALE

We hosted another virtual fundraising event, an online silent auction, “Plant Sale” in December 2020. Several beautiful plants were donated from the PHSR department. Students, staff and faculty members participated and placed bids virtually. Once the auction period ended, UMB ISPE students delivered the plants to the winners! Social distancing and safety measures were in place for delivery.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

This virtual environment has created unprecedented challenges, and forced us to think differently about chapter involvement and engagement from our department. COVID-19 led to several in-person planned events being postponed or rescheduled. Our plans to repeat our yearly joint FDA field trip with Johns Hopkins and University of Pennsylvania were also not possible. All our meetings and events in 2020-2021 have been virtual. Our upcoming events will also be virtual. This has served as a learning experience for our chapter, overall. For example, the journal club and our social event were both virtual, requiring us to think outside the box to foster an environment of collaboration and participation. Some lessons learned from our first virtual journal club include providing predetermined questions to the audience, pairing junior-senior students to lead the journal club, and using predetermined polls as ice-breakers related to the paper/method. These strategies might also help other chapters increase student willingness to participate in discussion during events.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Board: Alvi Rahman (President, alvi.rahman@mail.mcgill.ca), Lisiane Leal (Vice-President; lisiane.freitasleal@mail.mcgill.ca), Reem Masarwa (Secretary; reem.masarwa@mail.mcgill.ca), Samia Qureshi (Treasurer; samia.qureshi@mail.mcgill.ca), Johnson Kyle (Epidemiology Student Representative; kyle.johnson3@mail.mcgill.ca), Mahya Khaki (Family Medicine Student Representative; mahya.khaki@mail.mcgill.ca)

ELECTIONS

Following our elections in late September, we formed our new executive team, which includes two new positions: Epidemiology Student Representative and Family Medicine Student Representative, to emphasize the collaboration within this Student Chapter between two departments at McGill University. Our new team consisted of the following executives: Alvi Rahman (President), Lisiane Leal (Vice-President), Reem Masarwa (Secretary), Samia Qureshi (Treasurer), Kyle Johnson (Epidemiology Student Rep), and Mahya Khaki (Family Medicine Student Rep).

SPECIAL EVENTS

We were pleased to host two webinars thus far in this school year. The first was held in the Fall and was titled “Introduction to Pharmacoepidemiology”, presented by Dr. Laurent Azoulay, an Associate Professor at McGill University. The purpose of this webinar was to provide students who may be interested in pharmacoepidemiology with an overview of the field and an idea of potential career opportunities. Second, we hosted a Winter webinar titled “Real-World Data for Rapid Decision Making”, presented by Dr. Xavier Kurz, Head of Surveillance and Epidemiology within the Data Analysis and Methods Task Force at the European Medicines Agency. Both events were well-attended with over 40 participants and garnered interest from the audience. We have also recently distributed a survey to our members to gain valuable feedback regarding our past events and to help us plan for the future.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

With the COVID pandemic, we have had to modify many of our plans regarding events that we had initially wanted to organize. Ideally, we would have preferred to host events that were more interactive in nature such as in-person workshops, but we are currently limited to hosting primarily webinars and talks. Nevertheless, this has made it feasible for us to invite speakers from different countries and deliver excellent presentations. Last Summer, we also continued to host virtual pharmacoepidemiology journal clubs on Zoom, on a weekly basis, with many studies related to the assessment of potential treatments for COVID-19.

Furthermore, some of our members previously worked within the same centre or office, which made it easier to share ideas on a regular basis. Physical distancing measures have made it more important for members to meet on a more regular basis. In addition, certain members have taken the lead on particular events or tasks and may have smaller meetings amongst themselves rather than a meeting with the full team.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (PENN/CPERT)

Board: Emily Acton (President, Secretary; eacton@sas.upenn.edu), Mohsin Shah (Vice-President; mohsin.shah@pennteam.upenn.edu), Neil Dhopeswarkar (Treasurer, Neil.Dhopeswarkar@pennteam.upenn.edu)

HISTORY

The University of Pennsylvania's (Penn) ISPE Student Chapter was formed in Fall 2018, and is housed within the Center for Pharmacoepidemiology Research and Training (CPeRT) (<https://www.cceb.med.upenn.edu/cpert/ispe-student-chapter>). Our Chapter Members include Epidemiology and Biostatistics Masters and PhD students, as well as early-career professionals and post-doctoral researchers, with a diverse range of research focuses and educational backgrounds.

