Welcome

We have had another very productive few months here at HEHTA. Highlights include a visit to Glasgow from many of our Tanzanian NIHR Global Health Group team members presenting the findings of research on the prevalence, societal and economic impacts of Arthritis. We were also thrilled to finally celebrate the in-person graduations of HEHTA PhD students (& researchers) Janet Bouttell, Eleanor Grieve and Nicola McMeekin. This newsletter showcases the results of the TIPS study, reporting that a smoke-free prison policy is effective and cost-effective in the long run. Also highlighted is the PHaCT Trial: Preventing homelessness and improving health for people leaving prison, the health economics led by HEHTA’s Jim Lewsey and Manuela Deidda. This research comprises a pilot randomised trial to test whether a housing-led ‘critical time intervention’ works in preventing homelessness and improving health in a population of male prison leavers. HEHTA were delighted to celebrate our wonderful Professional services lead, Alieda McKinney’s 30-year anniversary at the University of Glasgow. Finally, on Saturday 18th June HEHTA’s Evi Germeni married Andy Briggs in a wonderful traditional ceremony in Mani, Greece where many of their friends and family celebrated into the early hours. We all wish Evi and Andy a wonderful future together.

GRADUATION SEASON!

In April, we were delighted to finally be able to celebrate the in-person graduations of our PhD students Janet Bouttell, Eleanor Grieve and Nicola McMeekin, as well as MSc HTA student Mariana Al-Adwan. The graduates celebrated their success with the rest of the team at One Devonshire Gardens after the ceremony. We are extremely proud of them and know they will go on to do great things in the future!

VIVA SUCCESS FOR SHAWN!

In April, our much-loved PhD student Ping Hsuan Hsieh AKA Shawn successfully defended his thesis on ‘The Cost of Rheumatoid Arthritis’. Shawn has been with the team since 2017 and was supervised throughout his studies by Olivia Wu, Claudia Geue, Stefan Siebert and Emma McIntosh. Shawn completed his viva remotely from his home country of Taiwan, where he previously worked as a pharmacist at the Tri-Service General Hospital before joining HEHTA. We wish him all the best for the future!

KCRI TEAM VISIT GLASGOW

At the end of April, the NIHR Global Health Research Group team members from the Kilimanjaro Christian Research Institute (KCRI) visited Glasgow for the British Rheumatology Society (BSR) conference. Nateiya Yongolo, Kajiru Kilonso and Sanjura Biswara attended the three-day conference with the group’s Glasgow team members and found time to enjoy some Scottish hospitality at Oran Mor.

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
TIPS STUDY SHOWS SMOKE-FREE PRISONS POLICY IS EFFECTIVE

A study released earlier this year has shown a comprehensive smoke-free prison policy can substantially reduce second-hand smoke.

Kathleen Boyd and Nicola McMeekin undertook the economic analysis, including a cost-consequence, cost-utility analyses, demonstrating cost-effectiveness in the long term. This ground-breaking multidisciplinary and complex evaluation will contribute to the international literature and public health understanding of tackling smoking in prisons for many years to come.

Prisons previously had a partial exemption from the UK’s 2006/7 indoor smoking bans, and this is the first study internationally to analyse the views of prison staff, as well as people in custody in whom smoking levels are very high.

The NIHR report ‘Process and impact of implementing a smoke-free policy in prisons in Scotland: TIPs mixed-methods study’ was published early this year and was led by Kate Hunt at the Institute for Social Marketing and Health at the University of Stirling. It also includes contribution from IHW’s Jill Pell, Alistair Leyland, Helen Sweeting, Peter Craig, Emily Tweed and Evangeline Demou.

You can read more here: https://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/phr/wglf1204/

3MT COMPETITION

PhD student Ryan Field took part in the university-wide ‘3 Minute Thesis’ competition in March, presenting ‘Joint Modelling in Heart Failure’ in just three minutes, as the name suggests! Although he didn’t win on this occasion, he did himself and HEHTA proud! Well done, Ryan!

PHaCT TRIAL: PREVENTING HOMELESSNESS AND IMPROVING HEALTH FOR PEOPLE LEAVING PRISON

People leaving prison face multiple challenges reintegrating into society and are at high risk of homelessness and poor mental and physical health.

