There have been some exciting developments in HEHTA since our first newsletter was published in June 2015. Professor Olivia Wu has taken over the role of Director of HEHTA and Dr Emma McIntosh as deputy Director. Professor Andy Briggs heads off on sabbatical to the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York, and we are delighted to be joined by a number of new researchers from all around the world.

HEHTA’s MSc in Health Technology Assessment has successfully been implemented online and the first cohort of online distance learners has begun. The Decision Analytic Modelling course, a collaboration between the University of Glasgow and the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York, ran from 28th -30th September and marked the 10th anniversary of this course being offered. More than 100 participants attended the week long course in Glasgow.

In this issue we report on the recently published cost-effectiveness analysis of the ‘Football Fans in Training’ study and highlight recent published public health economics research evaluating a radical foster care intervention programme in Glasgow. We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. For further details about HEHTA’s work or to contact us for more information please visit : www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/research/hehta/

The HEHTA Newsletter team

Twitter.com/HEHTAGlasgow

Welcome to the HEHTA Newsletter

Professor Olivia Wu – Inaugural Lecture

Professor Olivia Wu delivered her Inaugural Lecture on the 28th October entitled “Evidence Synthesis – the art of seeing the wood and the trees”. Olivia’s lecture discussed her career in evidence synthesis and meta-analyses as well as providing insights from her role at NICE as a member of the Technology Appraisal Committee. Olivia outlined her future research plans including HEHTA’s role in the NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit (CRSU). The lecture was very well attended and was followed by a surprise HEHTA champagne reception. This reception also marked the last day for Dr Kathleen Boyd before she commences maternity leave.

New Director of HEHTA

We are pleased to announce that Professor Olivia Wu has taken over the role of Director of HEHTA as from September 2015. Dr Emma McIntosh is now deputy Director. HEHTA’s executive team comprising Olivia Wu, Andy Briggs, Emma McIntosh, Kathleen Boyd, Jim Lewsey and Hannah Hesselgreaves meet regularly to oversee the running of HEHTA.
Development of a radical foster care intervention in Glasgow, Scotland

There is evidence that current services for maltreated children are inadequate and lack infant mental health input in many parts of the world. A recent audit of services in Glasgow revealed that children frequently ‘revolve’ between maltreating birth parents and various temporary foster placements for many years. Addressing infant mental health in this population will likely require radical change to current services.

The New Orleans programme developed by the Tulane Infant Team in Louisiana is one such radical programme. Prior to the design of a randomized controlled trial (RCT) to test this programme in Glasgow, it was essential that policymakers had some insight into the local model of service delivery and how the New Orleans model could impact.

This research explores the structure and costs of the current Glasgow system and the potential costs and consequence impact of implementing a New Orleans model in Glasgow, using data obtained from the research literature, Glasgow City Council audit data and expert opinion.

A New Orleans-Glasgow model would likely shift resources from social services on to the NHS. The resource intensive nature of this model could increase the cost of an episode in care from £86 300 in the current system to £86 070; however, the probability of repeated episodes in care is likely to fall substantially, making the cost per child fall from £95 500 in the current system to £86 600. This study informed the design of a phase II explorative RCT, identified appropriate outcomes for measurement and areas of uncertainty for further research.


Decision Analytic Modelling Course

The latest run of this course took place on the 26th September – 30th September, with in excess of 100 participants attending. The course has been running now for 10 years, and now offers a two-day foundation course on decision analytic modelling methods plus a further three-day course at an advanced level. Dates for next year’s foundations course are: Monday 26th – Tuesday 27th September 2016 and the advanced course dates are: Wednesday 28th – Friday 30th September 2016. Full details and registration on our website.