METHODS BOOTCAMPS

These Bootcamps give Chapter Members the chance to learn from experts (within the Penn faculty and beyond) about different epidemiology / biostatistical methods and techniques, with the goal of extending past the theory taught in the classroom to the practicalities of using these methods in real data. In-person and virtual Bootcamps over the past year have spotlighted the theory and practical application of Propensity Score Matching, Mixed Methods, Inverse Probability Weighting, Introduction to Machine, and High-Dimensional Propensity Score Analysis. Upcoming Bootcamps include a series focused on Imputation of Missing Data and Marginal Structural Models.



PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY SALONS/ BROWN BAG LUNCHES

These Salons are a lunchtime speaker series (previously in-person, now as “virtual lunches”), where leaders in pharmacoepidemiology from government, industry, and academia are invited to meet and share insights from their current jobs and overall career paths with our Chapter Members in a causal environment over lunch.

INTER-CHAPTER COLLABORATIONS AND EVENTS

Recognizing the global move towards virtual events during the pandemic, we have been working towards building bridging programming with distant Chapters, allowing our Members to start taking

part in these Chapters' innovative programs, as well as Members from other Chapters to join-in to our Methods Bootcamps and Brown Bag Lunches.

FIELD TRIPS

In anticipation of in-person trips becoming possible, we are progressing plans for trips to local industries and governmental agencies, where Chapter Members have opportunities to get hands-on experiences and perspectives about different career opportunities in pharmacoepidemiology.

PRE-PANDEMIC PICTURES FROM PENN/CPERT ISPE CHAPTER EVENTS





DEALING WITH COVID-19

Advancing new virtual functional programs and events over this past year of the pandemic, Penn's Chapter is continuing to move forward focused on growing and expanding key initiatives. As we steadily return to in-person events, we plan to build on the lessons learned and programming approaches developed due to the circumstances imposed by the pandemic that may in turn be of high-value going forward. Specifically, conducting our Methods Bootcamp and Brown Bag Lunch series virtually has opened novel routes of engagement for our Chapter Members, as well as for our colleagues from other Chapters. With this, we are planning to employ a hybrid model of in-person and virtual events going forward to capitalize on the benefits of both engagement strategies. As a key example:

Virtual Inter-Chapter Collaborations and Events: Moving forward, even with the return to in-person events, we plan to continue and grow Inter-Chapter virtual collaborations to provide new opportunities for our Members to participate in the diverse range of exceptional programming taking place across ISPE Chapters, as well as to welcome and create opportunities for sharing the perspectives and ideas from Members of other Chapters during our events.

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

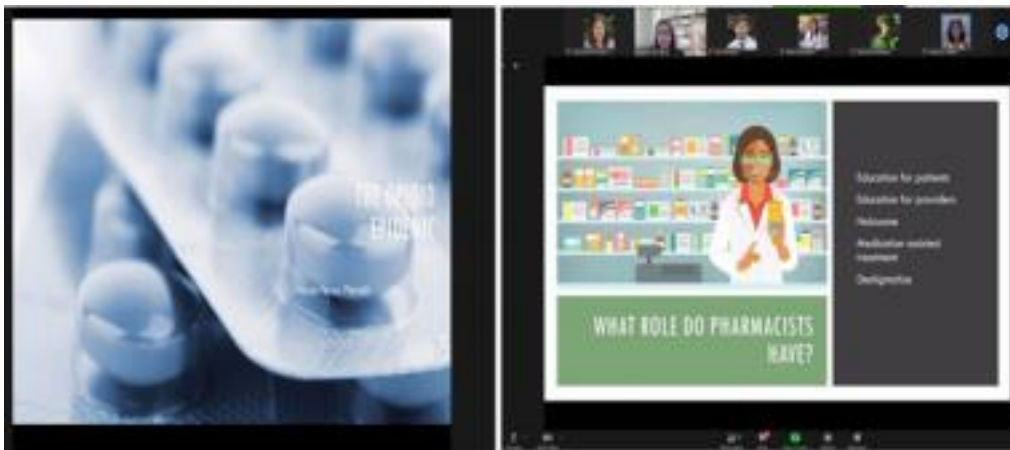
Board: Ali Ahmadi (President; abdulali.ahmadi@wsu.edu), Lauren Huynh (Vice-President; lauren.huynh@wsu.edu), Sam Nahulu (Treasurer; samuel.nahulu@wsu.edu)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH AND HEALTH AWARENESS

The ISPE chapter at WSU was established a year ago in Spokane in the state of Washington. The chapter has put together outreach events as well as professional development events for the students at the College of Pharmacy. Last year, the chapter organized a research series events to teach the students about presenting research posters, managing data and hosted a laboratory tour at Dr. Natasen's lab to understand drug metabolism kinetics in different populations.

