Welcome to HEHTA’s winter 2020 Winter newsletter!

It has certainly been an incredibly challenging year for everyone but we are hugely grateful to be reaching the close of the year with our amazing team in good health. We have managed socially distanced walks, plenty of Zoom coffee breaks and celebrated successes including Eleanor’s PhD viva. Despite the lockdown and our team working remotely, we have achieved a number of grant, publication and promotion successes. Janet Beutell authored a new report on firework-related harm in Scotland, this was presented to the Scottish Government and will likely inform future legislation. HEHTA researchers Yiqiao Xin, Eleanor Grieve, Andrew Davies and HEHTA affiliate Andrew Briggs conducted the economic evaluation alongside the highly publicised Diabetes UK Diabetes Remission Clinical Trial (DIRECT) which will inform Government Weight-Loss Strategy. We were also very pleased to have successfully launched our new course ‘Maximising the Value of Clinical Trial Data’ which received excellent feedback. We said a fond farewell to Yiqiao and a warm HEHTA welcome to new researcher Sophie. We wish all our colleagues a very happy, healthy and productive 2021!

Viva Success for Eleanor!

On October 21st, years of hard work culminated in Eleanor Grieve having a successful virtual viva with her PhD thesis ‘Conceptualising, Measuring and Valuing the Impact of Health Technology Assessment’. The team celebrated with Eleanor via Zoom and we are delighted that she is now Dr Eleanor Grieve! Well done, Eleanor!

Eleanor has been a valued member of the team since 2010 and we are extremely happy for her!

£2.4m NIHR HTA grant for home heart rehab

Emma McIntosh will lead the health economics evaluation of a clinical trial to assess the health and economic benefits of REACH-AF, a 12-week home exercise initiative to help not only people with heart failure but their carers too.

The study aims to recruit 520 patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) and their caregivers across 15 sites in England, Scotland, and Wales. The REACH-HFpEF study will be the largest international trial of rehabilitation in HFpEF to date.

IHW, along with the Universities of Dundee, Exeter, Birmingham, Cambridge, and York have received £2.4 million from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Programme to conduct the study.

The study hopes to inform future national and international guidelines for the management of HFpEF. It is being supported by the Robertson Centre for Biostatistics and the health economics evaluation will be led by HEHTA.

Contact us

More information about HEHTA, all our CPD courses and our online MSc is available by contacting our administrators at ihw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk or on our website
UPCOMING COURSES

ONLINE
Statistical Methods for HTA and Evidence-Based Medicine
11th January - 26th March 2021
Aim: To deliver the fundamentals of statistical methodology that underpin health technology assessment and evidence-based medicine.

HTA in a Global Context
11th January - 26th March 2021
Aim: To examine 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.

Foundations of Decision Analytic Modelling
11th January - 12th February 2021
Aim: This course aims to equip students with the necessary skills so they can design and conduct decision analytic modelling.

Survival Analysis for HTA
22nd February - 26th March 2021
Aim: To demonstrate how survival/time to event data is used to inform health economic analyses within health technology assessments.

Browse and book here: www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/research/hehta/continuingprofessionaldevelopment/

Course Spotlight
Throughout October and November we were delighted to have a successful first run of our new flagship course

Maximising the Value of Clinical Trial Data: [Advanced Analysis] for Economic Evaluation and Modelling.

As well as our own faculty we were grateful to be able to have Suzanne Freeman from the University of Leicester, Andrew Briggs from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Claire Williams from the University of Oxford as guest lecturers.

Run as virtual course using a blend of live and recorded elements and tutor-led sessions, we welcomed over 40 participants from several continents over eight days of teaching. We also utilised Microsoft Teams to host discussions and provide access to materials.

We are thrilled to have received such positive feedback in the course’s first year:

‘Extremely responsive lecturers, tutors and coordinators. Very open to questions and prompt in answering questions/doubts.’