MSc in Health Technology Assessment (HTA)

The MSc HTA started as a face-to-face taught programme in 2013/14. We had 2 students graduate in 2014 and 5 graduating in 2015. In 2016, we expect 3 more students to graduate with the MSc and 1 with a Diploma. This academic year (2015/16) we have changed the delivery mode from face-to-face to online distance learning (ODL) and we already have 10 ODL part-time students registered. In 2016/17 the programme will be delivered both as part-time and full-time ODL. The structure of the programme is as follows:

Core courses (credits) – HTA: policy & principles (20); Statistical methods for HTA (20); Health economics for HTA (20)

Optional courses – Outcome measurement (10); Qualitative methods (10); Decision Analytic Modelling for HTA (20)*; HTA in a global context (20); Survival analysis for HTA (10); Foundations of Decision Analytic Modelling (10); Evidence synthesis (20); Analysis of linked health data (20)

ODL teaching allows for flexibility in how students learn and accumulate credits, and also reduces the costs of studying and obtaining qualifications compared to face-to-face programmes.

All the courses will be available for anyone to take as part of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) from 2016/17, with Health Economics for HTA being offered from April-June 2016.
Macmillan Cancer Care fundraiser

HEHTA combined forces with Public Health to host a coffee morning which raised in excess of £500 for Macmillan Cancer Care.

Modelling workshop and surgery

Dr Neil Hawkins from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, ran a workshop in HEHTA on 8-9th October. The workshop covered the key steps in developing conceptual models in the early stages of economic evaluations. This was followed by a modelling ‘surgery’ where specific questions about modelling problems were addressed and discussed.

Janet Boutell has joined HEHTA as a Research Assistant, having completed one year on the MSc in HTA. Janet will be working with Jim Lewsey, Emma McIntosh and Danny Mackay evaluating the Alcohol Act and other interventions for NHS Health Scotland.

Jennie Clark has joined the team full-time as an Administrative Assistant, having been with us part-time for the past few summers. Jennie has just finished her MSc in Translation at Glasgow University.

Nicola McMeekin joins HEHTA as a Research Assistant, having just completed HEHTA’s MSc in HTA in August 2015. Her interests lie in economic evaluation alongside clinical trials and decision analytic modelling.

Ping Hsuan Hsieh joins us as a visiting researcher for 6 months. Ping has an MSc in Transdisciplinary Long Term Care and a BSc in Pharmacy. During his time with HEHTA, Ping Hsuan will work on research projects led by Professor Olivia Wu, and he will also be learning methodological approaches to HTA.

Bruno Riveros is a visiting postgraduate research students from Brazil. He is carrying out his PhD project which lies on assessing the efficiency of different strategies for treating obesity/overweight. To do this, an adaptation from Scottish Cardiovascular Diseases Policy Model to the Brazilian setting was performed. In parallel, he is developing a conceptual model for projects currently in progress.

Minnie Parmiter has also joined HEHTA on part-time basis. Minnie has a background in epidemiology and is currently completing her PhD on infectious disease modelling at Glasgow University. Minnie will be working with Eleanor Grieve on economic evaluations within the Global HTA theme.

And its goodbye to …..

Julian Nam was with HEHTA for two years, working on modelling for various projects including BEAT-IT Individual Therapy Trial, and Comparison of close contact cast (CCC) technique to open surgical internal fixation (ORIF) in the treatment of unstable ankle fractures in patients over 60 years. Julian is planning on enjoying some travelling before focusing on his career in health economics back in Canada.

Dr Lindsay Govan spent several years working at HEHTA. Lindsay held an MRC Fellowship and worked on a number of projects investigating the costs and complications of diabetes, and NHS weight management strategies.

Spotlight on …

Football Fans in Training

Obesity in men is rising but few men take part in existing weight management programmes. A men-only weight management programme was developed by Professor Sally Wyke and her team at Glasgow University accompanied by an economic evaluation carried out by HEHTA researchers Eleanor Grieve, Nicole Boyer and Liz Fenwick. Football Fans in Training (FFIT) was specifically designed to be delivered in Scottish professional football clubs by club community coaches. In the 12 weekly sessions, men learnt about diet and healthy living for weight loss, how to set goals and monitor their eating and physical activity, and tips for making long-term changes. The FFIT programme also included a pedometer-based walking programme, group physical activity sessions at the football club and some ongoing support including a reunion session at the club.

