

## VIVA SUCCESS FOR ROBERT & TOON



May was a month of viva celebrations with Robert Heggie and Suthasinee Kumluang (Toon) successfully defending their PhD theses. Well done, Robert & Toon!



## £2.5m for New Evidence Synthesis Group @ CRSU

Olivia Wu is to lead a new group which will tackle complex health and social care issues by supporting evidence-based healthcare decision-making across the UK.

The new Evidence Synthesis Group builds on the success of the NIHR Complex Reviews Support Unit (CRSU) and involves collaboration with the Universities of Newcastle and Leicester alongside Cochrane.

The group is one of nine such NIHR-funded Evidence Synthesis Groups.

Olivia said: "Our Evidence Synthesis Group @CRSU is committed to producing outputs that will have significant impact on health, economy, and the wider society; that are excellent in originality, significance and rigour; and that are delivered in a timely and cost-effective manner."

Visit the group's website here:

[www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/evidencesynthesis/](http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/evidencesynthesis/)



## Contact us

More information about HEHTA, all our CPD courses and our online MSc is available by contacting our administrators at [shw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:shw-hehta@glasgow.ac.uk) or on our website



# Focus on Global Health NEW TOOL IDENTIFIES UNDERNOURISHED GIRLS IN BANGLADESH

A new study led by Eleanor Grieve found vulnerable teenage girls in fish-producing areas in Bangladesh can still be deficient in essential nutrients in fish, impacting their health. The study highlights the importance of a new tool developed by Professor Dave Little at the University of Stirling to identify such girls.

Three hundred girls were surveyed during dry and wet seasons to capture seasonal variations in fish availability. The observational data enabled researchers to combine risk factors which identify girls who are more likely to have omega deficiency.

It is hoped the cost-effective tool could now be used by development agencies to assess nutritional deficiency in vulnerable groups.

The paper 'Adolescent girls in aquaculture ecozones at risk of nutrient deficiency in Bangladesh development and validation of an integrated metric' was published in BMC Public Health.

# HEHTA Hosts NIHR Health Economics for Global Health Meeting

At the beginning of May, HEHTA invited NIHR global health economics colleagues to take part in this year's annual meeting.

Chaired by Emma McIntosh and Eleanor Grieve, the group discussed the way forward for the network and had presentations from various members of the group. It is the group's intention to grow the global health economists' network and eventually publish a position paper drawing funders' attention to the issues faced when conducting our global health research.

# NIHR GHRG Arthritis Policy Brief Published

The NIHR (National Institute for Health and Care Research) Global Health Research Group (GHRG) on arthritis has published its policy brief in the Tanzania Public Health Bulletin.

The 'NIHR GHRG on estimating the prevalence, quality of life, economic and societal impact of arthritis in Tanzania: a mixed methods study' was launched in 2018 to look at the effects of arthritis on the Tanzanian population. The study has been conducted in collaboration with the Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI) and has resulted in the creation of an arthritis clinic, one of the first of its kind, at the Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Centre (KCMC)

At the end of last year, the NIHR GHRG team, led by Professor Emma McIntosh University of Glasgow and Dr Blandina Mmbaga, Kilimanjaro Clinical Research Institute (KCRI), presented their policy brief to Tanzanian stakeholders at a policy meeting where it was well received.



# TIMELINE

## 31 January

PhD student Hanin is a panelist on disinvestment at GCD Talks.

## 7 February

PhD student Mohsin Alvi visits the department and delivers a talk on burns rehabilitation.

## 27 February

The team moves to the new Clarice Pears School of Health Wellbeing building on Byres Road.

## 3 March

PhD students Hanin authors a new blog post on disinvestment.

## 15 March

PhD student Tzujung Lai is shortlisted as a finalist in the 3MT competition.

## 16 March

The INtegrated TeChnologies for Improved Polyp Surveillance (INCISE) Project, involving Dikshyanta Rana and Neil Hawkins, wins the Innovative Collaboration category at Scottish Life Awards

## 22 March

'How Least Developed to Lower-Middle Income Countries Use Health Technology Assessment: A Scoping Review' is featured on the cover of Pathogens and Global Health.

## 21 March

A major study on minimum unit pricing, co-authored by Jim Lewsey, appears in the Lancet.

## 23 March

David McAllister and team join HEHTA.

## 12 April

Olivia Wu announced as Adjunct Professor in the in the field of "Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Methodologies" at the Faculty of Pharmacy, Mahidol University

## 25 April

Visitor TzuYao Huang returns to Taiwan.

## 1 May

Newly joined Elaine Butterly leaves the team but remains an affiliate.

## 3 May

HEHTA hosts the virtual NIHR Health Economics for Global Health Meeting & Robert Heggie successfully defends his thesis.

## 4 May

Jim Lewsey's research on the effects of MUP on alcohol-related deaths & hospital admissions is shortlisted in the Herald Higher Education Awards.

## 18 May

PhD student Suthasinee Kumluang successfully defends her thesis, and it is announced that the NIHR has awarded £2.5m to the HEHTA-led Evidence Synthesis Group @ CRSU.

