

CIRS Q1 2026 Newsletter

Your quarterly update on CIRS meetings, global engagements, and research studies advancing medicine regulation and HTA.

Workshop on Patient Involvement in the Asia-Pacific

Building capacity for patient involvement

We recently convened a multi-stakeholder workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, in collaboration with the Singapore Duke-NUS Centre of Regulatory Excellence (CoRE). This meeting brought together patient groups, regulators, HTA agencies and companies to discuss practical strategies for strengthening patient engagement (PE) and use of patient experience data (PED) in regulatory and HTA decision making across the Asia-Pacific.

What was discussed

Building on themes from our [October 2025 workshop](#), participants explored:

- The role of PE and PED in regulatory and HTA decision making
- Barriers to embedding PE and PED in agency processes
- Opportunities to apply existing tools, frameworks and best practices.

What's next?

A workshop synopsis will be published soon.

The learnings and recommendations from this meeting will hopefully help to support capacity-building efforts for patient involvement across the Asia-Pacific.



Regulatory and HTA Agency Fora

Alongside the patient involvement workshop, we hosted two agency fora:

- Regulators Forum – discussing practical approaches for effective collaboration and reliance
- HTA Agencies Forum – examining emerging global trends shaping the future of HTA

Across both meetings, participating agencies shared their experiences, priorities and perspectives, as well as recommendations to CIRS on research that could help address ongoing challenges.

A common topic of discussion was the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in regulatory and HTA processes – an area we will explore further in our upcoming workshop on ‘AI in Regulatory and HTA/Pricing Submission and Review’.



100th R&D Briefing Published

For more than 30 years, CIRS R&D Briefings have provided independent, evidence-based insight into the evolving regulatory and HTA landscape.

Our 100th R&D Briefing marks a major milestone, looking back at decades of benchmarking studies, multi-stakeholder workshops, and collaborative activities to identify best practices.

Thank you to all our stakeholders for your continued engagement and support.



[DOWNLOAD BRIEFING](#)

2026 Research Agenda Launched

The [CIRS 2026 Research Agenda](#) sets out this year's priorities across both Regulatory and HTA workstreams. The agenda reflects ongoing discussions with our committees and wider stakeholders and highlights the areas where CIRS aims to generate strategic insights and support improvements across the regulatory and HTA landscapes.

[EXPLORE 2026
RESEARCH PRIORITIES](#)

[REVIEW 2025
OUTCOMES](#)



Briefings & Reports

- [CIRS R&D Briefing 100](#) – Four decades of evidence, insight, and impact
- [CIRS 2025 Workshop Synopsis](#) – Navigating national decision making post Joint Clinical Assessment (JCA): Enablers, barriers and the path forward
- [CIRS 2025 Workshop Report](#) – Meaningful patient involvement in regulatory and HTA decision making: Current practices and impact on the final assessment

Journal Articles

- Ismail AJ, Darko DM, Walker S and Salek S (2026) [The African Medicines Agency: historical perspective of its origins, evolution, institutional structure and future prospects](#). Front. Med. 13:1763261.
- Sola-Barrado B, Wang T, McAuslane N. [HTA submission strategies and their associations with rollout times and type of HTA recommendation in Australia and Canada](#). Int J Technol Assess Health Care. 2026;42(1):e20. Published 2026 Feb 9.

Conference Posters

- [The HTA landscape of orphan products in the UK between 2019 and 2024](#)
- [HTA Submission Trends for EMA-Approved Oncology NASs Prior to the EU HTA Regulation \(2018-2023\)](#)
- [The Canadian HTA Landscape \(2020-2023\): A Comparative Study of CDA-AMC and INESSS Recommendations](#)

Stay tuned for our [regulatory agency benchmarking](#) briefing, to be published next month.



Where to Meet Us

[FOLLOW CIRS](#)

DIA Europe, 24-26 March, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

- Dr Magda Bujar | Speaker | Regulatory Authorities' Collaboration: Navigating the Maze to Optimise Global Regulatory Strategy Development (S0412)
- Dr Tina Wang | Panellist | China Town Hall Bridging the Gap: From Regulatory Convergence to Value Co-creation (S0402)

DIA China, 13-16 May, Shanghai, China

- Dr Tina Wang | Speaker | International HTA Collaboration

HTAi Annual Meeting, 6-10 June, Istanbul, Turkey

- Dr Tina Wang | Speaker | HTA in China: Enabling Patient Access Through Evolving Reimbursement and Policy Processes (PN35)