In the first study of its kind, Jim Lewsey and Manuela Deidda, with a team from the Universities of Glasgow, Cardiff, Heriot-Watt and Glyndwr, will pilot a randomised trial to see whether a housing-led ‘critical time intervention’ (CTI) works in preventing homelessness and improving health in a population of male prison leavers.

A housing–led CTI is an intervention which aims to provide support to those most in need in society during times of important life changes, in addition to quick housing provision.

The research, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), will take place across four male prisons. The study has been designed in consultation with co-applicant Hannah Green, a Communications and Lived Experience Specialist from the Centre for Homelessness Impact.

This pilot randomised controlled trial (RCT) will test if the CTI and the research methods are possible, acceptable and has good potential to provide value for money. In the longer term, if a future full-scale RCT finds housing-led critical time intervention (CTI) to be successful, the team would push for roll-out to prisons across the UK.

Read more about the ‘PHaCT Trial: Preventing Homelessness, improving health for people leaving prison: a pilot randomised controlled trial of a Critical Time intervention’:
https://fundingawards.nihr.ac.uk/award/NIHR134281

HEHTA Blogs!

Researcher Dikshyanta Rana successfully launched the team into blogosphere at the start of 2022! Francesco Manca wrote the team’s first blog on his impactful ambulance callout study, followed by Janet Bourett penning a piece on ‘Features, process and methods of development-focused health technology assessment: a proposed framework and application to diagnostic technologies’.

In April, our first guest blogger and GhESS seminar speaker Janneke Grutters from Radboud University Medical Centre shared her insights into HTA.

You can read all of our blog posts here: https://hehtaglasgowblog.wordpress.com/
**TIMELINE OF EVENTS**

31 Jan
HEHTA launches blog with first article on ambulance callout study from Francesco Manca

1 Feb
Samuel Owusu Achiaw joins as HEHTA’s newest Research Assistant

2 Feb
NIHR TIPS report published, with economic analysis by Kathleen Boyd and Nicola McMeekin.

4 Feb
The NIHR CRSU release a newly designed treatment ranking panel for Bayesian analyses within their NMA web-app MetalInsight! Link to app: https://crsu.shinyapps.io/MetaInsight_Beta/

17 Feb
Janet Boutell writes our second blog post titled ‘Features, process and methods of development-focused health technology assessment: a proposed framework and application to diagnostic technologies’.

22 Feb
Janneke Grutters from Radboud University Medical Centre in the Netherlands delivers the first GhESS seminar of 2022.

8 March
Kathleen Boyd and Nicola McMeekin’s NIHR TIPS report on smoking in Scottish prisons is released.

10 March
PhD student Ryan Field makes the cut to compete in the university’s Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) competition.

11 March
We celebrate Alieda McKinney’s 30-year anniversary at the University of Glasgow.

19 March
The team, along with Public Health’s Jana Anderson, completed the Supernova 5K Run at the Kelpies in aid of SAMH.

30 March
We launch a new ExpertTrack course ‘Health Technology Assessment in Support of Universal Health Coverage’ in collaboration with FutureLearn.

1 April
Our April GhESS seminar speaker Dr Janneke Grutter contributes to our third blog of the year.

11 April
We celebrate the graduations of PhD students Eleanor Grieve, Nicola McMeekin & Janet Boutell, along with MSc HTA student Mariana Al-Adwan.

19 April
Pankaj Bahuguna joins the team as a new research associate.

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**Using Health Technology Assessment in support of Universal Health Coverage**

In Spring, we launched a new ExpertTrack online course, offered via FutureLearn, which explores the theory of health economics to understand how scarcity and resources affect decision-making.

In bite-sized chunks, students will discover the use of health technology assessment (HTA) as one of the tools for priority setting. This knowledge will help learners start thinking like a health economist and how we can ensure decisions are based on evidence and the best outcomes. It is taught via the FutureLearn online platform and can be completed at the learner’s own pace and in their own time for only £36 per month.