## 19 May

Janet Bouttell leaves HEHTA for a new role within the NHS.

# Alcohol pricing study shortlisted in Herald Higher Education Awards

A new study which shows the introduction of minimum unit pricing (MUP) for alcohol since 2018 has reduced alcohol-related deaths and hospitalisations in some of Scotland's poorest areas was shortlisted as Project of the Year in the Herald Higher Education Awards in May.

'Evaluating the impact of alcohol minimum unit pricing on deaths and hospitalisations in Scotland: a controlled interrupted time series study' is co-authored by Jim Lewsey, Danny Mackay and Mark Robinson in collaboration with Public Health Scotland (lead author Grant Wyper).

The study shows:

-->13.4% reduction in alcohol deaths

-->4.1% reduction in alcohol-related hospitalisations

It concluded: 'The greatest improvements were in the four most socioeconomically deprived deciles, indicating that the policy is positively tackling deprivation-based inequalities in alcohol-attributable health harm'.



# HEHTA in Taiwan

Professors Olivia Wu & Neil Hawkins visited the National Defense Medical Centre (NDMC) in Taipei, Taiwan in May where they met with faculty & students & delivered the talk 'Is Health Technology Assessment Ready for the Digital Health Revolution?'



We are proud to have had visitors and PhD students from the NDMC over the years, including Dr Ping Hsuan Hsieh who is facilitated HEHTA's visit this year!

## HELLO

In April, we welcomed Dr David McAllister and his team of staff and PhD students. Formerly part of Public Health, David and his



team will now fall under HEHTA. David will lead the evidence synthesis research team and we're excited to be working with him, Lili, Jamie, Heather & PhDs Ryan, Khalid & Saleh! After saying hello, we swiftly found ourselves saying goodbye to David's team member Elaine Butterly who is leaving to return to her clinical work within the NHS but remains as an affiliate, so we will still see her around the department.

## GOODBYE

In May, we said goodbye to much-loved colleague Janet Bouttell who left us to take up a new role in the NHS. Janet was a researcher with HEHTA for a number of years and recently completed her PhD studies. We wish her luck in her new role!

# 2023/24 Courses

We are now taking registrations for all 2023/24 courses:

The following courses, which are modules of our MSc HTA, are currently being offered as non-accredited online distance learning (ODL).

Our ExpertTrack course via FutureLearn is called 'Using Health Technology Assessment in Support of Universal Health Coverage'. Registration for this course is open-ended and students can sign up for a seven-day free trial.

### Semester 1

#### Decision Analytic Modelling & Early Health Technology Assessment

18th September – 1st December 2023

#### HTA: Policy & Principles

18th September - 24th November 2023

#### Maximising the Value of Clinical Trial Data: Advanced Analysis for Economic Evaluation & Modelling

November/December 2023

### Semester 2

#### HTA in a Global Context

8th January - 23rd March 2024

#### Survival Analysis for HTA

19th February - 23rd March 2024

#### Statistical Methods for HTA & Evidence-Based Medicine

8th January - 23rd March 2024

#### Choice Experiments for Health Economics, HTA & One Health

8th January – 9th February 2024

### Semester 3

#### Real-World Data in Healthcare Decision-Making

15th April - 28th June 2024

#### Health Economics for HTA

15th April - 28th June 2024

# Publications

---

## January

Hanlon P, Burton JK, Quinn TJ, Mair F et al (includes **McAllister D A & Lewsey J**). Prevalence, measurement, and implications of frailty in stroke survivors: An analysis of three global aging cohorts. *International Journal of Stroke*. 2023;0(0).

Hanlon P, Guo X, McGhee E, **Lewsey J, McAllister D A** et al. Systematic review and meta-analysis of prevalence, trajectories, and clinical outcomes for frailty in COPD. *npj Prim. Care Respir. Med.* **33**, 1.

**Bahuguna P**, Masaki E, Jeet G, Prinja S. Financing Comprehensive Immunization Services in Lao PDR: A Fiscal Space Analysis From a Public Policy Perspective. *Appl Health Econ Health Policy* **21**, 131–140.

## February

Dixit J, Prinja S, Jyani G, **Bahuguna P**, Gupta A et al. Evaluating efficiency and equity of prevention and control strategies for rheumatic fever and rheumatic heart disease in India: an extended cost-effectiveness analysis. *Lancet Global Health*, **11**(3), e445–e455.

**Grieve E**, Mamun A A, de Roos B. et al. Adolescent girls in aquaculture ecozones at risk of nutrient deficiency in Bangladesh development and validation of an integrated metric. *BMC Public Health* **23**, 405.

**McMeekin N**, Sinclair L, Robinson-Smith L, Mitchell A, Bauld L et al (includes **Boyd K A**). Financial incentives for quitting smoking in pregnancy: are they cost-effective. *Addiction*.

Gupta D, Singh A, Gupta N, Mehra N, **Bahuguna P**. et al. (2023) Cost-Effectiveness of the First Line Treatment Options For Metastatic Renal Cell Carcinoma in India. *JCO Global Oncology* (9), e2200246.

