

A brief history of the Immunization Economics Community of Practice

Opening remarks by Logan Brenzel, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

loganbrenzel@gmail.com



IMMUNIZATION
ECONOMICS.ORG

A bit of history

- Costing of immunization programs really began in the early 1980s
- UCI (Universal Childhood Immunization) provided an opportunity to evaluate the cost and cost-effectiveness of routine programs vs campaigns → new methods developed
- Immunization financing and funding gaps were examined in the early 1990s
- Gavi: country commitment to financial sustainability of immunization programs
 - Financial sustainability planning important for introducing new vaccines
 - Cost-effectiveness modeling of new vaccines
 - Investment cases
 - NUVI costing guidance

Gaining momentum

In the 2000s: Handful of researchers primarily in Europe and North America pursuing independent work

2012: EPIC studies aimed to evaluate routine immunization costs and financing that had introduced pentavalent; also costs of NUVI

- Methods
- Large datasets
- Community of researchers from Honduras, Moldova, Benin, Ghana, Uganda and Zambia and global/regional level– capacity building
- Dissemination of a wide range of materials – needed a platform

Creation of the Community of Practice

- 2015: Website created by HSPH to showcase methods and results from EPIC1 in Open Access platform
 - Housed data on Harvard Dataverse
 - Open submission feature – anyone can disseminate their work
 - 150 or so users
- **Official launch of the newsletter and the CoP in February 2017**
 - 65 newsletter editions since
- Advisory Group launched in 2021 – focusing on longer term sustainability of the CoP



