

# HTAI Annual Meeting 2008

## SYMPOSIUM #2 Sunday July 6<sup>th</sup>, 9-11AM

### **Multi Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) in healthcare decisionmaking: towards transparent and quantifiable approaches**

**Discussion Leaders:** **Mireille M Goetghebeur PhD**, VP Operations, BioMedCom Consultants Inc, Montreal, QC, Canada; **Louis Niessen MD, PhD**, Senior Researcher, Erasmus Medical Center, Institute for Medical Technology Assessment, Rotterdam, The Netherlands; **Hanane Khoury PhD**, Senior Research Application Associate, BioMedCom Consultants Inc, Montreal, QC, Canada; **Monika Wagner PhD**, Director Research Application, BioMedCom Consultants Inc, Montreal, QC, Canada; **Elizabeth Timberlake Kinter MHS**, Bloomberg School of Public Health, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, USA; **Peter Melnyk PhD**, Associate Director Research Application, BioMedCom Consultants Inc, Montreal, QC, Canada; **Donna Rindress PhD**, President and Managing Director, BioMedCom Consultants Inc, Montreal, QC, Canada

**Background:** Multi-Criteria Decision Analysis (MCDA) is an established method that is widely used in various disciplines. This quantifiable approach facilitates decisionmaking by structuring information and allowing scoring of relevant individual components. Comprehensive MCDA approaches have recently been employed to aid decisionmaking in the context of healthcare and are relevant to current debates regarding evidence and healthcare decisions.

**Objectives:** This symposium aims to raise awareness of MCDA approaches and to facilitate collaborative work in this area among healthcare stakeholders at the local and international levels. In particular, this symposium will apply this specific method in a relevant area of healthcare planning.

**Overview:** The symposium will be structured to give an overview of MCDA methods from theory to context and application in a logical manner, combining presentations followed by practical exercises, applying this specific method in a relevant context of healthcare planning, in accordance with the conference theme HTA in context. Presentations will be followed by a panel discussion on current challenges in healthcare decisionmaking.

**Expected outcomes:** Participants will leave this symposium with basic knowledge of MCDA methodology and hands-on experience in application of one approach. Discussions should stimulate ideas for application of transparent approaches to decision support by participants in their own environments.