

Winter 2019/2020

# International Society for Pharmacoepidemiology

**Student Council Newsletter**



International Society  
for Pharmacoepidemiology  
Student Council

## GREETING FROM THE PRESIDENT

Having worked with graduate students for my entire academic life, I am thrilled to see such a strong and continued presence of the ISPE student council in all aspects of ISPE's mission. We have vibrant local student chapters across the globe who are engaged in a broad range of research and outreach activities. Please check out the exciting activities that are highlighted in this newsletter. Students are also strongly involved in the upcoming [Midyear Meeting in Orlando](#) where one afternoon is devoted to presentation of the best of more than 100 abstracts that were submitted for selection. For those of you who are seeking to bring promising junior pharmacoepidemiologists into your team, I highly recommend this session – I have recruited some of my best faculty there. To all the students who read this newsletter I recommend they consider ways for stronger involvement in the society – ISPE lacks the hierarchical structure that is prevalent in many other societies and is open to everyone who wants to contribute. For ideas how to get started please look [here](#). I look forward to watching some of you who contributed to this newsletter to move ISPE into this new exciting era of pharmacoepidemiology.



President, Almut G. Winterstein, RPh, PhD, FISPE

## GREETING FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND EDITORS

Happy Holidays from ISPE Student Council!

We are thrilled to bring you the first bi-annual Student Council Newsletter! In this Newsletter, you will find updates from SISPE, as well as news from across the Chapters. It is our hope that this Newsletter will be a fun and informative way to engage Chapters in the SISPE community.

As the year draws to a close, we are excited for the opportunity to look back at some of the amazing things that students and trainees from around the world have done this year. The 2018-2019 academic year saw the formation of FIVE new Student Chapters: UPenn/CPeRT, McGill University, Washington State University, Brazil Student Chapter, and Brown University! Moreover, student involvement at ICPE is growing, and this year's Annual Meeting was evidence of the strong and energetic student community within SISPE.

We are excited to look ahead to 2020, including the Mid-year meeting in Orlando.

Warmest wishes!



Caroline Walsh,  
ISPE Student Council  
Chair



Elle Saine, ISPE  
Student Council Co-  
Chair



Sebastian Jugl, ISPE  
Student Member &  
Co-Editor



Jose Kochu parambil,  
ISPE Student  
Member & Co-Editor

## TABLE OF CONTENT

SISPE @35 th ICPE .....	1
SISPE @ ISPEMY20 .....	2
News from our Chapters .....	2
University of Cincinnati .....	2
University of Florida .....	3
University of Illinois at Chicago .....	4
John Hopkins University .....	6
JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research .....	6
University of Manitoba .....	7
University of Maryland .....	8
McGill University .....	8
University of Pennsylvania (PENN/CPeRT) .....	9
University of Toronto .....	10
Washington State University .....	11
Next Newsletter .....	12

## SISPE @35 TH ICPE

The 35<sup>th</sup> ICPE took place in the Philadelphia Convention Centre, Philadelphia, PA from August 22<sup>nd</sup> to August 26<sup>th</sup> 2019. There was lots of student involvement in the conference; from oral and poster presentation to participation in symposia and workshops. Congratulations to the student award winners; Michael Webster-Clark (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill), Juan Hincapie-Castillo (University of Florida), Thuy N Thai & Amir Sarayani (University of Florida) and Amani Hamad (University of Manitoba).

The student council, with assistance from the University of Pennsylvania student chapter, organized a social night on the first night of the conference in SPiN Philadelphia (<https://wearespin.com/location/philadelphia/>). We had a huge, unprecedented number of students registering to attend the event, with over 150 students registering. Students were able to network together over refreshments and ping-pong and the event appears to have been a success!

On the second evening of the conference, the annual meeting of the student council was held and attended by nearly 50 students, 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 2018/2019. The chair (Caroline) presented an overview of innovative chapter activity ideas and student chapter reports were also submitted to the ISPE Board of Directors. Issues relating to student membership such as the cost of student membership fees, ideas for pre-conference courses, increased communication opportunities between student chapters and ideas for student recruitment were discussed.