‘The course material provided a good summary of methods, and the online format worked well.’

‘Lecturers are knowledgeable of relevant topics. There are recordings to catch up parts that you do not understand fully in the course; lecturers help answer questions posted on Teams.’

Given the success of this year, we plan to run this course annually.

Email ihw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk to register your interest.

Emma McIntosh Leads Grant-Writing Workshop

In November Emma McIntosh held a workshop to showcase HEHTA’s grant portfolio over the last five years and give/share tailored advice on the grant-writing process for health economists and HTA researchers. The workshop featured a presentation to give the team a full insight into sources of funding and the types of grants HEHTA is involved in, including research, programme, global groups, methodological and fellowship grants. After the presentation there was a session on the grant writing process followed by final group sessions facilitated by HEHTA grant holders.
HEHTA Leads Economics Evaluation of STOPPIT-3 Twins Trial

Manuela Deidda and Kathleen Boyd are to lead the economic evaluation of a trial to assess whether the use of Antenatal Corticosteroids (ACS) results in improved neonatal outcomes in twin babies at risk of being born too early.

Funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), ‘A Randomised Placebo-Controlled Trial of Antenatal Corticosteroids (ACS) for Planned Birth in Twins: STOPPIT-3’, led by The University of Edinburgh, will address the uncertainty regarding the effectiveness of ACS prior to planned birth of twins. ACS are widely given to women at risk of pre-term birth to reduce morbidity and mortality in babies born too early.

A multi-centre placebo-controlled trial with internal pilot will evaluate the effectiveness ACS in reducing breathing difficulties in the twin babies and establish the cost effectiveness for the NHS.

The principal investigators are Dr Sarah Stock and Dr Sarah Murray from The University of Edinburgh

The study will start in April 2021 and will run for 48 months.

DiRECT Informs Government Weight-Loss Strategy

Our researchers are part of the Diabetes UK Diabetes Remission Clinical Trial (DiRECT) which is underpinning the UK government’s weight-loss plan for people living with Type 2 diabetes, details of which were reported in the media in September.

The DiRECT trial found that weight loss can put Type 2 diabetes into remission for at least two years.

HEHTA researchers Yiqiao Xin, Eleanor Grieve, Andrew Davies and HEHTA affiliate Andrew Briggs conducted an economic evaluation of the DiRECT intervention which shows it is more effective and cost-saving in the long term in adults with type 2 diabetes compared to standard care. School of Medicine’s Professor Mike Lean is the principal investigator on this, and Professor Naveed Sattar from ICAMS and IHW honorary Professor Ian Ford are co-investigators.

Read the Guardian article: www.theguardian.com/society/2020/sep/01/thousands-of-diabetics-to-be-given-soup-and-shake-diet-plan-on-nhs

Firework Injuries Report Presented to Scottish Government

HEHTA Research Associate Janet Bouttell is a co-author of a new report ‘Evaluation of firework-related harm in Scotland - October 2020’, presented to the Scottish Government just before Guy Fawkes night this year.

This important research into the impact of harm caused by fireworks hopes to inform future legislation. The report concluded: ‘The evidence of firework-related harm in Scotland remains evident and substantial. Those most affected are young, male and from areas of greater social deprivation. The health economic costs relating to the treatment of firework-related physical harm to one Scottish NHS Health Board is ~40,000/year. A study of the national health economic costs would be beneficial. The short and long term health effects from exposure to firework-generated particulates warrants investigation.’

The report was produced in collaboration with NHS Scotland NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Care of Burns in Scotland. Funding for the health economic evaluation was from the Jean Brown Bequest Fund, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health board endowments.

Professor Andrew Hart, Honorary Senior Research Fellow (School of Life Sciences) & Honorary Professor (Institute of Molecular Cell & Systems Biology) at the University of Glasgow, is also a co-author.

