



MCHE

MANCHESTER CENTRE  
FOR HEALTH ECONOMICS

## NEWSLETTER

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## WELCOME! FROM THE CENTRE LEAD

Welcome to the Winter edition of our MCHE Newsletter!

We are nearly one year into this global pandemic. Thanks to some brilliant minds who have developed and tested vaccines against COVID-19 we are also in the middle of a national vaccination programme. I know this phrase has been perhaps overused but we really are in 'unprecedented times'.

Everyone in MCHE and the wider university has shown amazing levels of strength, tenacity and resilience. As a result, academic teaching and research still goes on regardless of the devastating event we are all witnessing.

In this issue of the newsletter we describe some new projects and programmes of work with a significant health economics component that are starting up or about to report their results. We

welcome Gabriel Rogers to MCHE. We also welcome Leonie Penner (née Brinkmann) to her new role as Research Associate in Health Economics. We congratulate Dr Stuart Wright on being awarded his PhD while also welcoming two new PhD students to MCHE. We have our regular student spotlight section where we describe a dissertation project from our MPH module. We continue with our regular external seminar series using the magic of Zoom.

Very best wishes from all of us in MCHE and we hope that you stay safe and well.

*Katherine*



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# EVALUATION OF GREATER MANCHESTER TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME IN TAMESIDE AND GLOSSOP

From April 2016, Greater Manchester (GM) took control of many aspects of health and social care provision formerly controlled centrally by government (approximately £6 billion of public funding) as part of devolution of services. From this, a £450 million transformation fund was established by Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership to be distributed amongst the ten localities of Greater Manchester. Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) was awarded £23.2 million of transformation funding, which supported the rollout of eleven schemes developed as part of their ongoing health and social care integration programme – Care Together.

MCHE's Dr William Whittaker (Principal Investigator), Senior Lecturer in Health Economics, is leading the evaluation of this Greater Manchester Transformation Programme in

Tameside and Glossop with support from Dr James Higgerson, Research Associate in Health Economics.

This study is co-funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Applied Research Collaboration (ARC) GM, Tameside and Glossop CCG, Tameside and Glossop Integrated Care Foundation Trust and Tameside Metropolitan Council. The project comprises a set of population-level analyses looking at how the GM Transformation Programme has impacted a range of system, workforce and patient outcome measures alongside mixed methods evaluations of the rollout of eleven transformation schemes.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.arc-gm.nihr.ac.uk/projects/tameside-glossop-manchester-transformation>



“The project comprises a set of population-level analyses looking at how the Greater Manchester Transformation Programme has impacted a range of system, workforce and patient outcome measures.”



## THE RESILIENCE HUBS

The COVID-19 pandemic has put extraordinary pressure on health and social care services, mental health support is needed for affected key workers.

Funding has been awarded to a 20-month research project to evaluate new NHS staff mental health and wellbeing hubs. The Resilience Hubs study is sponsored by Greater Manchester Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust (GMMH) and led by researchers at The University of Manchester (UoM) and Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU).

It aims to investigate how well the Resilience Hub model works for providing mental health support to healthcare, social care and emergency service workers who have been impacted by COVID-19. MCHE's Linda Davies, Professor of Health Economics,

and Gemma Shields, Lecturer in Healthcare Sciences, will conduct exploratory health economic analyses using Resilience Hub clients' service use and health status data.

Find out more about the Resilience Hubs project here: <https://www.manchester.ac.uk/disc-over/news/half-a-million-pounds-awarded-to-evaluate-new-nhs-mental-health-and-wellbeing-services-resilience-hubs/>

Find out more about NIHR funded COVID-19 studies here: <https://www.nihr.ac.uk/news/nihr-funds-55-million-into-new-research-projects-to-investigate-long-term-impacts-of-covid-19/26390>



## STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: ALEX ROWLANDSON

Alex was a student on the Master of Public Health (MPH) by distance learning course. After completing the course unit in health economics, she decided to undertake a dissertation to utilise her new skills in economic evaluation. MPH students suggest their own dissertations and Alex designed and conducted a systematic review of economic evaluations of the FreeStyle Libre for use in patients with type 1 diabetes, with the support of her supervisor in MCHE, Gemma Shields. We would like to congratulate Alex for not only getting a distinction in her dissertation, but for graduating with a merit and for starting a new job as an Analyst at Aquarius Population Health.