Co-chair elections took place at this meeting. Four candidates stood for election; Elle Saine (University of Pennsylvania), Jose Kochuparambil (Kerala University of Health Sciences), Irma Convertino (University of Pisa) and Nicholas Thurin (Université de Bordeaux). After lively pitches from each nominee, Elle Saine secured the most votes and was deemed elected Co-Chair of the Student Council. Congratulations Elle!

The student council plan to follow up in Spring 2020 with a doodle poll relating to the ISPE student membership fee and provide feedback to the ISPE membership committee.

Caroline & Elle

## SISPE @ ISPEMY20

There were 119 abstract submissions by students to the ISPE [Midyear Meeting in Orlando](#), due to take place in Orlando, FL April 18<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> 2020. Over 150 ISPE members and students volunteered to serve as abstract reviewers for the meeting. The Student Council have been managing the abstract review process. There will be 12 abstracts selected for oral presentation and 24 abstracts will be selected for poster presentation. Notification of abstract acceptance is expected in early January 2020 (subject to change).

As with all ISPE meetings, a student social night is planned for the first night of the conference. The student council is currently liaising with the University of Florida student chapter regarding organization of this social event.

## NEWS FROM OUR CHAPTERS

From workshops to webinars, experiences sharing to escape rooms, the chapters have had a busy year! Read ahead for some highlights of the happenings across chapters.

## UNIVERSITY OF CINNCINATI

Board: Xiaomeng (Emma)Yue (President; yuexn@mail.uc.edu), Mohammed Alsultan (Vice President; alsultmd@mail.uc.edu), Hilal Thaibah (Special Events Coordinator).

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## EDUCATIONAL AND NETWORKING EVENT

Our chapter hosted an educational and Networking Event. We invited Dr. Sam Li from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center on November 18th, 2019 to students and faculty in the UC College of Pharmacy. Dr. Sam Li gave a presentation to UC ISPOR chapter members about clinical and economic outcomes associated with concurrent use of opioids in the Medicare population using real-world data. Dr. Jeff Guo, Xiaomeng(Emma) Yue, and Hilal Thaibah helped host and organize the event with the ISPE & ISPOR University of Cincinnati student chapter. Additionally, a networking and lunch event was held to further engage discussions between students and faculties as well as the members of the ISPE student leadership at the University of Cincinnati.



## UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Board: Amir Sarayani (President; [sarayani@ufl.edu](mailto:sarayani@ufl.edu)), Brianna Costales (Vice-president; [b.costales@ufl.edu](mailto:b.costales@ufl.edu)), Phuong Tran (Treasurer; [phuong.tran@ufl.edu](mailto:phuong.tran@ufl.edu)), Golnoosh Alipour-Haris (Secretary; [g.alipourharis@ufl.edu](mailto:g.alipourharis@ufl.edu)), Yiyang Liu (Epidemiology Department – Liaison; [yliu26@ufl.edu](mailto:yliu26@ufl.edu)).

## PHARMACOEPIDEMOLOGY IN INDUSTRY – EXPERIENCE SHARING SERIES

We kicked off the Fall semester with an event our chapter started last year called “Pharmacoepidemiology in Industry - Experience Sharing Series.” In the 2018-19 academic year, we featured a pharmacoepidemiologist from Merck’s Center for Observation and Real-World Evidence. This year, our industry feature was the FDA! We were fortunate to have Dr. Efe Eworuke, Lead Epidemiologist at the FDA’s Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology, as our guest speaker to share her insight with more than 30 members. Our event attracted students from the Department of Epidemiology, and they joined our student organization. We held an open Q&A session during the event, and members learned about job opportunities at the FDA.



## WEBINAR – REAL-WORLD EPIDEMIOLOGIC STUDIES

Our second event of the Fall semester was a new venture for our student chapter; we joined forces with the University of Florida ISPOR Student Chapter. Together, we hosted an event with a webinar



watching activity and lunch. The webinar was offered by the ISPOR's Student Network entitled "Real-World Epidemiologic Studies" and was presented by AbbVie's Director of Epidemiology. This webinar was an excellent opportunity for our junior student members to learn the basic concepts of



pharmacoepidemiology and served as a great refresher for our senior student members.

