



HEB Newsletter



Health Economics Bristol (HEB)



Welcome from Will

Welcome to the winter 2019 issue of the HEB newsletter complete with virtual snowflakes and a new group photo. Looking at the photo above gave me cause to reflect on how much HEB and the environment we work in has evolved since I first became a member in 2007.

In 2007, English University tuition fees were capped at £3,000, the financial crisis and its impact on public services was just beginning to unfold and Iggle Piggle from *In the Night Garden* was the top selling Christmas toy (£34.99). Developing and maintaining a thriving health economics research group involves balancing short term project funding with longer term infrastructure funding while encouraging investment in health economics from the University hierarchy.

Ultimately, however, it is talented individuals that define the research group and its research strengths. So, it is great to welcome in this issue new PhD students, the inception of the NIHR Applied Research Centre (ARC), two new short courses, and to provide an overview of outputs of HEB specialisms in capability measures, trials methodology and value of information.

I hope you all enjoy the break over the festive period and the year to come.

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Welcome to HEB



Shaun Harris joined HEB in July 2019. Shaun is working with **Will Hollingworth** and **Sian Noble** on several projects including orthopaedic joint replacement, haemodialysis, and Parkinson's disease.

Shaun's previous work includes evaluating the cost-effectiveness of group-based memory interventions in people with multiple sclerosis, and developing a cost-effectiveness model for low-molecular weight heparin in people with cancer at risk of recurrent VTE.



Maddy Cochrane joined HEB in September 2019. Maddy is working with **Sian Noble**, **William Hollingworth** and **Rebecca Kandiyali** on studies delivered at the Bristol Trials Centre (BTC).

The studies Maddy is involved in cover a range of clinical and public health areas, including: urology, nutrition, physical activity and domestic violence.



Isabella Floredin started her PhD in October 2019. Her project is looking at measuring capability for the economic evaluation of end of life care for children and young people.

Arc West begins with new HEB staff



Hugh McLeod joined HEB in November 2019 from the University of Birmingham as Senior Lecturer and lead for the NIHR ARC West Health Economics team. The new ARC West team also includes **Tim Jones**, **Carlos Sillero-Rejón** and **Gareth Myring**. Hugh's research seeks to enhance the potential of economics to strengthen local decision-making on resource use. Current work, with **Carlos Sillero-Rejón**, **Amanda Owen-Smith** and **Joanna Coast**, includes collaboration with commissioners and service providers to introduce use of ICECAP capability measures to promote outcome-orientated provision.



Tim Jones, joined HEB in October 2019 from the CLAHRC West epidemiology team, and his research with **William Hollingsworth** includes evaluation of interventions of limited efficacy, such as sub-acromial shoulder surgery.



Carlos Sillero-Rejón joined HEB in August 2019 from the School of Psychological Science. His research has focused on healthy behaviour change and tobacco and alcohol policies.



Gareth Myring, a HEB member who joined the ARC in October 2019, has previously worked on projects in the areas of end of life care and hepatitis C.

New PhD students funded by ARC West



Josie Morley and **Ruth Moulson** both commenced PhD studentships funded by NIHR ARC West in October 2019. Josie's project will look at the local delivery of national de-implementation directives put forward by NHS England, with a focus on how this influences treatment decision-making. Josie is supervised by Leila Rooshenas, **Amanda Owen-Smith**, **William Hollingworth** and Jenny Donovan.



Ruth Moulson is undertaking a mixed methods study of the cost-effectiveness and acceptability of interventions for children on the edge of care. Her PhD is supervised by John McLeod, Geraldine Macdonald, Julian Higgins and Theresa Redaniel.

HEB News



ICECAP workshop, Basel, July 2019

On Sunday 14 July 2019, the first international ICECAP measures workshop was held at the University of Basel, Switzerland. The ICECAP measures are a suite of capability measures developed for use in economic evaluation that have been developed collaboratively across the Universities of Bristol and Birmingham over the last fifteen years.

