Welcome

Welcome to the 4th lockdown edition of our HEHTA newsletter! We had some busy and exciting months, with a number of publications and conference presentations and two successful PhD vivas for Nicola McMeekin and Yulia Anopa. Our MSc HTA keeps attracting a good number of students and we are always delighted to receive such positive feedback, in particular for the ‘HTA in a Global Context’ module, led by Eleanor Grieve. We are looking forward to running our course ‘Maximising the Value of Clinical Trial Data’ in November and welcoming a new cohort of MSc HTA students in September.

We have been branching out a bit with Olivia Wu and Catherine Hanna advising Glasgow School of Art students on their final projects looking at innovative product designs to support people living with cancer.

Trying to maintain a minimum of social activities, we were absolutely thrilled to meet for our first socially distanced walk in the botanic gardens this year. And finally, we welcomed Septiara Putri as a new PhD student and had to sadly say goodbye to our research co-ordinator and project manager Moira Sim. We wish all our colleagues a good summer with some well-deserved rest!

Claudia Geue,
Senior Lecturer

VIVA SUCCESS FOR NICOLA & YULIA!

On the 8th of March, Yulia Anopa successfully defended her thesis ‘Economics of primary caries prevention in pre-school children’, followed by Nicola McMeekin on 17th May who found success with her thesis ‘Can conceptual modelling methodology from other disciplines inform conceptual modelling methodology in economic evaluations of healthcare?’.

During her studies, Yulia was supervised by Emma McIntosh and Professor Lorna Macpherson and completed her PhD while working as a research assistant at the Glasgow Dental School. Yulia has now left the university to take up a new role with the Scottish government and we wish her all the best!

Supervised by Andrew Briggs and Olivia Wu, Nicola’s viva was convened by Kathleen Boyd and examined by William Hollingsworth and Rod Taylor. Former accountant Nicola started her career in health economics by completing her MSc in HTA with HEHTA and has been a valued member of the team since 2015. Well done, Nicola!

Interested in PhD opportunities with us? Please visit our website: www.gla.ac.uk/researchinstitutes/healthwellbeing/research/hehta/postgraduateresearch/

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

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

We are delighted to announce that our live, online course will run across the following dates as live, online half-day sessions:

**Week 1:** 3rd - 5th November 2021
**Week 2:** 10th - 12th November 2021
**Week 3:** 17th & 18th November 2021

This course is a natural follow-on from advanced modelling courses and covers the fundamental concepts and practice of the key advanced analytic techniques that are required when determining appropriate approaches and estimating parameter values for cost-effectiveness models. It is also highly relevant to those seeking to improve the relevance of trial-based cost-effectiveness.

Some feedback from last year included:

‘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.’

If you wish to register your interest in this course, please email ihw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk

Course Spotlight: HTA in a Global Context

HTA in a Global Context, coordinated by Eleanor Grieve, took place from 11th January - 26th March this year, covering topics such as differences in structure of health care and reimbursement systems, HTA in decision making from a global perspective, Disability Adjusted Life Years (DALYs) as health outcome measures, application of different methods in low-and-middle-income countries (LMICs).

We were so happy to receive positive and encouraging feedback from participant Caleb Mike Mulongo, a medical doctor and healthcare management specialist, who had this to say about the course:

‘I found the online course ‘Health Technology Assessment in the Global Context’ by University of Glasgow to be very instructive, engaging, and relevant just as it was timely. The diligence and responsiveness of the lead tutor, Eleanor Grieve, made the course easy to follow. The peer-to-peer learning among the participants further added the global spark and realism to the course. Follow-up by the program support team, Miriam, helped make the engagement worthwhile. Keep up the good work!’

Introduction to Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment

Last summer we ran a 10-week microcredential course ‘Introduction to Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment’ (in collaboration with FutureLearn) and are pleased to announce that we will be running this course as part of our online CPD programme in the next academic year.

The course, which ran for 10 weeks from 27th July, proved popular in 2020, with a substantial number of students taking part.

We are excited for this microcredential to become one of our flagship courses, held annually to showcase the team’s diverse work and world-class academics.

To register your interest for this course for the 2021/2022 academic year, please email ihw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk
**Virtually Cochrane 2021**

On April 21st, the NIHR CRSU team took part in Virtually Cochrane 2021, hosted by Cochrane UK and Cochrane Ireland, and themed ‘Right question, right methods, right now’.

In a series of mini presentations, the team, including Olivia Wu and Neil Hawkins, looked at when best to use various analytical methods.

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**WHEN ART MEETS SCIENCE**

Members of IHW recently teamed up with the Institute of Cancer Sciences to advise product design students from the Glasgow School of Art on their final-year projects for their exhibition ‘The future of cancer and collective intelligence in the post-COVID world – future experiences’.

Olivia Wu, and Catherine Hanna, PhD student and senior oncology trainee at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, both advised students for the project, which is a “speculative design exploration into future experiences of working and living with cancer ten years from now”. Jude Robinson, Professor of Health and Wellbeing and Deputy Head of the College of Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow, was also part of the project team.