Stay tuned for more updates in the next newsletter about RRR activity, conference travel support, and much more! The University of Florida - ISPE Student Chapter looks forward to seeing all at the Midyear-2020 Meeting in our backyard (Orlando, FL)! Please reach out to us if you have any questions about Florida.

#### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO

Board: Nadia Nabulsi (President; [nabul2@uic.edu](mailto:nabul2@uic.edu)), Connie Yan (Vice President; [yan33@uic.edu](mailto:yan33@uic.edu)), Carter McCormick (Secretary; [cmccor22@uic.edu](mailto:cmccor22@uic.edu)), Ashwini Zolekar (Treasurer; [azolek2@uic.edu](mailto:azolek2@uic.edu))



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## ISPE SEMESTER KICK-OFF SOCIAL

On September 12, 2019, we hosted an informal social event with 15 attendees where we introduced the members of the ISPE Student Board and welcomed our new students and members. Students mingled and got to know each other better and discussed ideas for the coming academic year for the ISPE organization to pursue.

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## MEET AND GREET WITH DR. JENNY COLOMBO

The UIC ISPE Student Chapter hosted a Meet and Greet event with Dr. Jenny Colombo, Vice President of Global Medical Affairs at Takeda Pharmaceuticals, on October 30th, 2019 with 30 attendees. Dr. Colombo spoke about her experiences in the clinic, industry, and academia. She talked about her experience as a clinical assistant professor at the UIC College of Pharmacy, and her various pharmaceutical positions throughout her career, both past and current. ISPE members learned about career pathways into the pharmaceutical industry and received advice for pursuing academic positions.



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## MEET AND GREET WITH DR. ANGELA KONG

On November 26, 2019 Dr. Angela Kong, PhD, MPH, RD, Assistant Professor in the UIC College of Pharmacy, Department of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy, will speak to us about her career. Dr. Kong will speak about her background, career path, and research experiences in the area of implementation science. Graduate students will also receive advice on pursuing academic positions and various grant opportunities that can help students to build their academic profile.

## JOHN HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

Board: Kayte Andersen (President), Lin Wang, (Vice President), Siddhi Umarje (Secretary), Morgane Mouslim (Academic Events Coordinator) Amelia Wallace (Treasurer), Celina Lee (Publicity & Marketing), Yanjun (Molly) Duan(Special Events Coordinator).

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## JOURNAL CLUB

We are thrilled to announce that we have applied for, and been granted, departmental approval and funding for a journal club dedicated to pharmacoepidemiology. This represents the achievement of one of our largest goals for the year, as well as official recognition from the Johns Hopkins Department of Epidemiology that pharmacoepidemiology is indeed an emerging field. Our journal club will be primarily driven by Dr. Morgane Mouslim, the academic events coordinating member for our student group, and is faculty sponsored by Dr. Jung-Im Shin, a new addition to the faculty core of the Center for Drug Safety and Effectiveness at Johns Hopkins. We will have our first event after the holiday break.

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## HOSTING DR. JAMIE RIDLEY KLUCKEN

On November 13, 2019, we hosted Dr. Jamie Ridley Klucken, Safety Evaluator at FDA (Division of Pharmacovigilance I) for a lunch-time talk about pharmacovigilance. This event was well attended by students, staff, and faculty.

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## ICPE ATTENDANCE

We were delighted to have strong representation at ICPE 2019 from Johns Hopkins. Specifically, we had 3 masters, 5 doctoral, and 2 post-doctoral students attend. Students from our chapter plan to be active with the ISPE Mid-Year 2020 meeting; some are submitting abstracts and others have volunteered as reviewers.

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## PUBLICITY

We have significantly expanded our digital presence within the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. Specifically, our ListServ now has 136 members receiving our emails, we updated our webpage (<https://www.jhsph.edu/research/centers-and-institutes/center-for-drug-safety-and-effectiveness/get-involved/student-opportunities/>), and have implemented the new SISPE logo.

