



University
of Glasgow

School of Health
& Wellbeing

HEHTā NEWSLETTER

JAN - MAR 2026

VIVA SUCCESS FOR JOAN

In March, we celebrated PhD student Joan Quigley's successful defence of her thesis 'Exploring Rapid Evidence Synthesis Methods for Policy: A Case Study of Healthcare Regionalisation'. Joan was supervised by HEHTA's Neil Hawkins and Kate O'Donnell.



THE HIGH COST OF POOR HOUSING ON HEALTH

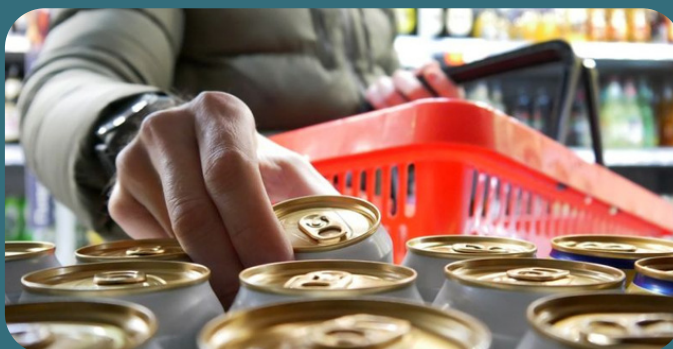
A new report published in January for the Scottish Futures Trust and Public Health Scotland highlights the scale of the health and financial implications of poor-quality housing in Scotland. The study 'Housing Quality and Health - an Economic Analysis' examines how issues such as damp, inadequate heating, and structural problems contribute to preventable illness and how these conditions place pressure on public services. The research was led by Kathleen Boyd, with contributions from Nishant Jaiswal and Francesco Manca.

SUCCESS STORY

Dr Mistry Fund Award to Support PMDD Research

We are pleased to announce Research Associate Dikshyanta Rana has received the Dr Mistry Fund Award for her project, 'Towards a Community-Informed Understanding of the Economic Burden of Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder (PMDD) in the UK'.

This award will support Dikshyanta's mixed methods research to strengthen the UK PMDD Research Agenda, inform future funding applications, and contribute evidence directly relevant to NHS policy.



NEW STUDY TO ASSESS ALCOHOL PRICING POLICY

A new NIHR-funded study led Jim Lewsey, will evaluate the impact of Scotland's increase in minimum unit pricing (MUP) for alcohol to 65p per unit in 2024. The research, which starts on 1 February, will examine effects on alcohol consumption, alcohol-related health harms, household finances and health inequalities, comparing outcomes in Scotland with England, where MUP is not in place.

The team, including Francesco Manca, Eliud Kibuchi, and Peter Craig, will work alongside collaborators at The University of Sheffield, University of Stirling, Public Health Scotland, Scottish Ambulance Service and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.



NEW PAPER IN BMJ OPEN

Household determinants of healthcare utilisation in three informal settlements in Freetown, Sierra Leone: a cross-sectional survey

Co-author Eliud Kibuchi said: "Using data from the first large household survey in Freetown's informal settlements, Sierra Leone, we identified key household factors that shape healthcare utilisation, and how these drivers vary across settlements."

UK Young Academy

In March, Samuel Owusu Achiaw was selected as a new member of the UK Young Academy, which recognises researchers with track records of excellence in their respective fields.



BYRES COMMUNITY HUB COMMUNITY DAY

On 28 March, the Byres Hub Community Day brought our research directly into the heart of the community.

Heather Fraser, Emma Steel, Robert Heggie and Nishant Jaiswal invited members of the public to play an interactive game on how to allocate a fixed mental-health budget across a range of possible interventions, from talking therapies and peer support to exercise prescriptions and nutrition programmes.

PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHT

A Type 2 Diabetes Policy Model That Predicts Remaining Life Expectancy, Quality-Adjusted Life Expectancy and Healthcare Costs for Use in Economic Evaluation, Incorporating Equity Concerns | Diabetes, Obesity and Metabolism

Lili Wei, Jim Lewsey, David McAllister, Claudia Geue and team analysed outcomes for over 269,000 people using data from the Scottish Diabetes Research Network (SDRN) national diabetes cohort, following patients from diagnosis to better understand how clinical and socio-economic factors shape long-term health and costs.

This work provides a policy-relevant model to support health technology assessment and more informed decision-making in type 2 diabetes care.



NIHR AWARDS £2.5M FOR NEW PHASE OF PUBLIC HEALTH EVALUATIONS

Researchers from the University of Glasgow and Northumbria University have been awarded £2.5 million from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) to deliver real world evaluations of local government public health interventions across the UK.

The PHIRST Fusion team, led by Peter Craig and Peter van der Graaf (Northumbria University), will complete 10 evaluations over the next five years as part of the NIHR PHIRST (Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams) scheme, which comprises nine other teams around the UK. The award renews and strengthens the PHIRST Fusion collaboration, first commissioned in 2020.

UPCOMING SHORT COURSES & EVENTS

We have three online short courses upcoming in the third term from 20 April to 3 July 2026.

HEHTA will also be hosting Health Economists' Study Group (HESG), 10-12 June 2026.

APR
20

Research Methods in Health Economics & HTA

An introduction to different study designs and commonly applied research methods for health economics and health technology assessment to build their core knowledge and skills.