### UPCOMING MCHE SEMINARS

Dr Valesca Retèl  
Senior Health Economist  
Netherlands Cancer Institute  
8 February 2021

Dr Irina Kinchin  
Atlantic Fellow for Equity in Brain Health  
Trinity College Dublin  
15 March 2021

## WELCOME GABRIEL ROGERS!

Gabriel joined MCHE as a Senior Research Fellow at the end of 2020. Before joining us, he spent a decade working for NICE as the lead health economist on internally developed clinical guidelines, reviewing evidence and developing original cost-effectiveness models to support guideline committees. He has a particular interest in decision-making in complex decision spaces, especially those with numerous potential comparators and/or separate, interacting decision-points. He's also interested in data visualisation and other techniques for communicating the structure and outputs of decision-analytic models to non-experts.

In the medium term, Gabriel is building on the links many MCHE members have with the Manchester Cancer Research Centre, with the aim of encouraging a more integrated approach to health economics in their research, especially in the area of early detection and diagnosis.

More immediately, he is joining a couple of ongoing MCHE projects. For the project "accounting for multi-morbidity, competing risk and direct treatment disutility in risk prediction tools and model-based cost-effectiveness analysis for the primary prevention of

cardiovascular disease and osteoporotic fracture" with Katherine Payne, Professor of Health Economics and Dr Alexander Thompson, Research Fellow in Health Economics, he will be using his previous professional experience to help revise the models from NICE's lipid management guidelines and osteoporosis appraisals, to see how their conclusions might be affected by accounting for competing risks of mortality and direct treatment-related disutility.

For the project "avoiding patient harm through the application of prescribing safety indicators in English general practices" (PRoTeCT), Gabriel will be working to calculate an overall estimate of the cost effectiveness of an intervention that reduces hazardous prescribing, which mostly entails stitching together 11 separate models the team has built, each of them exploring the consequences of a different prescribing error.



## WORKWELL PROJECT

Dr Martin Eden, Research Fellow in Health Economics, and Dr Cheryl Jones, Honorary Research Fellow in Health Economics, have designed the health economics component of the WORKWELL trial. This ongoing study, led by the University of Salford, involves a multi-centre pragmatic RCT looking at how a complex intervention delivered by occupational therapists could help workers affected by inflammatory arthritis. Participants are being recruited from 22 sites across the UK. It is anticipated that the intervention will enable people to manage their condition so that they can continue to work as best they can.

A cost-effectiveness analysis approach will be used in the economic analysis. The base case analysis will use a NHS perspective to generate a cost-per-QALY gained through the introduction of WORKWELL. Additional analyses will employ work-related outcome measures

in cost-effectiveness analyses and will explore alternative cost perspectives to understand the impact of the intervention for different stakeholders. The WORKWELL team comprises researchers from a number of universities, health professionals from NHS trusts and patient representatives. Alongside the trial and economic analysis, a process evaluation is being conducted. A protocol detailing all study components has been published in BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders (Hammond et al. 2020).



## RECENT MCHE PRESENTATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Vass CM, de Bekker-Grob E, Shields G, Abraham L. Who is the 'patient' in patient preference studies? Current practice and future challenges. ISPOR Europe Issue Panel, November 2020.

Allen T. Digital Workshop: Health economic research on GPs. Physicians under pressure: Evidence from antibiotics prescribing in England. Hosted by the University of Oslo and the University of Southern Denmark, January 2021.