OPIOID PANDEMIC INFORMATION SESSION

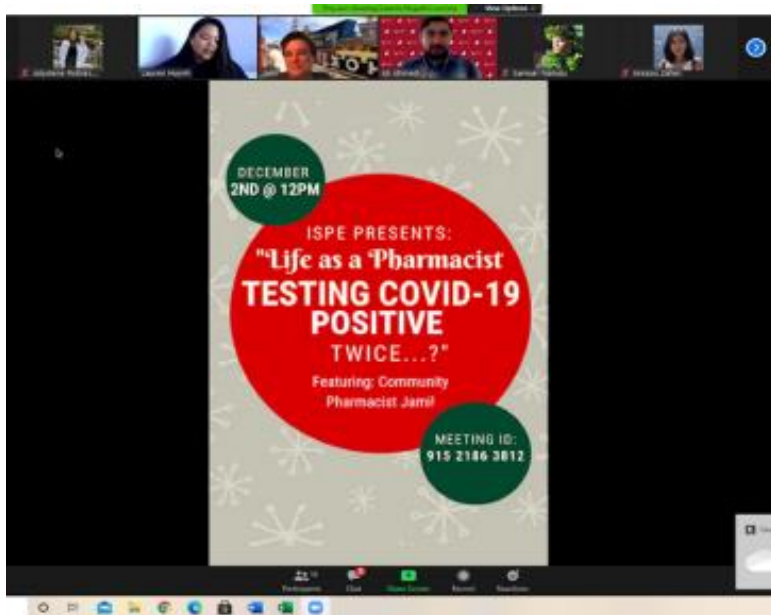
The opioid crisis is a major issue the United States has been dealing with for many years now. Prior to COVID-19, the opioid crisis was very prominent on social media and received a lot of attention & coverage. ISPE WSU Chapter invited Dr. Nicole Rodin, PharmD in August, 2020 to provide us an insight of the opioid crisis and provide us ways to be part of the solution to the opioid crisis.



DIABETES MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SESSION

In October 2020, ISPE WSU Chapter invited Joshua J. Neumiller, PharmD, CDCES, FADCES, FASCP. He talked with us about diabetes management and opportunities available to future healthcare providers in helping manage this growing disease. He also talked about the requirement for becoming a certified diabetes care and education specialist (CDCES). We had a great audience for this event and it was a very informative event.

GETTING COVID TWICE? INFORMATION SESSION



In December 2020, Pharmacist Jami was ISPE's guest speaker who talked about her unique experience of getting COVID-19 twice. It was eye opening listening to her and learning new findings about the relatively new COVID-19 virus.

ADHERENCE TO PSORIASIS BIOLOGICS INFORMATION SESSION

In January 2021, ISPE WSU Chapter had invited Dr. Nathaniel Hendrix, PharmD, PhD, and currently doing Postdoc at Harvard focused on cost- effectiveness methodology. Dr. Hendrix has also presented on the topic of Pharmacoepidemiology and Drug Safety at ICPE in 2019. Dr. Hendrix talked about his population study/research paper on adherence to psoriasis biologics and how new research in this field is leading ways to finding a solid treatment for this autoimmune disease. Dr. Hendrix also discussed data sources and the basics of measuring adherence in the field of pharmacoepi field.



COMPUTER-AIDED DRUG DESIGN INFORMATION SESSION



ISPE Presents:

