



# ISPOR

*Translating Outcomes Research to Health Care Decisions*

**International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research**

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May 8, 2015

Joanna Lis, MSc, PhD  
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Director, Market Access  
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Dear Joanna,

I was sincerely disappointed to convey to you the news that ISPOR will be unable to hold its European Congress in Poland. This decision was made by a team of meeting planning experts who after many hours and weeks of discussions, concluded that, despite the many positive attributes of Poland and in particular Warsaw, as a convention destination, the space configuration offered in the many fine facilities was unable to accommodate ISPOR's needs. The Warsaw convention facilities, hotels and the receptivity of the Polish government are superior and we recognize that many large meetings (much larger than ISPOR) do meet in Warsaw. Unfortunately, our particular meeting has many unique requirements and variables involving concurrent use of small, medium and large meeting rooms as well as poster and exhibit space, therefore, despite a sincere desire to have a meeting in Poland, ISPOR is not able to effectively hold the ISPOR Congress there. This decision, while unfortunate and ill-timed, is in no way a negative reflection of the convention community, government, Poland Chapter or ISPOR membership in the country or region—where we believe there has been outstanding cooperation.

As you know, since Poland was considered as a Congress location, ISPOR has grown to accommodate many new working groups and the overall meetings are now so large that selecting venues has become a challenge. Our main goal is to not disappoint our members by having a venue where the growing number of groups will not fit comfortably or where exhibits and posters are spread out across hallways and perimeters, other buildings or in space that is too small for visitors. We are committed to avoiding situations such as those ISPOR has experienced in some cities in the past where members were not comfortable in session rooms or worse yet, could not attend a session because rooms were too small. For ISPOR today, even the smaller sessions are no longer small.

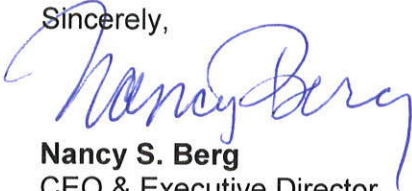
In their review of facilities in Poland, the team explored ten locations including venues in Warsaw, Krakow and Poznań. In this review, they identified size constraints in each location including constraints in the beautiful stadium location you also recommended. When I received from you information on the stadium, I initially thought that this venue would have been suitable for our meeting, however, after closely reviewing the details, I agree that it is not practical.

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We regret that the decision to move this event to Vienna has been personally and professionally disappointing for you. Our aim was to work hard to not disappoint the majority of our members. We understand your frustration with this news and ask in the long run for your continued support of ISPOR and look forward to seeing you in Philadelphia. Please accept our heartfelt apologies for this decision.

Finally, I would like your input on any other communication that you believe should be prepared regarding this decision. I believe all the facilities may already be aware of the decision but no official statements have been made.

Sincerely,



**Nancy S. Berg**

CEO & Executive Director

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CC: Prof. Karina Jahnz-Rozyk, MD