Full Report https://lnkd.in/eWsYaW

16th World Congress on Public Health 2020

Unpublished results of the economic analysis of the multi-methods project Tobacco in Prisons (TIPs) were presented by Nicola McMeekin at the 16th World Congress on Public Health 2020.

The TIPs project combined several different disciplines to inform the smoke-free policy in Scottish Prisons. The conference was held virtually due to Covid-19 restrictions and six members of the TIPs team presented a workshop entitled ‘Implementation of smoke-free prisons across a national prison estate: experience from Scotland’, the economic component of the workshop was ‘Economic impacts of implementing a national smoke-free prison policy’. Some aspects of the TIPs study have already been published. Full results of the study will be available in the NIHR HTA report when published, and the economic results will be published separately in 2021.
I’m doing as well as can be expected….. I have had to accept that my capacity and productivity is going to go down

Janet Bouttell and Nicola McMeekin were part of a small research team (also including Rebecca Robinson and Cindy Gray) working on an Athena Swan survey on working from home (WFM) during the Covid-19 pandemic in May 2020. This work was initiated by the Athena Swan Wellbeing in Older Workers (WOW) 50+ group and supported by the wider Athena Swan community, and the survey was available for all IHW staff to complete.

The majority (79%) of 166 respondents were female, and between 36 and 50 years old (44%). Briefly, these results found that although most staff were coping well with home working , a significant minority of staff were not adapting well (21%) and were finding that they were less productive (37%), reporting a negative impact on home/working life balance (41%) or that their mental health was being adversely affected (35%). Results suggested that women and older staff reported more positive outcomes overall. Most responders reported feeling well supported by IHW (74%), and well informed about university business (82%).

The results of the survey and the subsequent interviews were passed on to the IHW senior management team and the University more widely to guide their action plans.

In November we had our final Big Quiz of 2020 which saw Jim’s Trainees see off the competition with an overall score of 121 points, closely followed by Invisible Giorgio and Breakout Room 1 with 115 and 114.5 points respectively. We hope to be able to hold our quiz league in person next year!

In October Yulia Anopa won one of four 2020 Yorkhill Postgraduate Research prizes for her paper entitled, ‘Systematic review of economic evaluations of primary caries prevention in 2 - 5 year old pre-school children’, published in ScienceDirect. Well done, Yulia!

In October Yulia Anopa won one of four 2020 Yorkhill Postgraduate Research prizes for her paper entitled, ‘Systematic review of economic evaluations of primary caries prevention in 2 - 5 year old pre-school children’, published in ScienceDirect. Well done, Yulia!

January

Giorgio Ciminata presents work on atrial fibrillation and stroke outcomes at the European Society of Cardiology.

Sophie Westrop joins HEHTA as a Research Assistant

22 September

NIHR CRSU Webinar organised by Moira Sim and chaired by Olivia Wu takes place.

5 October

Eleanor Grieve presents ‘The Cost of a Counseling-Based Intervention for Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) in Kenya Compared to Treatment with Ready-to-Use Foods’ (RUF) at Food Assistance for Nutrition: Evidence Summit II.

7 October


12 October

Olivia Wu takes part in the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) event for World Arthritis Day. Panel 1: Challenges & solutions for people with RMDs to access, remain in, and return to work in the COVID-19 recession.

26 October


13 November

The teams bids a fond farewell to Research Associate Yiqiao Xin who has taken up a new position at Analysis Group in London.

17 November

Olivia chairs the Women in HEOR session on ‘Adapting to the ‘New Normal’ at ISPOR.

24 November

Emma McIntosh hosts the IHW PGR Online Conference ‘All Aboard!’. 

24 November

HEHTA hosts the first GhESS seminar of 2020.

26 November

Suzanne Freeman from the Univeristy of Leicester gives the team a talk titled ‘Network meta-analysis of time-to-event outcomes in the presence of non-proportional hazards’.
SEPTEMBER 2020


OCTOBER 2020


NOVEMBER 2020