Dr. Senthil Natesan, PhD

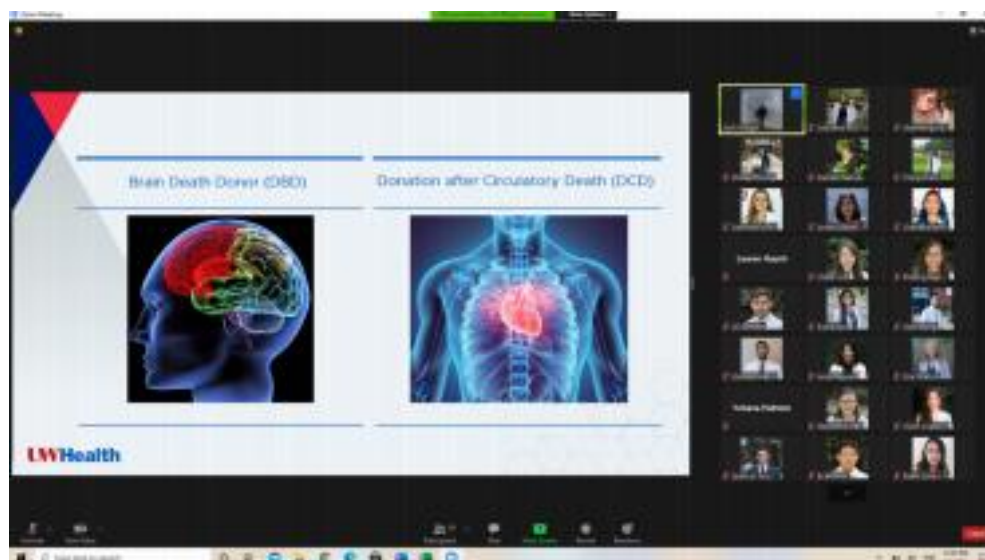
Join us as Dr. Senthil Natesan will give us an Introduction on Computer Aided Drug Design

Feb 4th (Thurs): 12-1 pm Zoom ID: 941 5429 9250
Password: 680245

On February 4th, 2021, ISPE WSU Chapter had invited Dr. Senthil Natesan, PhD to present to us his research work on drug discovery using highly sophisticated computer software. Dr. Senthil Natesan is a distinguished professor at the pharmacotherapy department at Washington State University CPPS. Dr. Natesan is extensively involved in computational molecular design of drugs at the Modeling & Simulation Lab here Washington State University. He talked to us about the use of computer simulations to design drug molecules which are further studied in drug-discovery researches. It was very cool to see the various 3D molecules and proteins that would be used to study drug targets.

DONOR TRANSPLANT INFORMATION SESSION

On April 1st of this year, ISPE WSU Chapter with collaboration with another club invited a transplant pharmacist to talk to us about his role as transplant pharmacist. Our guest speaker, Joshua Weigel, PharmD presented to us the eligibility requirements for various transplants such as heart, kidney, eye, liver, etc. He also discussed with us the importance of being a donor and how the whole process work to match a donor with a recipient.



Brain Death Donor (DBD) Donation after Circulatory Death (DCD)

LWHealth

DEALING WITH COVID-19

The 2020-2021 school year has been an interesting and very evolving year due to the noble virus of Covid-19. Due to safety, our university (WSU) had to quickly adapt and switch everything virtual.

Chapter members didn't let the Covid-19 virus be an obstacle in their efforts of conducting events and arranging community events. ISPE WSU Chapter continued to invite guest speakers, created educational events, and conducted community events through virtual platforms. Our professional events included the opioid pandemic, diabetes management, a speaker who tested twice for Covid-19, a discussion of immunization schedule for adults and pediatrics, pharmacoepidemiology research analysis on "Adherence to Psoriasis Biologics", introduction to computer aided drug designs, genital herpes simplex management, and donor transplant evaluation at population level. In addition, we have arranged an ongoing community teaching opportunity of healthcare topics to ESL (English as a Second Language) at Spokane Community College on various topics such as medication safety, stroke prevention, personal hygiene, medication safety in pregnancy, and immunization overview.

UNIVERSITY OF SOROCABA

Board: Máira Ramos Alves (President; mairamosalves@gmail.com), Fabiane Raquel Motter (Vice-President; fabianemotter@gmail.com), Fabio de Moraes Silva (Secretary; fbo141@mail.com), Jardel Correa de Oliveira (Treasurer; jardel_coli@yahoo.com.br)

HISTORY

The ISPE UNISO student chapter was created by the end of 2020 and already in March 2021, we held our first ISPE Brazilian Student Chapters Meeting online jointly with the international Workshop on Rational Use of Medicines, III Workknowledge of Evidence-Informed Policy and III Symposium ISPE BrazInt RIG and in partnership with the ISPE UFRGS Student Chapter. Also, we had the pleasure to have Dr. Samy Suissa as a speaker during the event, where he presented a lecture on observational studies.