Course coordinators: Kathleen Boyd & Claudia Geue

APR
20

HTA in a Global Context

Learn the necessary skills to develop an understanding of HTA guidance and processes in different jurisdictions, to critique HTA in different contexts and to gain technical and analytical skills in the application of HTA

Course coordinator: Eleanor Grieve

APR
20

Statistical Methods for HTA & Evidence-Based Medicine

Teaches statistical skills required to analyse and interpret data that commonly arise from HTAs and evidence-based medicine more generally. It also teaches the background knowledge to critically appraise published work from a statistical perspective.

Course Coordinator: Jim Lewsey

JUN
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Health Economists' Study Group (HESG) 2026

HEHTA is hosting the HESG Summer meeting at The Social Hub in the heart of Glasgow. Abstract submissions are now closed but registration is open until 11 May 2026.

Visit www.hesg.org to register & find out more.

WELCOME TO HEHTA

We recently welcomed Dr Darwin Del Castillo Fernandez to the team.



Darwin is a medical graduate of the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos and has Master of Public Health from the University of Washington. He is currently working on the HEED project, which evaluates the causal effect of unemployment on health outcomes.

Price of Life Talk

In March, director Emma McIntosh delivered a public engagement talk on the 'The Price of Life' to u3a UK (The Third Age Trust), a member-run community group for retired and semi-retired people, offering a wide range of social, creative, and learning activities.



Presentations & Publications

PUBLICATIONS

Holder M, Morales DR, Hanlon P, **McAllister DA**, Guthrie B. *Eligibility of real-world patients for aspirin primary prevention trials in cardiovascular disease*. BMC medicine. 2026 Jan 27;24(1):57.

Mcmeekin N, Davies A, Petrie MC, Campbell RT, Lowe DJ, Murphy CL, Macklin L, Brooksbank K, **Wu O**. *A digital diagnostic pathway for heart failure: an economic evaluation*. Cost Effectiveness and Resource Allocation. 2026 Jan 6;24(1):24.

Kamaruzaman HF, Grieve E, Germeni E, Kamaruzaman H, Romli EZ, Abd Rahim KN, Ghazali IM, Lee SW, Abdullah MH, **Wu O**. *Unloading the excess baggage: key informant interviews with Malaysian stakeholders on healthcare disinvestment initiatives*. International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care. 2026 Jan;42(1):e6.

Al-Haddad M, Jamieson S, **Germeni E**. *Positionality using the lens of social identity complexity theory: a worked example*. Advances in Health Sciences Education. 2026 Jan 10:1-4.

Boyd K, Jaiswal N, Manca F, James G, Gibb K. *Housing Quality and Health-an Economic Analysis*. March 2026

Al-Haddad M, Jamieson S, **Germeni E**. *Positionality using the lens of social identity complexity theory: a worked example*. Advances in Health Sciences Education. 2026 Jan 10:1-4.

Martin JG, Uny I, Mitchell D, Ford A, Begley A et al (inc **Lewsey J**). 'Alcohol problems are definitely twenty-four seven'—a qualitative interview study exploring the presenting features of alcohol-related ambulance call-outs in Scotland (IMPAACT study). Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy. 2026 Jan 16:1-1.

PUBLICATIONS

Hill-Harding CK, Klein MD, von Stackelberg C, Papias EK, Barsalou LW. *Developing and evaluating a situated psychometric instrument for assessing climate anxiety: The SAM2 CAM*. Applied Psychology: Health and Well-Being. 2026 Feb;18(1):e70125.

Swann R, **Lewsey J**, Jamieson D, Padmanabhan S, Pell JP et al. *Identifying patients at high risk of decompensated liver disease through unscheduled care attendance data: a retrospective cohort study*. BMC gastroenterology. 2026 Jan 21;26(1):126.

McMeekin N, Brown A, Best C, **Demou E**, Leyland AH et al. *How can we maximise the benefits of smoke-free prisons? Decision analytic model to predict potential impacts on public health*. BMC Public Health. 2026 Feb 18;26(1):994.

McElvenny D, Van Tongeren M, **Demou E**, Elias P, Warhurst C. *Feasibility Study: Establishing a National Dataset of Occupational Health Assessments*.

Bartliff Z, O'Hara E, Soufan A, Kim Y, **Simpson K**, Moshfeghi Y, Ruthven I. *Discussions on Participatory Harm Auditing of AI within a Cultural Heritage Context*.

Blane D, Browne S, Lindsay C, **Mcmeekin N**, **Lewsey J**, McIntosh E, Minnis H, Graham S, Dundas R. *Whole Family Support in General Practice: Interim Findings*. March 2026.



Presentations & Publications

PRESENTATIONS

Jim Lewsey. *What is the impact of Scotland lowering the drink-drive limit?*

AHA/BMA/Institute of Alcohol

Studies stakeholder meeting. 5 February.

Emma McIntosh. *Health Economic Evaluation Methods.* NIHR Across. 11 February.

Lili Wei. *Calibrating Treatment Effects on Cardiovascular Outcomes from Diabetes Trials to Diverse Real-World Populations: A Simulation-Based Approach.* The 9th Global Public Health Forum. 13 February.

Jim Lewsey. *Impact of later trading hours for bars & clubs on alcohol-related ambulance call-outs.* Aberdeen City Local Licensing Forum. 24 February.

Peter Craig. *Can volunteer-based patrols prevent suicide and related incidents in public places? A quantitative evaluation of the Bridge Watch intervention.* Prevention Research 2026. 4-5 March.

Daniel Kopasker. *Best practices for building trust in public health policy modelling.* Prevention Research 2026.