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## Econometrics of Health Care (Advanced Studies in Theoretical and Applied Econometrics)

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## Econometrics of Health Care (Advanced Studies in Theoretical and Applied Econometrics):

Econometrics of Health Care - which we have sometimes called 'medico metrics' - is a field in full expansion. The reasons are numerous: our knowledge of quantitative relations in the field of health econometrics is far from being perfect, a large number of analytical difficulties - combining medical (latent factors, e. g. ) and economic facts (spatial behaviour, e. g. ) are faced by the research worker, medical and pharmaceutical techniques change rapidly, medical costs rocket more than proportionally with available resources, of being tightened. medical budgets are in the process So it is not surprising that the practice of 'hygieconometrics' - to produce a neologism - is more and more included in the programmes of econometricians. The Applied Econometrics Association has devoted to the topic two symposia in less than three years (Lyons, February 1983; Rotterdam, December 1985), without experiencing any difficulties in getting valuable papers: on econometrics of risks and medical insurance, on the measurement of health status and of efficiency of medical techniques, on general models allowing simulation. These were the themes for the second meeting, but other aspects of medical-economic problems had presented themselves already to the analyst: medical decision making and its consequences, the behaviour of the actors - patients and physicians -, regional medicometrics and what not: some of them have been covered by the first meeting. Finally, in July 1988 took place in Lyons the Fourth International Conference on System Science in Health Care; it should not be astonishing .