

My name is Virginia Wiseman and I live in Sydney Australia with my three children, partner, and dog. Outside work, I love going to the beach with my family, watching most sports, and travelling. I am Professor of Health Economics at the Kirby Institute, University of New South Wales, in Sydney Australia. I also have a small fractional appointment with the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine. I have a PhD in Health Economics from Curtin University (Australia), a Diploma in Health Economics from Tromsø University (Norway), and an Honours Degree in Economics from Monash University (Australia). I am currently excited to be leading several research collaborations including a new Global Centre for the Economics of Infectious Diseases and a 4-year study measuring equity in Indonesia's health financing system. I have been Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Health Policy and Planning* since 2015. Over the years, I have been fortunate to work with many wonderful people. Of special note is my PhD supervisor and friend, the late Professor Gavin Mooney, who showed me how equity can be pursued in practice and not just paraded as a policy goal. He also taught me that health economics is an evolving paradigm with plenty of room to draw in new ideas. Principles that I believe are core to IHEA.

I first joined IHEA in 1999 and since then I have attended almost every congress. I have many fond memories of these meetings including a plenary talk by the late Professor Victor Fuchs at the 1999 IHEA Congress in Rotterdam titled *The Future of Health Economics*, in which he cautioned members to continue exploring "profitable inter-disciplinary research" but never to lose sight of our "core roots in economics". In between congresses, I have had the great experience of convening the Health Financing for Universal Health Coverage Special Interest Group (SIG) with Hasbullah Thabrany, Jo Borghi, Manon Haemmerli, Edwine Barasa, Jacob Novignon, Laura Anselmi, Peter Binyaruka, and Jacopo Gabani. Our SIG has grown to 150+ members, hosting pre-congress workshops and panel discussions, organised sessions at congresses, and webinars. In 2018, I was voted onto the IHEA Board and in this role, co-developed new SIG guidelines, new Equity Diversity, and Inclusion guidelines; and as a member of the IHEA Capacity Strengthening Working Group, provided mentorship in writing congress abstracts and publishing in health economics.

It is a privilege to run for President of IHEA. In the wake of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen increased recognition amongst governments of the returns that can come from investing in people's health and in health systems. Health economics and IHEA have become more relevant than ever. It is my goal to link more policy makers to the work of our members through for example policy plenaries at our congresses and new webinars with policy discussants. Inclusiveness is something else I value highly. While our membership is more diverse than when I joined in 1999, IHEA's 2023 Congress Report shows that we can do better especially in regions such as Latin America and Oceania. I would reach out to members and associations from those regions to understand and address barriers to engagement. But we must look beyond geography. IHEA's Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Strategy describes a pathway for engaging members across all career stages and backgrounds. My intention is to closely support its implementation and work with all of you to find new solutions to bridge barriers. I would also welcome the opportunity to work with the finance committee and others to identify new funding opportunities especially from philanthropy to keep our fees as low as possible.

I would like to conclude by thanking our current president and president-elect, Professors Audrey Laporte and Kara Hanson for their strong leadership, and to Professor Di McIntyre for her incredible work ethic and kindness towards members. I pledge to do my best to live up to their high standards and to your high expectations of an IHEA president. To the other nominees, I wish them all the very best and know if elected, you would do a wonderful job and have my full support.