Deo S, Ueda P, Adil Muhammad S, Salah A, Elgudin Y et al (includes **Hawkins N & McAllister D A**). Lipid Lowering in “Very High Risk” Patients Undergoing Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery and Its Projected Reduction in Risk for Recurrent Vascular Events: A Monte Carlo Stepwise Simulation Approach. *Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology* **81**(2):p 120-128.

## March

MacRae C, Mercer S W, Henderson D, McMinn M, Morales D R et al (includes **McAllister D**). Age, sex, and socioeconomic differences in multimorbidity measured in four ways: UK primary care cross-sectional analysis. *British Journal of General Practice* **2023**; **73** (729):e249–e256.

**Grieve E, Bahuguna P**, Gulliver S, Mehndiratta A, Baker P et al. Estimating the Return on Investment of Health Technology Assessment India (HTAI). Center for Global Development.

Taylor R, **Fraser H L**. Time to scale up access to cost-effective home-based/digitally supported models of rehabilitation delivery. *Heart* **2023**;109:892–893.

Sinha A, **Bahuguna P**, Gupta S S, et al, Study protocol for economic evaluation of probiotic intervention for prevention of neonatal sepsis in 0–2-month old low-birth weight infants in India: the ProSPoNS trial. *BMJ Open*. **13**:e068215.

## April

Ara G, Little D C, Mamun A-A, de Roos B, **Grieve E** et al. Factors affecting the micronutrient status of adolescent girls living in complex agro-aquatic ecological zones of Bangladesh. *Scientific Reports*, **13**, 6631.

Wyper G M A, Mackay D F, Fraser C, **Lewsey J**, Robinson M et al. Evaluating the impact of alcohol minimum unit pricing on deaths and hospitalisations in Scotland: a controlled interrupted time series study. *The Lancet*. Volume 401, Issue 10385, pp.1361-1370.

Field R J, Adamson C, Jhund P & **Lewsey J**. Joint modelling of longitudinal processes and time-to-event outcomes in heart failure: systematic review and exemplar examining the relationship between serum digoxin levels and mortality. *BMC Med Res Methodol* **23**, 94.

MacRae C, McMinn M, Stewart W M, Henderson D, **McAllister D A** et al. The impact of varying the number and selection of conditions on estimated multimorbidity prevalence: a cross-sectional study using a large, primary care population dataset. *PLoS Medicine*, **20**(4), e1004208.

**Germei E, Szabo S**. Beyond clinical and cost-effectiveness: The contribution of qualitative research to health technology assessment. *International Journal of Technology Assessment Health Care*. 2023 Apr 24;39(1):e23.

## May

Kilonzo K G et al (includes **McIntosh E**). Estimating the prevalence, quality of life, economic and societal impact of arthritis in Tanzania: protocol for a mixed methods study [Protocol]. *Other. protocols.io*. Krauth S, Halliday J, Kelly C et al (includes **McIntosh E**)

Mmbaga B T, Laurie E, **McIntosh E**, Kilonzo K, Yongolo N et al. Musculoskeletal (MSK) disorders with arthritis screening in Tanzania: new insights into the growing clinical, economic and societal burden of non-communicable disease. *Tanzania Public Health Bulletin*, **10**(1), pp. 8–14.

# Presentations

---

## January

**Hanin Kamaruzaman**. *Achieving UHC Requires Disinvestment as Well as Investment: Experience of Malaysia, Iran and Uganda*. Center for Global Development (GCD) Virtual presentation. 31 January 2023.

## March

**Emma McIntosh**. National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Global Health Research Group (GHRG) on *The prevalence, quality of life, economic and societal impact of musculoskeletal disorders in the Hai District in Tanzania*. School of Health and Wellbeing Lunchtime Seminar Series. Glasgow, UK. 14 March 2023.

**Manuela Deidda**. Estimating the economic impact of Musculoskeletal disorders in Tanzania: results from a community-based survey. NCD in Africa - ARUA Conference and Networking 2023. 27 March 2023.

## April

**Emma McIntosh**. *National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Global Health Research Group (GHRG) on The prevalence, quality of life, economic and societal impact of musculoskeletal disorders in the Hai District in Tanzania*. British Society for Rheumatology Conference. Glasgow, UK. 23 April 2023.

## May

**Kathleen Boyd**. *Economic Evaluations in Social Care Trials: Complexities and Challenges*. Centre for Health Economics, York. 4 May 2023.

**Kathleen Boyd**. *Research Integrity*. UKRI Research Integrity Conference. 24 May 2023.

**Olivia Wu**. *Is Health Technology Assessment Ready for the Digital Health Revolution?* National Defense Medical Centre (NDMC). Taipei, Taiwan. May 2023.

**Neil Hawkins**. Case Studies of Health Technology Assessment of Digital Health Technologies in the UK. National Defense Medical Centre (NDMC). Taipei, Taiwan. May 2023.

## EDITORIAL TEAM:

Emma McIntosh, Ryan Mulholland, Samuel Owusu Achiaw & Miriam Yentumi