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## JSS ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION & RESEARCH

Board: Dr M Ramesh (President), Dr S Ponnusankar (Vice President), Dr Krishhna Undela (Secretary), Dr Oliver Joel (Treasurer), Frank May (Faculty Advisor)

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## NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY

The ISPE JSS AHER Students Chapter organized a National Conference on Pharmacoepidemiology & Pharmacoeconomics from 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 at JSS College of Pharmacy, Mysuru. The conference was sponsored by the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE).





The theme of the conference was 'promoting health outcomes through pharmacoepidemiology and pharmacoconomics.'

A pre-conference workshop session was organized on 26th. The participants selected a session based on their interest. The pre-conference session on Pharmacoepidemiology was conducted by Dr Praveen Kulkarni and Dr Nayana Shabadi, and the workshop on Pharmacoconomics was conducted by Mr. Muhammed Rashid and Dr. Kapil Gudala.

The first day of the main conference on 27th started with a plenary session on 'Discrepancies between observational studies and randomized control trails' by Dr. Dipika Bansal (NIPER, Mohali) followed by various sessions on Pharmacoepidemiology by Dr M Ramesh, Dr Krishna Undela and Dr BM Shrinivasa.

The evening sessions was mainly focused on poster and podium presentation by the delegates. This was followed by cultural events from the students of JSS college of Pharmacy.

The second day of the main conference on 28th was focused on Pharmacoconomics and Mr Sten Olsson (President, International Society of Pharmacovigilance) delivered the keynote address of the day on 'Economic burden of medicine related harm'. Dr Guru Prasad Mohantha, Dr Amir Sohaili, Dr KV Jagadeesh lead the rest sessions.

The final session of the day was on 'Pharmacoconomics - an Industrial Perspective' by Dr. Amit Dang (President, ISPOR Mumbai and CEO, Marksman Healthcare Communications).

## UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL PHARMACOEPIDEMIOLOGY WORKSHOP

The ISPE UManitoba Student Chapter hosted our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pharmacoepidemiology Workshop on October 22, 2019. Our invited speakers this year were Dr. Silvia Alessi-Severini and Dr. Joseph (Chris) Delaney, both associate professors in the College of Pharmacy at the University of Manitoba and active ISPE members. Attendees included graduate students in pharmacy and community health sciences. Dr. Alessi-Severini started off the morning with an introduction to pharmacoepidemiology research. After a delicious pizza lunch, Dr. Delaney led us through an interactive session on bias in pharmacoepidemiology, highlighting several examples from published studies

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## ONGOING AND PROSPECTIVE ACTIVITIES

We're continuing our monthly journal clubs and were pleased to have Dr. Suzanne Cadarette from University of Toronto join us for a great discussion in November!



### UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

Board: Chengchen Zhang (President), Haeyoung Lee (Vice President), Jannat Saini (Secretary), Oluwadamilola Onasanya (Treasurer)

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### METHOD CLINIC

ISPE Student Chapter at the University of Maryland School of Pharmacy will hold a method clinic about statistical modeling of Bayesian extrapolation of adult clinical trial information for pediatric drug evaluation on December 12th. Method clinic aims at introducing novel methods to pharmacoepidemiology study and encouraging interdisciplinary communication.

### MCGILL UNIVERSITY

Board: Devin Abrahami (president), Araceli Gonzalez Reyes (vice-president), Alvi Rahman (secretary) and Svetlana Puzhko (treasurer).

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### HISTORY

The ISPE McGill Student Chapter was founded in 2019 as a joint effort between the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, and the Department of Family Medicine. Since then, we have recruited over 40 members across both departments. We are thrilled to have joined the ISPE Student Chapter community and look forward to meeting our colleagues at future ISPE meetings! If you would like to stay up to date on ISPE McGill Student Chapter news, please email [ispe.mcgill@mcgill.ca](mailto:ispe.mcgill@mcgill.ca).

