

Pharmacoeconomics in Southern California; Coming Together

The Inaugural Southern California Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum was held May 17th on the University of California San Diego campus. The event was hosted by the Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences and supported by a grant from Allergan.

The number of individuals in the Southern California region with interest in pharmacoeconomics (PE) is growing rapidly across the healthcare system - from those involved with creation of PE data within pharmaceutical and biotech companies to those incorporating results into decision making within a plethora of managed care organizations. The region provides an excellent opportunity to gather individuals to debate issues, and propose solutions that are vetted from multiple perspectives – not just individual silos defined by employer.

The Applied Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Forum was created to facilitate this cross perspective communication. The goals of the forum are to:

1. Discuss commonly encountered obstacles to conducting or utilizing results of applied pharmacoeconomic studies and explore solutions from various perspectives of the health care system.
2. Create an environment and foundation to foster the creation of a Southern California Pharmacoeconomic and Outcomes Research Interest Group

Attendees of the Inaugural Forum represented Managed Care Organizations, Government Agencies, Medical Centers, Academia, Pharmaceutical and Biotech companies in the Southern California area. Each attendee was invited because they had a demonstrated interest in expanding the practical application of pharmacoeconomic and outcomes research to enhance decision-making.

The topic for this Spring Forum was ***“AMCP Dossiers: Useful for Decision Making or Not? A Debate”*** Four speakers presented views from different perspectives:

Sean Sullivan, Ph.D., University of Washington: Academia and AMCP Format history
Lisa Vivero, Pharm.D., MedImpact Healthcare Systems: Managed Care/PBM
Peter Glassman, MBBS, MSc., VA Greater Los Angeles: Government
Nick Poulos, Ph.D., Elan Pharmaceuticals Inc.: Pharmaceutical Industry

Approximately two-thirds of attendees indicated they were somewhat to very familiar with the requirements of an AMCP Dossier. When asked about their involvement with dossiers, one-third had prepared dossiers, almost 40% had used results for decision making and one-third had planned studies for inclusion in dossiers as a product's value evidence.

Suggestions for next steps and improvements were discussed and debated among the audience and speakers. Key points from the debate:

- 1) Two-thirds of attendees rated AMCP Dossiers as useful to very useful for decision-making

- 2) The AMCP Dossier is a good tool for guiding the creation of PE data to support a product.
- 3) Distribution of Dossiers is not always timely for decision making and forward planning that needs to be done at the healthcare system level.
- 4) The Dossiers are only part - a single input - of a much larger process that needs to be considered.
- 5) The Dossier creation process is working well – the utilization process now needs attention.
- 6) Next challenge: Improve ability of health care systems to synthesize and incorporate Dossier data into their decision making process
- 7) Some ideas to move forward:
 - a. Provide more timely Dossiers – before and at product launch to enhance strategic planning from an economic and clinical perspective
 - b. Issue updates for Dossiers as new data become available
 - c. Increase the number of PE trained staff in healthcare systems to evaluate Dossier data – this is a bottle neck and rate limiting step to incorporating data into decision making processes
 - d. Facilitate creative ways to supplement healthcare systems’ internal review process (e.g., independent group(s) review of Dossier content quality and credibility)

With the success of the first Forum, the steering committee believes we are on our way to accomplishing the Forum’s second goal of fostering the creation of a broad, multi-perspective Pharmaco-economic and Outcomes Research Interest Group in our region. Our committee members representing each major perspective of the healthcare system are:

Charles Daniels, R.Ph., Ph.D.
UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

Ted Ganiats, MD
UCSD School of Medicine

Jan D. Hirsch, R.Ph., Ph.D.
UCSD, Skaggs School of Pharmacy
& Pharmaceutical Sciences

Mirta Millares, Pharm.D., FCSHP, FASHP
Kaiser Permanente – CA Regions

Anthony P. Morreale, Pharm.D., MBA, BCPS
VA San Diego Healthcare System

Frank J. Papatheofanis, MD, MPH, PhD
Aequitas

Robert Schoenhaus, Pharm.D.
UCSD Healthcare Department of Pharmacy

Ray Townsend, Pharm.D.
Elan Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

The Forum is only one of the activities in our larger effort to promote the application of pharmaco-economic and outcomes analyses to provide timely, actionable data for enhanced decision-making regarding the value of pharmaceuticals and medication related services for key across stakeholders in the U.S. health care system. Other activities include education, training, research, and dissemination activities, including Continuing Education Programs to support this goal.

Our second Applied Pharmaco-economic and Outcomes Research Forum will be held this fall. The topic will be “New Biological Agents: Drawing (or Crossing) the line of Cost vs. Benefit?” as voted on by the attendees on May 17th.