FFIT was the first randomised controlled trial of a health programme in a professional sports club setting. Out of 747 men who wanted to participate in FFIT, 374 were randomly assigned to participate immediately and 374 to be in a comparison group who participated a year later. Men completing the FFIT programme lost 4.94kg more weight than men in the comparison group. They also had smaller waist circumferences, lower percentage body fat and lower blood pressure, reported higher levels of physical activity, better diets and felt better about themselves.

FFIT was shown to be cost-effective. There was also evidence that the programme was well-delivered by the coaches and attracted men at high risk of ill health. The club setting proved to be a crucial factor in attracting men to FFIT.


L to R: Nicola, Ping, Janet, Hannah and Jennie

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Presentations

‘Financial incentives for smoking cessation in pregnancy.’ Kathleen Boyd, Ash Scotland Conference 2015: Towards a generation free from tobacco: turning the vision into reality, The John McIntyre Centre, University of Edinburgh, 16.5.15.

‘A two-part literature review to identify economic evaluations of school-based programmes that improve social and emotional wellbeing in children.’ Nicki Boyer. HAWKES, University of Glasgow, 6.5.15.


‘Methods of accounting for reverse causality in studies of the cost of ageing and time-to-death.’ Claudia Geue, Olivia Wu, Jim Lewsey, Alistair Leyland, HESG Summer Conference, Lancaster University, 22.6.15.

iDSI Impact Assessment. Eleanor Griev, iHEA World Congress, Milan, 12.7.15.


‘A Policy Model of Alcohol-related Harms for Predicting Life Years and Quality-adjusted Life Years’ Pattara Leelahavarong, HESG Summer Conference, Lancaster University, 22.6.15.

‘Economic modelling in clinical trial-based economic evaluations: empirical examples of its effect on the precision of economic and decision outcomes’ Julian Nam, iHEA World Congress, Milan, 12.7.15.

‘Is a new pharmacoeconomic model demanded for obesity’s pharmacotherapy assessment?’ Bruno Riveros, Rosa Lucchetta, Rosa Radomińska, Cassyano Correr, Olivia Wu, University of Glasgow, 8.6.15.

‘Methods of accounting for reverse causality in studies of the cost of ageing and time-to-death’ Olivia Wu, HESG Summer Conference, Lancaster University, 22.6.15.

iDSI Evidence Working Group, Olivia Wu, iHEA World Congress, Milan, 12.7.15.

‘iDSI Impact Assessment in the session ‘International Decision Support Initiative (iDSI): Prioritising and producing policymaker-relevant economic evaluation, and measuring the impact of better decisions.’ Eleanor Griev, Andrew Briggs, iHEA, Milan, 15.7.15.

‘Counting the costs: complexities, challenges and interim outcomes of the economic analysis in BeST?’ Kathleen Boyd, Infant Mental Health for Children in Foster Care Conference, Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow, Glasgow, 28.8.15.

‘Geographic variation of infantile care costs at the end of life’ Claudia Geue, Olivia Wu, Jim Lewsey, Alistair Leyland, Terry Quinn, Farr Institute International Conference, St Andrews, 26.8.15.

‘A policy model of alcohol-related harms to predict life years, quality adjusted life years and lifetime costs.’ Pattara Leelahavarong, Farr Institute International Conference, St Andrews, 26.8.15.

‘Cost-effective management of bronchiolitis in infants: 90% versus 94% oxygen saturation’ Kathleen Boyd, Emma McIntosh, European Respiratory Society International Congress 2015, Amsterdam, 28.9.15.

‘Population ageing and proximity to death: What are the implications for healthcare expenditure?’ Claudia Geue, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Rostock, Germany, 21-23.9.15.


‘Statistical Methods for Pharmacoeconomics & Outcomes Research’ Andrew Briggs, 18th ISPOR Annual European Congress, Milan, Italy, 7.11.15.

‘Introduction to the Economic Analysis of Diagnostics,’ Andrew Briggs, 18th ISPOR Annual European Congress, Milan, Italy, 9.11.15.

‘Partitioned survival versus state transition modelling in oncology: a case study with Nivolumab in advanced melanoma’, Andrew Briggs, 18th ISPOR Annual European Congress, Milan, Italy, 9.11.15.

Publications