Website platform components



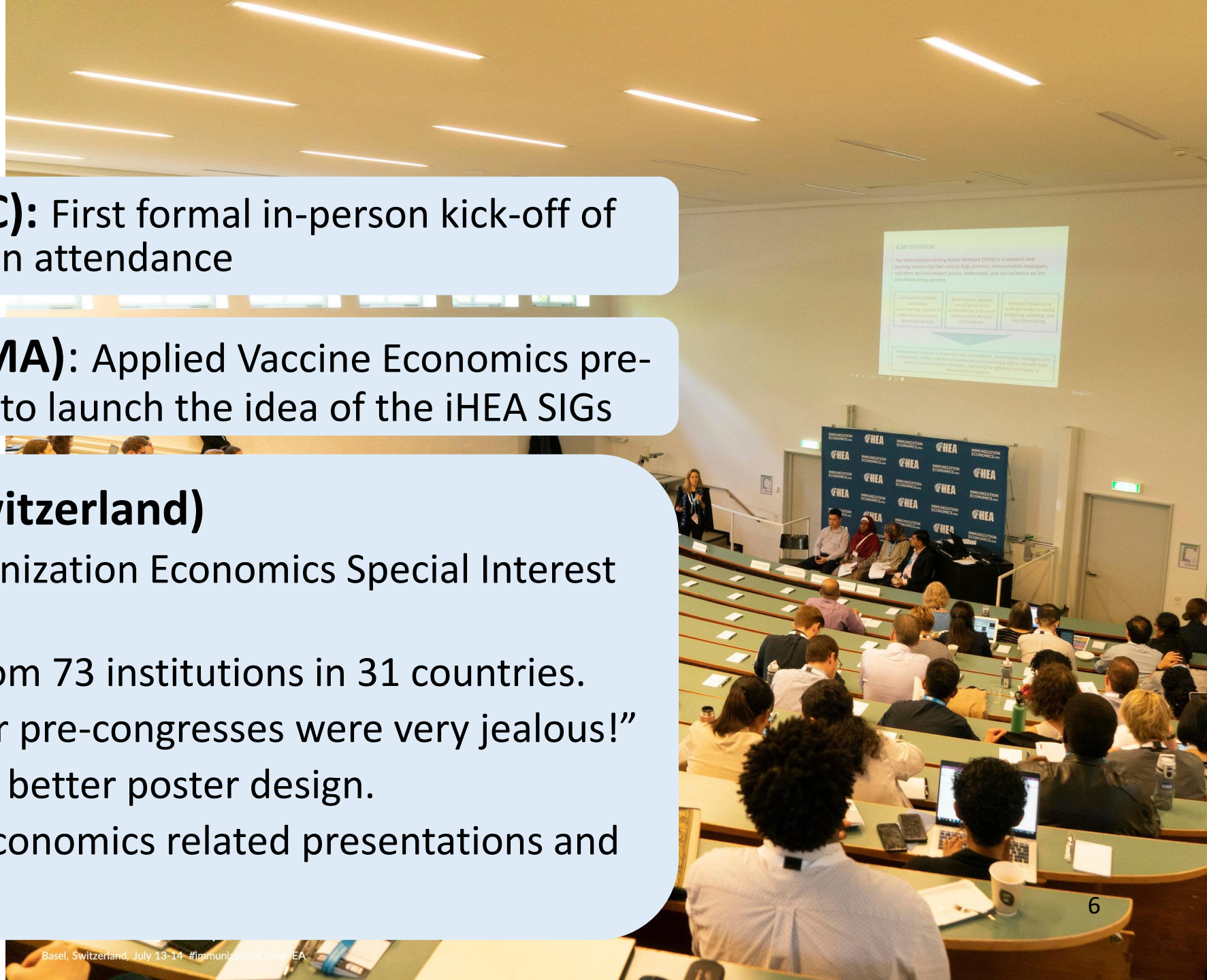
Events

2015 (Washington, DC): First formal in-person kick-off of the COP with ~50 people in attendance

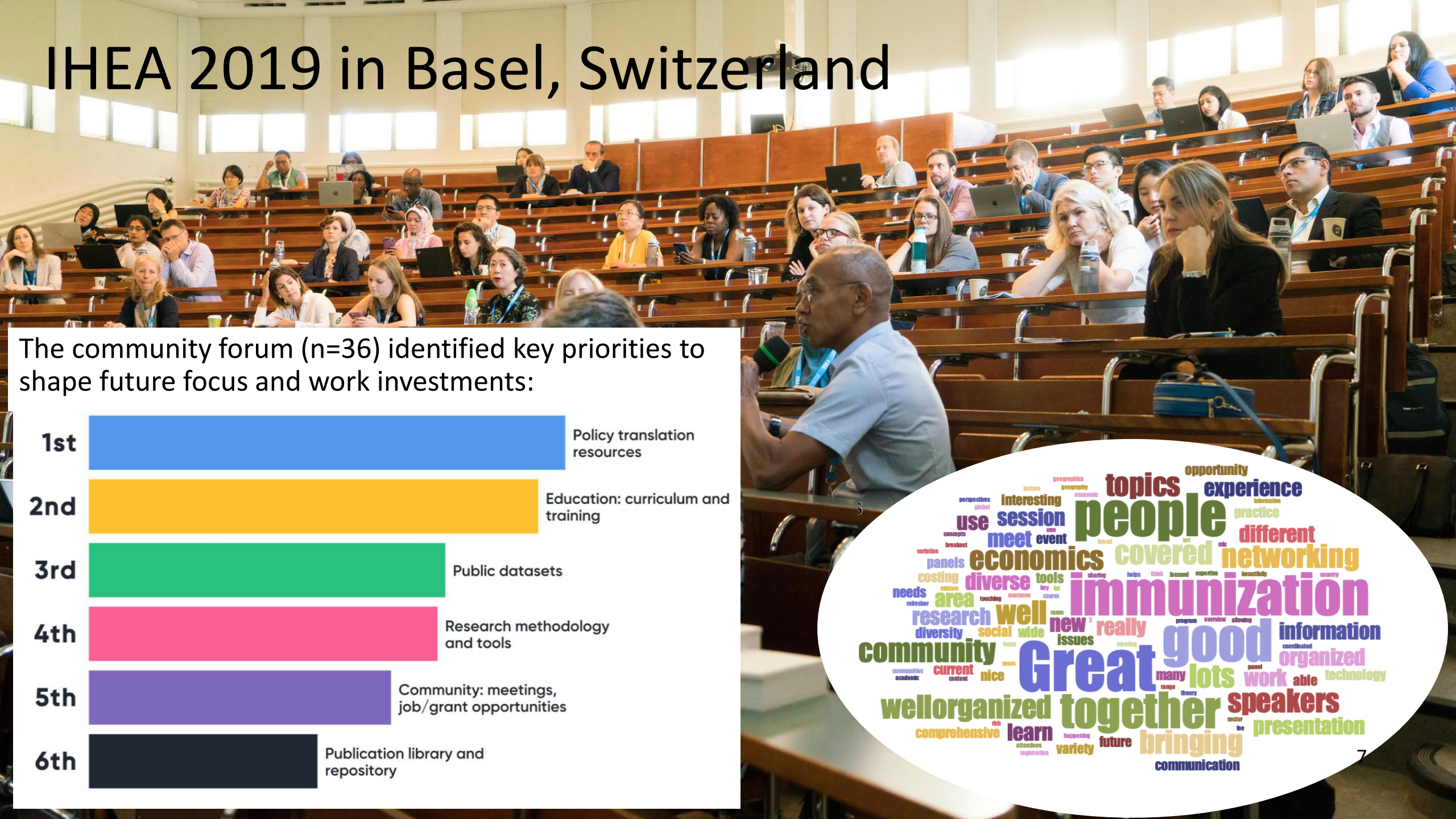
IHEA 2017 (Boston, MA): Applied Vaccine Economics pre-Congress session helped to launch the idea of the iHEA SIGs

