

HARMONIZATION MEETING – SOUTH AFRICA, Monday October 14, 2019

AGENDA

- 9:30 AM Status of HRS Around the World Studies - Jim Smith
- 10:30 Doing Retrospective Surveys- Why and How
 - Axel Borsch-Supan and Yaohui Zhao
- 12:00 PM HCAP and Dementia – Current Status – Ken Langa
- 1:30 New Malaysian Study “MARS”
 – Professor Norma Mansor of University of Malaya-
- 2:15 Status of Other Potential New HRS Around the World Studies - Jim Smith
- 2:30 Update on How To Do Sleep and Exercise in HRS Surveys Using Objective
Measurement – David Weir
- 3:15 Jinkook Lee’s Update on Measuring External Pollution in HRS Network
 - Ken Langa
- 3:30 The Importance of Economics in HRS Surveys - Axel Borsch-Supan
- 3:45 Recommendations from BSR/NIA Perspective - John Haaga of BSR
- 4:00 Future HRS’s Around the World Meetings - Place and Agenda - Jim Smith

SUMMARY

On Oct 14-16, Jim Smith attended a three-day meeting in Johannesburg South Africa. The meeting on the first day was the 4th meeting of the RAND grant on improving harmonization of health and retirement studies (HRS) around the world. Jim Smith is the PI of this grant and supervised the meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to improve the scientific and policy content of the HRS around the world studies. These studies now exist in more than forty countries around the world covering more than 70% of the population ages 60 and above in the world (including the USA, continental Europe, the British Isles [England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, China, Indonesia, India, Japan, South Korea, South Africa, Mexico and Brazil]). The meeting was also attended by the director of the BSR division of NIA (John Haaga).

Presentations were made by invited scientists to improve the content of these surveys and included presentations on retrospective sub-surveys, objective measures of sleep and exercise, external pollution levels, dementia, and the importance of economics in the life of aging people around the globe. A presentation was also made by Professor Norma Mansor who is now leading a new entrant into this country network from Malaysia. In the next few years, there will be additional meetings of this group of people in this network on other important subject areas to harmonize.

In the second day of these meetings, Jim Smith led the discussions and negotiations with the leaders from the four BRICS countries in this network - Brazil, India, China, and South Africa. Without abandoning the full country network, these four leaders agreed to form a BRICS sub-group which will collaborate closely with each other on substantive aging issues by holding conferences and meetings in the four countries.

The third and final day of the meeting was focused fully on the South African Survey – HAALSI - and was led by professors Steve Tollman from Wits University in South Africa and Lisa Berkman from Harvard University in the United States.