Six members of HEHTA attended ISPOR 2019 in Copenhagen, 2nd – 7th November, and participated as course instructors, poster presenters and chairs. Professor Andrew Briggs and Andrew Davies taught Understanding Survival Modelling with Application to HTA. The short course on Meta-Analysis & Systematic Literature Review was taught by Professor Olivia Wu and Professor Neil Hawkins. Another popular course, Understanding Survival Modelling with Application to HTA, was taught by Professor Jim Lewsey and Andrew Davies.

Giorgio Ciminata presented the poster “Comparison of propensity score methods: a case of direct anticoagulation”. Professor Olivia Wu chaired the “Women in Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR)” initiative aimed at supporting growth, development, and contribution of women in HEOR.

Welcome

Welcome to HEHTA’s January 2020 Winter newsletter - we have another packed year ahead! January sees the start of an exciting economic evaluation of an intervention to reduce gambling, led by Dr Manuela Deidda. This economic evaluation is the very first of its kind and will provide important public health economic evidence on the cost-effectiveness of interventions to reduce gambling. HEHTA are very proud to support many of its researchers in pursing a PhD alongside their research and this year will see the completion of PhDs by team members Eleanor Grieve and Janet Bouttell. In June, we very much look forward to hosting our honorary Professor, Julie Ratcliffe (President Elect of the Australian Health Economics Society), when we plan to run a number of events around the ‘Health Economics of Ageing’. HEHTA’s first 2020 online courses are ‘Statistical Methods for HTA and Evidence-Based Medicine’, ‘HTA in a Global Context’ and ‘Foundations of Decision Analytic Modelling’, all starting on 13th January. Our next face-to-face teaching course is ‘Evidence Synthesis for Health Technology Assessment’, to be held at the Hotel Du Vin in Glasgow, from 6th to 8th May 2020.

Emma McIntosh

ISPOR 2019: DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTHCARE

This year we hosted 59 students for our longest-running course, Decision Analytic Modelling Methods for Economic Evaluation (DAMMEE), from 23rd to 27th September 2019. Always well attended, participants came from Poland, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands, Hungary and other destinations to take part in the foundation and advanced modules, held over five days at the Hilton Grosvenor Hotel in Glasgow.

Some of the feedback included:

‘One of the best modelling courses I have ever attended. Every hour counts. Teaching materials are perfect, especially note section under every slide handout and practical hands-on exercises. Lecturers are wonderful.’

‘Great to have such expert speakers to discuss the information.’

‘Very clear presentations with theoretical teaching reinforced through practical exercise. The course gives you a good understanding of the concepts surrounding decision analytic modelling.’

Our next face-to-face course will be: Evidence Synthesis for Health Technology Assessment, held at the Hotel Du Vin in Glasgow, from 6th to 8th May 2020.
**TIMELINE**

1 October
New PhD student Ryan Field joins HEHTA.

3 October
HEHTA attends the launch of Scottish Health Economics (SHE) at Discovery Point in Dundee.

16 October
Olivia Wu presents ‘Economic impact of chronic diseases and the contribution of health policies: Two reflections from the same mirror?’ at the EULAR World Arthritis Day Conference in Brussels.

14-17 October
Emma McIntosh, Ping Hsuan Hsieh & Manuela Deidda attend meetings with partners in Tanzania.

17 October
PhD student Lisong Zhang joins the team.

21 October
Professor Jim Lewsey broadcasts a live webinar on the online MSc in Health Technology Assessment.

21 October
Dr Evi Germeni presents her research at the University of Lugano in Switzerland.

23 October
Kathleen Boyd announced as lead for HEHTA for the grant ‘Relationships in Good Hands Trial: clinical & cost-effectiveness of Dyadic Developmental Physiotherapy’.

29 October
Janet Bouttell presents at the Glasgow Molecular Pathology Node Annual Symposium, Teaching and Learning Centre, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital.

31 October
The Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning is held with great success.

2-6 November
Jim Lewsey, Neil Hawkins, Olivia Wu & Giorgio Ciminata attend ISPOR Europe.

8 November
Emma McIntosh presents her research at the British cycling qualifiers at the Emirates arena.

12 November
Members of staff attend the IHW Clarice Pears engagement session.

14 November
Olivia Wu becomes an associate editor for the ‘Value in Health’ journal.

15 November

15 November
Olivia Wu presents ‘Where are we going with treatment costs in myeloma?’ at the UK Myeloma Forum.

22 November
Olivia travels to Mahidol University in Thailand.

CRSU workshop, in collaboration with University of Leicester, NIHR & London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine takes place at GCU London.

26 November
Rafael Venson & Kathleen Boyd present results at the National Infertility Group meeting in Edinburgh.

2 December
MSc students and Ciaran Kohli-Lynch graduate at Bute Hall.

3 December
Yiqiao Xin leads the webinar ‘MetaInsight: The Complex Reviews Support Unit (CRSU) network meta-analysis (NMA) web-based app’ with Alex Sutton for NIHR CRSU.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Wednesday 29 April 2020**
IHW Professional and Support Staff Away Day 2020, June 2020
Julie Ratcliffe, visiting professor and president elect of the Australian Health Economics Society, will visit HEHTA.