IHEA 2019 (Basel, Switzerland)

- Founded the Immunization Economics Special Interest Group (SIG)
- 126 participants from 73 institutions in 31 countries.
- “Attendees of other pre-congresses were very jealous!”
- Experimented with better poster design.
- 47 immunization economics related presentations and posters at IHEA



IHEA 2019 in Basel, Switzerland



The community forum (n=36) identified key priorities to shape future focus and work investments:

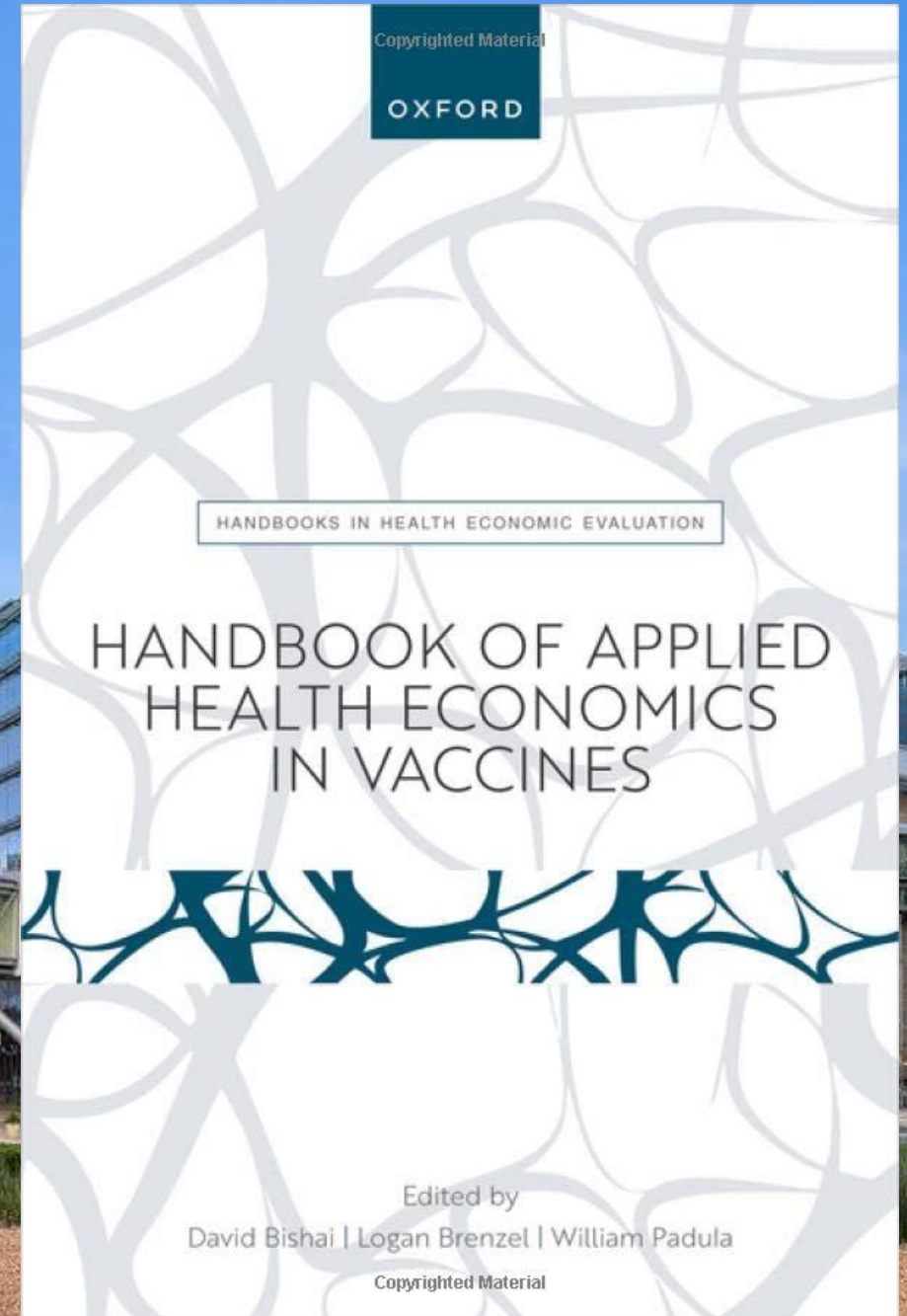


IHEA 2023

72 immunization economics related presentations and posters

Applying Economic Principles to Vaccine Programs-
Tuesday 3:30-5:00 pm, Room 1.42

Thank You



Thank you



**IMMUNIZATION
ECONOMICS.ORG**