Reuneker, Alex & Boogaart, Ronny
Leiden University, The Netherlands

Implicatures of conditionals: Arguments and connections
The crucial role of conditionals in theories of argumentation is obvious from their role in the logical argument schemes of modus ponens and modus tollens. As pointed out by van Eemeren & Snoeck Henkemans (2017, p. 51), such connecting premises, as in 1.1' below, are typically more informative than is captured by 'if...then' statements in logic.

1. Ronald's headache will go away now.
1.1 He just took two aspirins.
(1.1') (Aspirins make headaches go away.)

In fact, we argue for two implicatures triggered by the explicit use of conditional constructions, as in 2.

2. If you take an aspirin your headache will go away

The first (internal) implicature involves the causal or inferential connection between the events in the conditional (see Reuneker 2022), as made explicit in 1.1'. The second (external) implicature pertains to the function of the conditional as a whole in the wider context - in actual language, a conditional is typically used as an argument for an unexpressed standpoint ('take the aspirin!').