Led by Eleanor Grieve, we hope that the course will appeal to individuals operating in a lower-and-middle-income-country (LMIC) setting.

If you would like to find out more about this course, please email ihw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk or visit our website.

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**Maximising the Value of Clinical Trial Data**

At the end of last year, we had a successful second run of our new flagship course Maximising the Value of Clinical Trial Data: Advanced Analysis for Economic Evaluation and Modelling.

The 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.

The course will run again this year as a virtual course using a blend of live and recorded elements and tutor-led sessions on the following dates:

- Week 1: 23rd - 25th November 2022
- Week 2: 30th November - 2nd December 2022
- Week 3: 8th & 9th December 2022

The course is led by Jim Lewsey and Kathleen Boyd with lectures from Neil Hawkins, Professor Andrew Briggs and Claudia Geue.

To register your interest in this course, please email ihw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk or visit our website.
ALIEDA: 30 + 60!

On March 2nd, our much-loved administrator Alieda McKinney celebrated 30 years of service at the University of Glasgow, swiftly followed by her 60th birthday on April 4th.

In true HEHTA style, there were multiple celebrations for Alieda’s milestones!

5K TEAM RUN FOR SAMH

After several false starts, the team was finally able to take part in a 5k sponsored run around the Kelpies in Falkirk for SAMH, which had been previously cancelled due to Covid.

ANDY & EVI GET HITCHED!

On Saturday 18th June, Evi Germeni married HEHTA’s former director and visiting professor Andy Briggs in a wonderful traditional ceremony in Mani, Greece where many of their friends and family celebrated into the early hours. We all wish Evi and Andy a wonderful future together.

HELLO

On February 1st, Samuel Owusu Achiaw joined as one of our new research assistants. Samuel holds a degree a BSc in Human Biology and an MBChB (Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery) from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Ghana. Samuel also holds a Master of Public Health degree (Distinction) with a specialism in Health Economics from the University of Glasgow. With prior experience as a Clinician in a developing country, Samuel is interested in Health Economics Research and Health Technology Assessment particularly within a global context and within low- and middle-income countries.

Outside of academia, Samuel is also interested in fine art, classical music and creative writing.

Some of Samuel’s stunning pencil art. Samuel recently exhibited at the Rising Stars exhibition at the Royal Over-Seas League and at the Scottish Arts Club.

In April, we also welcomed Pankaj Bahuguna as a new research associate. Pankaj has over 15 years’ experience and holds a postgraduate degree in statistics and PhD in health economics. He was previously affiliated with Department of Community Medicine & School of Public Health Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, India as Economic Evaluation Specialist.

His past work focussed on health technology assessments, impact evaluations and healthcare costing of public health programs/facilities in India. He has 60+ publications in leading international and national journals.
January


February

Gray R, Patel S, Ives N, Rick C, Woolley R et (includes McIntosh E). Long-term Effectiveness of Adjunct Treatment with Catechol-O-Methyltransferase or Monoamine Oxidase B Inhibitors Compared With Dopamine Agonists Among Patients With Parkinson Disease Uncontrolled by Levodopa Therapy: The PD MED Randomized Clinical Trial. JAMA Neurol. 1 February 2022;79(2):131-140.

March


April

Bouttell J, Corcoran N, Doyle E, Harding-Eagar L, Jani B et al. 2022, SIGN 162 Assessment of COVID-19 in Primary Care: The identification of symptoms, clinical signs, characteristics, and comorbidities in adults, children and young people, which may indicate a higher risk of progression to severe disease, Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN). 28 March 2022.


Zhang L, Lewsey J, McAllister D A. Comparative effectiveness research considered methodological insights from simulation studies in physician’s prescribing preference. Journal of Clinical Epidemiology. 18 April 2022.


Anopa Y, Macpherson L M D, McMahon A D, Wright W, Conway D I, McIntosh E. Economic Evaluation of the Protecting Teeth @ 3 Randomized Controlled Trial. JDR Clinical & Translational Research. 20 April 2022.


May


Presentations


EDITORIAL TEAM:
Emma McIntosh, Francesco Manca, Dikshyanta Rana, Alieda McKinney, Miriam Yentumi