

International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care

Special Sections

IJTAHC frequently features Special Sections in its regular issues, which include approximately 8-12 articles on a chosen theme. Past issues of the journal are available for \$27.00 each. Recent issues containing Special Sections are listed below.

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Measuring Health Care Effectiveness: Use of Large Databases for Technology and Quality Assessments

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Guest Editor: David M. Eddy
(Volume 5, No. 4, 1989 and Volume 6, No. 1, 1990)

Technology Assessment and Surgical Policy

Guest Editors: John P. Bunker, Michael Baum
(Volume 5, No. 3, 1989)

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INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT IN HEALTH CARE

History and Purpose

In the modern medical world of rapidly diffusing technologies, the International Society of Technology Assessment in Health Care (ISTAHC) was organized to encourage research, education, cooperation and the exchange of information concerning the clinical and social implications of health care technologies, and to foster their optimal utilization. The term *technology* in this context includes the drugs, devices, and medical and surgical procedures utilized in health care as well as the varied organizational and supportive systems within which health care is provided.

Organized in May 1985, the Society's initial meeting was held in Copenhagen with 60 participants from 16 countries. Society membership is now over 600 with worldwide representation. The ISTAHC 8th Annual Meeting will be held June 14-17, 1992, in Vancouver, Canada.

The Society is primarily concerned with emerging medical technologies as they are developed, produced, disseminated, applied, and costed. Major issues of concern include:

- safety and efficacy
- cost and cost-effectiveness
- ethics
- quality of care
- access to health care
- appropriateness of application
- legal and regulatory considerations
- competing technologies

Society Activities

To shed light on these important issues which, in turn, will foster and enhance the delivery of quality health care, the Society meets annually and also provides ongoing opportunities such as workshops, conferences, and special reports that provide effective international communication and a vibrant exchange of ideas. This intellectual environment is intended to spawn collaborative research on a transnational basis.

Publications

All ISTAHC members receive the official journal of the Society, the *International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care*, published quarterly by Cambridge University Press, with occasional special supplements. Each issue of the journal provides not only essays on important themes, but also lively columns that give a global perspective on a range of technology-related subjects. This scholarly, peer-reviewed journal welcomes contributions from members and non-members alike, about technology and related health care subjects, including reports and reviews. Members also receive the quarterly *ISTAHC Newsletter*.

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Instructions for Contributors

The editors welcome submissions of articles which deal with the wide range of topics related to technology assessment in health care – policy, practice, diffusion, economics, ethics, law, and social and cultural perspectives. Authors should send *three* copies of their manuscript and reserve one copy for their use in checking proofs. Articles must be in English. Spelling, capitalization, and punctuation must be consistent within each article and conform with the 13th Edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style* (University of Chicago Press). Articles and correspondence should be sent to: Stanley J. Reiser, The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, P.O. Box 20708, Houston, Texas 77225, U.S.A.; or Egon Jonsson, The Karolinska Institute and the Swedish Council on Technology Assessment in Health Care, P.O. Box 16158, 103 24 Stockholm, Sweden.

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