The students were given access to specialists across different disciplines and sectors (IHW and Institute of Cancer Sciences among others) through a series of ‘Expert Engagement Sessions’. The result of this was a highly successful collaboration on designing technologies that are useful, relevant and often beautiful, for the future using collective intelligence in the field of cancer research.

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**Better Health Programme Training**

Olivia Wu, Eleanor Grieve and Dikshyanta Rana developed and delivered an online training course to the local government unit (LGU) health teams in Philippines, as a part of the Better Health Programme (BHP). The pilot training course on 6th, 7th, 13th and 14th May 2021 intended to build the competency of LGU health teams in Philippines to develop evidence-based plans and decisions, guided by the health system changes of the Universal Health Care (UHC) Act. The training comprised of four sessions, two hours each, whose overall objectives was for the participants to:

- have a clear understanding of the core principles and processes of HTA
- have a clear understanding of the tools of assessment commonly used in HTA
- be able to critically appraise and determine the quality of clinical and economic evidence
- consider the trade-offs between costs and benefits and make appropriate judgements

Each session comprised of a combination of live lectures and interactive activities such as a quiz or case study.

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**CHOICE Study Protocol Published**

Kathleen Boyd and Dikshyanta Rana will be conducting the health economic analysis of the CHOICE Study, the protocol for which has just been published by the BMJ.

The aim of the study, led by PI Dr Sarah Stock at The University of Edinburgh, aims to ‘compare home versus in-hospital cervical ripening to determine whether home cervical ripening is within an acceptable margin of in-hospital cervical ripening for the safety outcome of neonatal unit (NNU) admission, whether it is more acceptable to women and whether it is cost-effective from both NHS and patient perspectives’. The study is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Health Technology Assessment (HTA) programme.

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**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

**2 March**
Dr Sergi Alonso delivers ‘Combination of indoor residual spraying with long-lasting insecticide-treated nets for malaria control in Mopeia, Mozambique: a cluster-randomised trial and cost-effectiveness study’ to the team.

**8 March**
Olivia’s interview with The Evidence Base is published on International Women’s Day

We celebrate Francesco’s 30th birthday and Moira’s last day at HEHTA.

Yulia Anopa passes her viva.

**15 March**
Jim’s major study Evaluating the impact of minimum unit pricing (MUP) on off-trade alcohol sales in Scotland: an interrupted time-series study is published in Addiction.

**18 March**
Emma McIntosh is a discussant at Charles Manski’s plenary presentation ‘Policy Choice under Uncertainty, with Application to Vaccination and Climate Policy’ at the virtual Society for Benefit-Cost Analysis.

**14 April**
Septiara Putri joins the team.

Eleanor’s interview in the The Academic Health Economists’ Blog is published.

**21 April**
Virtually Cochrane, featuring Olivia Wu and Neil Hawkins, takes place.

**29 April**
An interview with Houra is featured in IHW Voices in HAWKEYE.

**6 May**
Some of the team meet for a socially distanced walk at Glasgow Botanics.

The CHOICE Study protocol is published in BMJ Open – Dikshyanta and Kathleen will conduct the health economics analysis for the study.

**12 May**
HITAP’s Yot Teerawattananon delivers a GhESS seminar.

**17 May**
Nicola McMeekin successfully defends her thesis.

**20 May**

**25 May**
We celebrate research associate Houra Haghpanahan’s birthday via Zoom.

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**SOCIAL CORNER**

**WALKING THE WALK**

On May 6th, some of the team (and Izzy the pooch) managed to meet up for a socially distanced walk at the Glasgow Botanic Gardens. Spirits were high despite dreich Glasgow weather and we were pleased to meet new team members and students in person for the first time!

**BIRTHDAYS AND GOODBYES!**

On March 8th, we celebrated Francesco Manca’s birthday and bid a fond farewell to research coordinator Moira Sim, who has taken up a new role as project manager for the College of MVLS.

**SPOTLIGHT ON HOUAR**

On May 25th the team gathered on Zoom to wish colleague Houra Haghpanahan a happy 40th birthday. In the lead up to her birthday, Houra was also featured in a ‘5 minutes with...’ interview segment for HAWKEYE, the Institute of Health and Wellbeing’s monthly newsletter, in which she describes ‘the career pathway that led to her current role, the dream of travelling the world by campervan, and what the Scottish landscape and the words of ancient Persian poets mean to her’.
Publications


Presentations

Grieve E. The Impact of HTA. Invited presentation to SHTG. 30 March 2021.


Rana D, Grieve E & Wu O. Live seminar on HTA and decision making (session 1 and 2) delivered to the health practitioners/decision makers in Philippines as a part of the Better Health Programme.

We welcomed PhD student Septiara Putri from Indonesia to the team in April. Septiara decided to do her PhD with HEHTA after completing her MPH at the university. She will be supervised by Claudia Geue and Jim Lewsey.

We bid a fond farewell to research co-ordinator and project manager Moira Sim in March. She will be missed but she is not going far as she has taken up a project management role at the College of MVLS.