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Official ISOQOL Statement: We Are Committed to Our Mission & International Community

The International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL) is a global, interdisciplinary, close-knit, yet welcoming community of international outcomes researchers, patient partners, clinicians, methodologists, and many other disciplines where the open flow of information is paramount. The Society's strengths are characterized by members' strong sense of belonging and support of each other. Over the last five years in particular, ISOQOL members, along with the broader healthcare community and individuals around the globe, have supported each other through an unprecedented array of global challenges, including the ongoing effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic, budget reductions and funding pressures, and impacts stemming from geopolitical conflicts.

During the most challenging years of the COVID-19 pandemic, ISOQOL managed the financial implications of the Annual Conferences for 2020, 2021, and 2022 by significantly lowering registration fees and accepting significant operational losses. As we entered negotiations for the 2024, 2025, and 2026 Annual Conferences, we observed a substantial increase in hosting expenses. Although ISOQOL has implemented various strategies to minimize costs, registration rates for Regular Members needed to be adjusted accordingly to ensure the viability of continued in-person conferences; Special, Student, Patient, and Retiree registration rates continue to remain unchanged, as it is important to subsidize for those that otherwise may not be able to attend.

Added to the growing costs of attending conferences, we understand the political climate at this time may impact people's ability or interest to travel to the United States. While we understand and agree that this situation is very challenging for many of us, we strongly believe that, when facing situations that threaten to interrupt our scientific pursuits and community, we must strengthen our resolve to work together and continue our collaboration and in-person gatherings to improve the quality of life for all people. The well-being of the world's population and scientific progress depends on our continued collaboration and communication. As a community of like-minded professionals, it is imperative to stand together during such challenging times.

Global gatherings such as the Annual Conference are needed now more than ever.

Conference venues are in high demand globally and decisions are made on the host locations 2-3 years in advance of the conference with financial penalties for any cancellation or amendments to those bookings. The contract for the 2025 conference (Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA) was signed in 2023 and the contract for the 2026 conference (Prague, Czech Republic) was signed in 2024. Therefore, any potential cancellation of events that were planned years in advance would come with a significant penalty, threatening the financial future of our society. Similarly, going hybrid adds significantly to the cost base, necessitating even higher attendance rates than usual to break even. We therefore encourage you to stand together with all your international colleagues and gather in person, like every year, to make our popular Annual Conference a success. As for locations for future meetings, these are still flexible. ISOQOL's Leadership is actively monitoring the political climate and will continue to do so while deciding where to meet in 2027 and beyond.

We hope that, amid uncertainty and change, ISOQOL and the Annual Conference will be an anchor for all of you. ISOQOL Leadership is continuously assessing the rapidly changing landscape to identify the most strategic and impactful ways to support the needs of our community. As always, we encourage you to share your concerns or ask questions via email (info@isoqol.org) or through the [ISOQOL Listens contact form](#).

Together, we are creating a future in which patient perspective is integral to health research, care and policy.

Josephine Norquist *Klocks. S. Nolte*