**DR GERMENI DELIVERS RESEARCH SEMINAR IN SWITZERLAND**

Dr Evi Germeni gave a research seminar at the University of Lugano in Switzerland in October 2019, entitled: “Updating a meta-ethnography of primary care professionals’ experience of antibiotic prescribing: Key considerations and lessons learnt”. It outlined main benefits and challenges involved in updating a systematic review and synthesis of qualitative evidence, as those emerged from her own endeavour to update a 2011 meta-ethnography, conducted by a different team of reviewers. The research seminar, which was primarily intended for PhD candidates and early career academics, was organised by the Institute of Communication and Health.

**NATURAL EXPERIMENTS 2019**

Guns, tobacco and alcohol policies were just some of those discussed by participants at a two-day expert workshop which took place in Glasgow 25th-26th November 2019. The workshop, entitled ‘What’s Next for Natural Experimental Studies?’, aimed: 1) to develop a position paper for publication in a high-quality peer reviewed journal, and 2) to develop and nurture research collaborations to further advance natural experimental research with the ultimate goal of improving public health.

HEHTA’s session on day two saw Dr Manuela Deidda presenting a framework for conducting economic evaluations alongside natural experiments and Dr Noemi Kreif examining effect heterogeneity using Machine Learning. The lively discussion between the attendees raised some key issues which organisers, HEHTA’s Professor Jim Lewsey, Peter Craig, Ruth Dundas and S Vital Katikireddi, hope to develop into an impactful paper.

**NIHR GLOBAL HEALTH RESEARCH GROUP**

The team took part in Explorathon 2019 at the Glasgow Science Centre on 27th September and travelled to Tanzania on 14th October, both for the NIHR Global Health Research Group project on arthritis.

Along with project members from the School of Geographical and Earth Sciences and CoSS, we hosted a public engagement trade-off activity called the Tanzanian Health Minister’s Dilemma, focusing on NCDs in Sub-Saharan Africa. Moira Sim, Jose Robles-Zurita, Manuela Deidda, Robert Heggie and Francesco Manca all attended the Science Centre event.

Explorathon took place in Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Fife and Tayside, Glasgow and Shetland from 26th-28th September as part of European Researchers’ Night, which is a programme funded by the European Commission with the aim of engaging the public in celebrating the latest and most innovative research at a local and an international level.

On 14th October, Emma McIntosh, Manuela Deidda, Ping Hsuan Hsieh and Chris Bunn, as well as other arthritis group members including Shadrach Dare and Stefan Siebert (pictured), also from the University of Glasgow, met in Tanzania for the NIHR Global Health Research Group (Arthritis) meeting, hosted by the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC).
Equality & Diversity

Equality and diversity are a forefront priority in the University of Glasgow’s Institute of Health and Wellbeing (IHW). Our Institute holds a Gold Athena Swan award thanks to the currently ten active groups that work hard to make IHW a better place for all staff members and students.

HEHTA staff contribute to the Institute’s Athena Swan Older Workers group, of which Janet Bouttell and Nicola McMeekin are co-chairs. The group recently had a successful funding bid and is recruiting a Project Co-ordinator who will work on tasks including producing a toolkit for older workers.

In order to also embrace LGBTQ+ causes and tackle their needs, Cindy Gray, Rafael Venson (from HEHTA), and Caroline Haig formed a new Athena Swan Working Group within IHW. The LGBTQ+ Working Group is new-born, but already has 16 allies. The group is aiming to hold its first meeting with all the allies in January and will initially focus on transgender needs and representation.

HEHTA to lead economic evaluation of NIHR-funded study

We are delighted to announce that the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) has funded a programme of research to examine the clinical and cost-effectiveness of Dyadic Developmental Psychotherapy (DDP) compared to services-as-usual. The study will start in March 2020, and will be led by Helen Minnis, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Glasgow and HEHTA’s Dr Kathleen Boyd will lead the economic evaluation.

Dr Boyd will explore the cost-consequences and cost-effectiveness of DDP from both the NHS and societal perspectives to ensure that the longer term impacts on the children, families, education and employment are accounted for. The research will be conducted across the range of contexts in which DDP is delivered in the UK, including the NHS and social care. This work can help inform the UK NHS on the most cost-effective strategy for children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

The total amount of the award is £2,121,388.56.

UPCOMING COURSES

ONLINE

Statistical Methods for HTA and Evidence-Based Medicine
13th January - 27th March
This course aims to equip students with the necessary statistical skills so they can analyse and interpret data that commonly arise from health technology assessments and evidence-based medicine more generally.
Click here for more info. https://bit.ly/2QjRIzn

Survival Analysis for HTA
24th February - 27th March
This course aims to equip students with the necessary statistical skills so they can analyse and interpret survival data that are commonly used in health economic analyses within health technology assessments.