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### SPECIAL EVENTS

Our first special event was held in November 2019, where we were pleased to have Dr. Jacques Le Lorier present a seminar on Bayesian statistics in pharmacoepidemiology. The seminar was well attended by both students and faculty, and generated thought-provoking discussion. Our next special event will be a machine learning workshop in February 2020.

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## JOURNAL CLUBS

The chapter has hosted biweekly journal clubs, led by a different ISPE McGill member at each session, where students and faculty discuss methodological issues in recently published papers in pharmacoepidemiology

We are thrilled to have joined the ISPE Student Chapter community and look forward to meeting our colleagues at future ISPE meetings!



## UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA (PENN/CPERT)

Board: Emily Acton (President), Mohsin Shah (Vice President), Pilar Hernandez-Con (Secretary), Neil Dhopeswarkar (Treasurer), Sean Hennessy (Faculty Advisor).

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## 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. Advancing the functional programs and events developed in the past year, Penn's Chapter is continuing to move forward focused on growing and expanding key initiatives.

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## METHODS BOOTCAMPS

These Bootcamps seek to give Chapter members the chance to learn from Penn faculty experts about different epidemiology/ biostatistical methods and techniques, with the goal of extending beyond

the theory taught in classes to the practicalities of using these methods in real data. Upcoming Bootcamps include a series focused around different implementations of propensity scores (matching, inverse probability weighting, and high-dimensional propensity scoring), and a workshop on applications of mixed methods.

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#### PHARMACOEPIDEMOLOGY SALONS/ BROWN BAG LUNCHES

These Salons will be a lunchtime speakers series, where leaders in pharmacoepidemiology from government, industry, and academia will be invited in-person or over skype to meet and share insights from their current jobs and overall career paths with our Chapter members in a causal environment over lunch.

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#### FIELD TRIPS

Building from our joint FDA field trip with the John Hopkins and University of Maryland Student Chapters, we are planning to both repeat this trip, as well as initiate additional trips to local industries and governmental agencies to allow Chapter members to have in-person experiences and get perspectives on different careers opportunities in pharmacoepidemiology.



#### UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

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#### HALLOWEEN ESCAPE ROOM

Following our elections in late September, the University of Toronto SISPE chapter hosted its' first big event of the year. On October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2019, the University of Toronto SISPE chapter completed a spooky Halloween escape room at Casa Loma: *King of the Bootleggers!* We were transported back to the time of prohibition and solved the mystery of the century! This was a huge success as we had a huge turnout and put our problem-solving skills to the test.



We are looking forward to our future events: Study Design Review coming up this month and Holiday Datathon Extravaganza, coming up in December!



## WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

### 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.

This year, the chapter strives to embark on community outreach and health awareness. They have organized many outreach events with the local libraries and high schools in Spokane to bring awareness about the use of medication in special populations such as pediatric and pregnant women. They have also collaborated with the Students for Rare chapter to bring awareness about rare diseases. They organized professional development events for the pharmacy students focused on diseases management in patients with diabetes and HIV.

The WSU chapter hopes to continue to spread awareness in their community about the importance of disease management and medication safety. The chapter plans to host more professional development events to enrich the student's development and give back to their community by increasing their outreach events.



## NEXT NEWSLETTER

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

We are currently liaising with the ISPE Executive Board regarding details for the proposal of a Student Symposium at ICPE 2020. Check back in the next Newsletter for more information and updates on how to get involved.

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

Important dates for 2020:

- ISPE Journal Club Webinar: **February 4, 2020.**
- Abstract Deadline: **February 12, 2020** for the Annual Meeting
- Annual Meeting Student Scholarship Deadline: **March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.**
- Mid-Year Meeting: April **18-21, 2020** at Loew's Royal Pacific Resort in Orlando, Florida.
- 36<sup>th</sup> ICPE Annual Meeting: **August 26-30<sup>th</sup>, 2020** at the Estrel Hotel and Congress Center in Berlin, Germany.
  - The hotel is now accepting reservations. Make you reservation in [English](#) or [German](#).

Happy Holidays to you and your loved ones and warmest wishes for a happy New Year!!!