Observational studies for real-world evidence: challenges and opportunities

Samy Suissa
McGill University and Jewish General Hospital
Montreal, Canada

Brazilian ISPE Student Chapter Symposium
3 March 2021



DEALING WITH COVID-19

Our chapter was born in the middle of the pandemic and on the verge of the second and most devastating wave of it in Brazil. From the beginning, In-present activities were not an option. We had to rethink what could be made in this first big event and luckily the online format made it possible for us to reach many people across the world that would have not been possible otherwise. In some way, the online activities benefit us in our networking efforts despite the current chaotic situation. We wish, however, we will be able to meet people in person in the near future.

UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO GRANDE DO SUL (UFRGS)

Board: Juliana do Amaral Carneiro Diel (President; juliana_acarneiro@hotmail.com), Caroline da Rosa Pavlak (Vice-President; caroliner2007@gmail.com), Lisiane Freitas Leal (Secretary; lisianeleal@gmail.com)

HISTORY

The student chapter of the Faculty of Pharmacy at UFRGS has sought to encourage the participation and adhesion of new students. We have publicized the positive actions that ISPE brings and the advantages of participating in the group, such as the congresses and webinars made available by ISPE, in addition to the collaboration with Brazil RIG. Our group is still in formation and we are building a website to publicize the group's actions. We are also defining topics of interest to students, so they can be addressed in the webinars offered to the group.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

Due to Covid, thoughts about possible restriction in funds have been a concern. Regardless of the challenges that we may face in the future, we will not stop our research and our interest in contributing to the development of science will not go away. We have found alternatives to stay active such as exchanging ideas during our online meetings, and seeking to participate in meetings with colleagues from around the world. At this time, when the COVID has been devastating to our population, science has proven to be fundamental in our society; this is why we remain committed to seeking the best evidence.

INVOLVEMENT OPPORTUNITIES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

MENTOR MATCH PROGRAM

In Summer 2020 ISPE launched its Mentor Match Program. This program allows you as a student to establish valuable connections with professionals in the field of Pharmacoepidemiology and promotes career growth and development. To sign up, you simply have to click on this [Link](#), and follow the provided instructions. Upon completion you can identify candidate mentor(s) that may be a good fit for you and request a match with the person. If matched, you and your mentor are ready to start! Besides this initial matching, the program also offers Mentor Match events, e.g., the annual virtual mentor match event, which first iteration just took place on April 15 (see picture below) and coincided with the 2021 ISPE mid-year meeting. The aim of this event was to engage ISPE membership in the member-match program. After initial presentations from esteemed members of the ISPE community providing information on mentorship, the mentors and mentees in the program were able to participate in three speed matching sessions. The first event was well attended (24 attendees) and well received.



2021 Virtual Mid-Year Meeting

Use of RWE for regulatory decision making: for populations and individuals
pharmacoepi.org
ispe
April 19-20, 2021

TIME*	ACTIVITY	LEADING
9:30-9:40	Welcome & Introduction to ISPE Mentor Match	Emily Brouwer
9:40-9:50	Tips for a successful Mentor-Mentee relationship	Vin Lo Re III
9:50-10:00	Pearls on mentorship	Til Stürmer
10:00-10:05	What to expect in speed matching rounds	Christopher Rentsch
10:05-10:45	Speed matching (3 rounds)	All
10:45-11:00	Open discussion & wrap up	Christopher Rentsch

- Please mute your line when not speaking
- Mentors: Please place the word MENTOR next to your zoom name (Example: MENTOR – Emily Brouwer)
- If you have questions, please send using the Chat function
- All slides will be made available after the event on ISPE Exchange

*All times in US EDT

ispe International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

Events like this are planned to be recurring events, so stay tuned for another mentor match session in the Fall 2021. So, if you have not yet had a chance, please create a profile on the ISPE Exchange and enrol as a mentee Match.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2021

-37th ICPE, ICPE 2021 All Access: From August 23-25, ISPEs annual conference will take place virtually. The topic is “Real evidence for the Real World”. Further information as well as options for registration can be accessed [here](#).

- Annual Student council meeting will take place on August 26, 5:30 – 6:30 pm EST.

-ISPEs 13th Asian Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology: This conference will take place from October 13-15 in Seoul, South Korea. Further information as well as options for registration can be accessed [here](#).

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Thank you to all of the chapters who contributed to our newsletter! It is awesome to see and share all of the amazing things that everyone is doing.

We are currently developing the SISPE 2026 Agenda, and will follow-up with a second survey soon. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the first survey, your responses were very important to SISPE!

If your chapter did not contribute to this newsletter, have no fear! We will be sending out another call for chapter updates soon!

We are looking forward to meet all of you @37ICPE, in our annual student council meeting!