Wright SJ. Quantifying the impact of health system capacity constraints in economic evaluations using value of implementation analysis. Health economics departments of Glasgow University, Strathclyde University, and Glasgow Caledonian University, February 2021.

Professor Katherine Payne was co-chair with Prof Sir John Tooke for an Academy of Medical Sciences FORUM workshop on 'Precision prevention for modifiable health risks: steps to achievable personalised preventative healthcare'. 11 December 2020

Professor Katherine Payne was an invited Member of Expert workshop for EcoPerMed: Health economic modelling of personalised medicine (September 2020)

## IN OTHER NEWS...

Congratulations to Dr Stuart Wright who successfully defended his PhD thesis • Congratulations to Leonie Penner (née Brinkmann) for starting as Research Associate in Health Economics • Welcome to Shabnam Thapa (co-supervised by Professor Katherine Payne) and Naqiuddin Naqib Mohamad Khairri (co-supervised by Dr William Whittaker) who have recently started their PhD at MCHE.



## CHRISTABEL PANKHURST INSTITUTE FOR HEALTH TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH & INNOVATION

The Christabel Pankhurst Institute for Health Technology Research & Innovation is a £25M partnership between Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Health Innovation Manchester, Manchester Science Partnerships and the Manchester University Foundation Trust. The Institute will seek to capitalise on the excellence in digital health and advanced materials within Manchester, catalysing research and innovation to meet real healthcare needs.

MCHE's Dr Alexander Thompson, Research Fellow in Health Economics is leading the health economics for the Institute, helping to inform the cost-effective development and translation of transformative technologies into the health and social care system.

For more information, please visit: <https://healthinnovationmanchester.com/news/the-christabel-pankhurst-institute-for-health-technology-set-to-open-in-manchester/>



## RECENT MCHE PUBLICATIONS

Wright, S, Paulden, M & Payne, K 2020, 'Implementing Interventions with Varying Marginal Cost-effectiveness: An Application in Precision Medicine', Medical Decision Making. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0272989X20954391>

Moore, D, Allen, T, Birch, S, Tickle, M, Walsh, T & Pretty, IA 2021, 'How effective and cost-effective is water fluoridation for adults? Protocol for a 10-year retrospective cohort study', BDJ Open, vol. 7, no. 1, pp. 3. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41405-021-00062-9>

O'Malley, L, Macey, R, Allen, T, Brocklehurst, P, Thomson, F, Rigby, J, Laloo, R, Tomblin-Murphy, G, Birch, S & Tickle, M 2020, 'Workforce planning models for oral healthcare: A scoping review', JDR Clinical and Translational Research. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2380084420979585>

Birch, S, Ahern, S, Brocklehurst, P, Chikte, U, Gallagher, J, Listl, S, Laloo, R, O'malley, L, Rigby, J, Tickle, M, Tomblin Murphy, G & Woods, N 2020, 'Planning the oral health workforce: Time for innovation', Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology. <https://doi.org/10.1111/cdoe.12604>

Allen, T, Walshe, K, Proudlove, N & Sutton, M 2020, 'The measurement and improvement of maternity service performance through inspection and rating: An observational study of maternity services in acute hospitals in England', Health Policy, vol. 124, no. 11, pp. 1233-1238. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.healthpol.2020.08.007>

Hammond, A, Prior, Y, Cotterill, S, Sutton, C, Camacho, E, Heal, C, Adams, J, Hough, Y, O'Neill, TW & Firth, J 2021, 'Clinical and cost effectiveness of arthritis gloves in rheumatoid arthritis (A-GLOVES): randomised controlled trial with economic analysis', BMC Musculoskeletal Disorders, vol. 22, no. 1. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12891-020-03917-8>

Shields, G & Elvidge, J 2020, 'Challenges in synthesising cost-effectiveness estimates', Systematic Reviews.

Camacho, L & Hussain, H 2020, 'Cost-effectiveness evidence for strategies to promote or support breastfeeding: a systematic review', BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12884-020-03460-3>