All three previous workshops were hosted in the UK, but with the growing interest in using ICECAP measures internationally, hosting the workshop as part of the pre-congress sessions at the International Health Economics Association (iHEA) conference was a perfect opportunity to hear about a broader range of ICECAP applications in different settings.

Talks ranged from work currently being conducted at HEB on developing capability measures for children, to work using ICECAP measures in patients with dementia. There was also a focus on using capability measures in economic evaluations and identifying where further research is still required. To find out more about the workshop and the ICECAP measures in general, please go to the ICECAP website: www.birmingham.ac.uk/icecap.



Trials within HEB

Sian Noble is working on a range of trial based economic evaluations within HEB. As always with trials, work is interesting and varied with projects at different stages of their life

cycle. Look out for publications over the coming months in relation to three NIHR HTA urological based trials.

ProtecT (A 10-year cost-effectiveness analysis evaluating treatments for localised prostate cancer); UN-BLOCS (evaluating surgical techniques for Benign prostatic hyperplasia) and UPSTREAM (evaluating urodynamics within the diagnostic pathway for men with Lower urinary tract symptoms (LUTS)).

Next year, three trials will be coming to an end. TRI-UMPH, (evaluating a nurse delivered booklet providing conservative treatment to men with LUTS in primary care), and two secondary care orthopaedic based trials which are based within NIHR programme grants: STAR (evaluating a care pathway for patients with chronic knee pain following knee replacement surgery) and INFORM (looking at whether two-stage or one-stage revision surgery is better for patients following periprosthetic hip infection).

Finally, after working for many years on projects in men's urology it's great that a female urology project is in its start-up phase. PURSUIT will be looking at whether a non-surgical or a surgical procedure is better for women with recurrent stress incontinence.

MRC grant to estimate economic value of adaptive trial designs



Howard Thom, Lecturer in health economics, has been awarded a Medical Research Council (MRC) New Investigator Research Grant entitled "What is the value of adaptive designs? Estimating expected value of sample

information (EVSI) for adaptive trial designs".

Adaptive designs adapt in response to results as they accumulate, for example by dropping or adding treatment arms, or focusing recruitment on patients most likely to benefit. Adaptive trials can achieve the same accuracy and precision of fixed designs but with lower cost.

Despite these advantages, adaptive designs remain the exception rather than rule. This 3-year grant will develop EVSI techniques to demonstrate the economic value of adaptive designs and thus encourage their uptake. Applications will include trials on oral anticoagulants for atrial fibrillation, prosthetic implants for hip replacement surgery, and pulmonary autograft coronary surgery.

This is a cross-disciplinary collaboration with experts in adaptive designs from Newcastle University, scientific computing from Heriot-Watt University, and value of information analysis from the University of Pittsburgh.



Key publications

Lewis, G,...**Hollingworth, W**,...**Welton, NJ**,...& Lewis, G 2019, 'The clinical effectiveness of sertraline in primary care and the role of depression severity and duration (PANDA): a pragmatic, double-blind, placebo-controlled randomised trial', *Lancet Psychiatry*, vol. 6, no. 11, pp. 903-914. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366\(19\)30366-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2215-0366(19)30366-9)

Walker, JG,...Vickerman, P & al., E 2019, 'Interim impact evaluation of the hepatitis C elimination program in Georgia: a modelling study', *Lancet Global Health*.

Hollingworth, W,...**Dixon, PC**,...**Thom, HHZ**, **Welton, NJ**,...& Lewis, G 2019, 'Cost-effectiveness of Sertraline in primary care according to initial severity and duration of depressive symptoms: findings from the PANDA RCT', *Pharmacoeconomics - Open*.

