



June Insights

Annual Meeting Wrap-Up

The HESI Annual Meeting draws a diverse participant base that includes scientists from the pharma, chemical, agricultural chemical, and consumer products industrial sectors as well as academic, research foundation, NGO, clinical, and government regulatory and research scientists from around the world. Despite their diverse backgrounds, these scientists share an interest in HESI because of their commitment to resolving critical health and safety challenges through an innovative and shared use of resources, expertise, and networks. HESI is a global, nonprofit organization that serves as a multi-sector coordinating platform for scientific progress in the human and environmental health arenas.

This year, HESI welcomed over 98 international participants at the 2016 Annual Meeting, held 7–8 June in Arlington, Virginia. HESI Executive Director Syril Pettit and President Tim Pastoor opened the meeting with an overview of the year and the new 2016–2020 [Strategic Plan](#). This year's meeting also featured 8 case studies from HESI's scientific committees as well as a panel on "Meeting Current and Pending Human and Environmental Health Challenges – How Can We Do Better? Perspectives From Leading Health & Environment Foundations." Panelists included experts from [WERF](#), [PATH](#), and the [FHI Foundation](#). On Tuesday, the CITE Seminar "Getting to Novel Scientific Solutions and Reproducing Them" included presentations from Dr. Anthony Holmes (NC3Rs), Dr. Glenn Begley, and Dr. Tim Errington (Center for Open Science). Finally, invited speaker Dr. Ronald Weiss (Massachusetts Institute of Technology) presented "The Present and Future of Synthetic Biology for the Health & Environmental Sciences" during the Emerging Issues session.

We were thrilled to see so many HESI members and partners attend and hear the innovative work presented by all of the invited speakers. Check our [website](#) for more information and posted presentations soon!



HESI THRIVE - Open Call for Letters of Intent for Research Funding

In the weeks, years, and decades following treatment, or during the treatment itself, many survivors and patients have a significantly higher incidence of severe chronic illness. These severe effects are often an unintended consequence of the drugs and therapies that save their lives. Treatment-induced effects can include cardiomyopathy or failure, pulmonary disease, neurological deficits, liver injury, and endocrine disorders. These effects can have both a physical and emotional toll on patients, their families, and their overall quality of life. The innovative [HESI THRIVE](#) seed grant program fills a critical gap in funding for foundational research in support of future protective therapies, mitigation strategies, and a next generation of drugs that will enhance the ability for cancer patients and survivors to thrive. **Letters of Intent for researchers interested in submitting a full grant proposal are due to HESI by July 15, 2016– [for more info.](#)**

The THRIVE program continues to grow in impact in visibility. A Commentary on this topic and the THRIVE effort (authored by the THRIVE Advisory Board) will be published in *Science Translational Medicine* later this month. On June 9, the HESI was given the opportunity to meet with three staff who support the [White House Cancer Moonshot Taskforce](#). HESI Executive Director, Syril Pettit, THRIVE Advisory Board Member and HESI Trustee, Brian Berridge, and HESI Trustee and Deputy Director for Cancer Research and Technology for the Cancer Moonshot Task Force, Jerry Lee, met with Task Force's Director of Patient Engagement and Senior Director for External Partnerships to share information about the THRIVE program and explore potential future partnerships (photo from the visit below). Stay tuned for future developments!



(Left to Right) Dr. Jerry Lee (Deputy Director for Cancer Research and Technology, Cancer Moonshot

HESI Emerging Issues Annual Prioritization

The HESI Emerging Issues Committee (EIC) presented the 2016 topics selected for prioritization by members during the Annual Meeting. This year, HESI received 21 proposals and the EIC narrowed it down to 2 topics that they believe would benefit from HESI's focused, multi-sector collaborative approach. Proposal submitters presented on the following topics: 1) "The Microbiome in Human Health" presented by Dr. Donna Mendrick (FDA National Center for Toxicological Research), and 2) "Harnessing Expanding Exposure Monitoring Paradigms – A Data Interpretation Toolbox and Quality Criteria for Citizen Scientists" presented by Dr. Erica Jones (ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences). [Proposals](#) and [presentations](#) are available for your review online. HESI stakeholders are being asked to rank these proposals during the summer. You are invited to submit your ranking [online](#) by **8 July 2016**. The EIC will meet in the fall of 2016 to discuss which, if any, proposals will be selected for further action. Overall, a successful session is attributable to EIC leaders Drs. Jose Manautou (University of Connecticut) and Dan Goldstein (Monsanto).

Annual Activities Report

The 2015–2016 Annual Activities Report detailing the latest updates for all 14 HESI Scientific Committees is available online as an [e-flip book here](#). This is a new format for our annual activities report that we hope you will enjoy. Not only are we saving paper, but this format also offers interactive links. Past reports are also available online [here](#). For questions or feedback, e-mail hesi@hesiglobal.org.

New HESI Website Design Launched!


HESI is pleased to announce the launch of our newly designed website: www.hesiglobal.org. The new website gives us the ability to present a more user-friendly and mobile-responsive format. If you are reading this on your mobile device or tablet, check out how easy the homepage is to navigate! With this change, HESI has also integrated our publications with our parent branch, [ILSI](#). Whether you are on the ILSI site or HESI site, you'll find HESI publications. We hope you enjoy this new format. If you have any questions or need help locating information on the new site, please contact Jennifer Pierson (jpierson@hesiglobal.org).

Upcoming Events

HESI and NC3Rs Host Workshop on Mathematical Modeling

HESI and NC3Rs are collaborating to convene a workshop on "Accelerating the Acceptance of Mathematical Models as Evidence in Safety and Efficacy Decision Making" on 14–15 September 2016 in London, England. The workshop will feature speakers from the public and private sectors discussing the latest uses for mathematical modeling as well as challenges and opportunities. Read more and register [here](#).

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Thanks to all the speakers and participants who made HESI's 2016 Annual Meeting such a vibrant representation of the breadth and depth of HESI's scientific reach. We are very pleased to launch HESI's new Strategic Plan with a focus on three core elements: Convene, Translate, Protect. Stay tuned for details on how these strategies will be converted into innovative new programs for HESI and its members in the coming months!

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