HTA in a Global Context
13th January - 27th March 2020
This course will cover HTA in different contexts, exploring geographical variation between high-income countries as well as looking more in-depth about how and why decision-making in healthcare may differ in low- and middle-income countries.
Click here for more info. https://bit.ly/2GJ8WGr

Foundations of Decision Analytic Modelling
13th January – 14th February 2020
This course aims to equip students with the necessary skills so they can design and conduct decision analytic modelling, including: the role of modelling in health care decision-making, designing decision-making problems, decision trees, Markov models.
Click here for more info. https://bit.ly/2YpsCJn

FACE-TO-FACE

Evidence Synthesis for Health Technology Assessment
6-8 May 2020
This three-day course is designed for clinicians, health service researchers and other healthcare professionals who are involved in systematic reviews and meta-analyses as a piece of independent work or an integral part of a health technology assessment (HTA).

CYCLE NATION RESEARCH PRESENTED AT VELODROME

Emma McIntosh, Jason Gill, Cindy Gray, Greig Logan and Hayley Connell presented their Cycle Nation research at the Sir Chris Hoy Velodrome on Friday 8th November.

The Velodrome was host to the Word Champion qualifiers events that day, so the team were delighted to attend the event courtesy of British Cycling. Jason Gill and Cindy Gray presented the background to the research, and Emma McIntosh outlined the short and long term economic, societal and environmental impacts of increasing cycling. The main study will commence next year following the completion of the ongoing feasibility study.

The Cycle Nation Project has three main aims:

• To produce sustainable long-term increases in the number of people cycling
• To produce sustainable long-term increases in the number of cycling journeys (commuting or leisure)
• To provide evidence of health, well being and productivity outcomes from cycling more
Successful NIHR CRSU Workshop & Webinar

NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit (CRSU), led by Director Olivia Wu, ran a second successful Joint CRSU & Cochrane workshop on complex evidence synthesis, at the GCU Campus in Spitalfields, London on 22nd November 2019, for UK-based Cochrane Editors, Cochrane Networks and Cochrane Programme Grant holders. The workshop presented a packed programme to a full house, focussing on hands-on methodological training, supported by tutors, and of direct relevance to complex reviews.

On 3rd December 2019, NIHR CRSU also delivered a webinar on the web-based app Metansight for conducting network meta-analysis. CRSU members, Professor Alex Sutton from University of Leicester, and Dr. Yiqiao Xin, research associate from HEHTA, presented the background of the Metansight development, a live demonstration, and discussed related issues and future plans for the app. The tool is interactive and uses an intuitive ‘point and click’ interface and it is hoped that it will assist those conducting NMA who are not statistical experts, as well as provide an efficient solution for those who are familiar with the necessary coding. A recording of the webinar will be available through the Cochrane Training website.

Publications


Darawsheh B and Germoni E. Implementing health technology assessment in Kuwait: a qualitative study of perceived barriers and facilitators. International Journal of Technology Assessment in Health Care (Accepted for Publication)

Broadie E, Chokotho T, Mackay D and Germoni E. (2019) First aid management of paediatric burn and scald injuries in Southern Malawi: a mixed methods study, Burns, (Accepted for Publication)

Sidik, N P et al (includes Wu O) (2019) Rationale and design of the British Heart Foundation (BHF) Coronary Microvascular Function and CT Coronary Angiogram (CorCTCA) study. American Heart Journal, (Accepted for Publication)

Gumley A I, Bradstreet S, Ainsworth J, Allan S, Alvarez-Jimenez M et al (includes McMeekin N), Early signs Monitoring to Prevent relapse in psychosis and Promote Wellbeing, Engagement and Recovery (EMPPOWER): A feasibility cluster randomised controlled trial harnessing smartphone technology blended with peer support. JMIR Research Protocols, (Accepted for Publication)

Presentations


Anopa Y. Economic evaluation of the Protecting Teeth @ 3 randomised controlled trial. Dundee Dental Education Centre, Scottish Oral Health Research Collaboration Conference, 1 October 2019.


Wu O. Economic impact of chronic diseases and the contribution of health policies: Two reflections from the same mirror? EULAR World Arthritis Day Conference, Thon EU Hotel (Brussels), 16 October 2019.

Germoni E. Updating a meta-ethnicography of primary care professionals’ experience of antibiotic prescribing: Key considerations and lessons learnt. University of Lugano, Switzerland. 21 October 2019.

Bouttell J. Test and treat threshold plot: developing a simple tool to estimate required test performance for developers of tests for treatment response. Glasgow Molecular Pathology Node Annual Symposium. Teaching and Learning Centre, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, UK. 29 October 2019.

Ciminata G. Comparison of propensity score methods: a case study of direct oral anticoagulants. ISPOR, Denmark. 6 November 2019.


NEW FACES
This quarter we welcomed yet more new faces!

Lisong Zhang, a new PhD student supervised by Jim Lewsey & David McAllister, joined us on 17th October. Her project area is instrumental variable analysis using physicians’ prescribing preferences (PPP).

Ryan Field, a new PhD student on the MVLS Doctoral Training Programme, joined us on 1st October.

Welcome to Lilybank, Lisong & Ryan!

EDITORIAL TEAM
Editor: Emma McIntosh
Editorial Team: Francesco Manca, Nicola McMeekin, Alieda McKinney, Rafael Venson, Dikshyanta Rana, Camilla Somers, Miriam Yentumi