Harrison, S, Davies,...**Dixon, PC**,...& Howe, LD 2019, Estimated effects of health conditions and risk factors on social and socioeconomic outcomes: mendelian randomisation of UK Biobank data

Hewlett, S,...**Hollingworth, W**,...**Thorn, J**,...N & Pollock, J 2019, 'Group cognitive-behavioural programme to reduce the impact of rheumatoid arthritis fatigue: the RAFT RCT with economic and qualitative evaluations', *Health technology assessment (Winchester, England)*, vol. 23, no. 57, pp. 1-130. <https://doi.org/10.3310/hta23570>

Sanghera, S & **Coast, J** 2019, 'Measuring QALYs when health fluctuates', *Value in Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ival.2019.09.2753>

Williamson, H,...**Marques, EMR**,...& Harcourt, D 2019, 'A Web-Based Self-Help Psychosocial Intervention for Adolescents Distressed by Appearance-Altering Conditions and Injuries (Young Persons' Face IT): Feasibility Study for a Parallel Randomized Controlled Trial', *JMIR Mental Health*, vol. 6, no. 11. <https://doi.org/10.2196/14776>

Sebire, S,...**Garfield, K**,...**Hollingworth, W** & Jago, R 2019, 'A peer-led physical activity intervention in schools for adolescent girls: a feasibility RCT', *Public Health Research*, vol. 7, no. 16. <https://doi.org/10.3310/phr07160>

Fawsitt, C,...& **Welton, NJ** 2019, 'Cost-effectiveness analysis of baseline testing for resistance-associated polymorphisms to optimise treatment outcome in genotype 1 non-cirrhotic treatment-naïve patients with chronic hepatitis c virus', *Value in Health*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ival.2018.04.043>

Scazufca, M, **Hollingworth, W**, Peters, TJ & Araya, R 2019, 'Pilot study of a two-arm non-randomized controlled cluster trial of a psychosocial intervention to improve late life depression in socioeconomically deprived areas of São Paulo, Brazil (PROACTIVE): feasibility study of a psychosocial intervention for late life depression in São Paulo', *BMC Public Health*, vol. 19.

Thom, H, Lopez-Lopez, J & **Welton, N** 2019, 'Shared parameter model for competing risks and different data summaries in meta-analysis: implications for common and rare outcomes', *Research Synthesis Methods*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jrsm.1371>

Thom, H, **Hollingworth, W**,...& **Welton, N** 2019, 'Directly Acting Oral Anticoagulants for the Prevention of Stroke in Atrial Fibrillation in England and Wales: Cost-Effectiveness Model and Value of Information Analysis', *MDM Policy & Practice*, vol. 4, no. 2. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2381468319866828>

Looker, KJ, **Welton, NJ**, Sabin...& Gottlieb, SL 2019, 'Global and regional estimates of the contribution of herpes simplex virus type 2 infection to HIV incidence: a population attributable fraction (PAF) analysis using published epidemiological data', *Lancet Infectious Diseases*.

New role for Myles



In August 2019 Myles-Jay Linton was awarded a [University of Bristol Vice Chancellor's Fellowship](#) to conduct research on the topic of student mental health.

In his mixed methods research he will investigate issues around how young people transition through higher education, the measurement of mental health, and policies put in place to improve the support available to students.

The goal of the work is to generate evidence to shape practice locally at the University of Bristol, whilst also sharing this learning with other universities across the sector. Within his capacity as a Vice Chancellor's Fellow, Myles is also providing advisory support to the [Mind Mentally Healthy Universities](#) programme and the [World University Network Student Mental Health Working Group](#).

@Myles_Wellbeing



Short courses

The HEB team are running a series of comprehensive and useful short courses in 2020.

These include Introduction to Economic Evaluation (22-24 June 2020), Introduction to Qualitative Methods for Health Economics (2-4 March 2020) and Economic Evaluation and Modelling using R (9-10 July 2020).

This is the first time that the latter two courses have been open to external participants!

If you are interested in signing up for any of these courses, please use the following link: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/medical-school/>



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