Welcome to the first Bangor Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (CHEME) biannual newsletter.

Welcome to the first Bangor Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (CHEME) biannual newsletter. CHEME has two streams of research:

1. **The Public Health Economics Group** undertakes research into methods for the economic evaluation of public health, behaviour change and psycho-social interventions, and applied evaluations of interventions such as parenting programmes, interventions to support people living with dementia and their carers, interventions for children and adults living with disability, and promoting independence in old age.

2. **The Pharmacoeconomics Group** is engaged in research activities related to pharmaceutical economics and policy, including the economic assessment of all new medicines introduced in Wales, research into the causes and consequences of non-adherence to medicines, methodological and applied research related to trial-based economic evaluations and assessment of pharmacogenetic tests.

CHEME works closely with NWORTH in Bangor and the Clinical Trials Research Centre at Liverpool.

In this issue, we focus on upcoming events, new, current and completed projects, recent presentations and publications, and staff and student successes. Knowing how busy you are, we have intentionally made this as concise as possible.

**Rhiannon Tudor Edwards & Dyfrig Hughes**  
CHEME co-directors

More information on research, teaching and NHS support activities is available from our website:  
www.bangor.ac.uk/healtheconomics or contact our administrator Sioned Smith: s.smith@bangor.ac.uk
SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH…

Colin Ridyard and Dalia Dawoud are working on a systematic review of patient preferences for subcutaneous injection devices. This complements their work on the SCIPI (www.scipitrial.org.uk) and SYCAMORE (www.sycamorettrial.org.uk) trials.

Emily Fargher and Catrin Plumpton are working in collaboration with the Walton Centre and the University of Liverpool on projects in epilepsy, including a DCE of patient preferences for antiepileptic drugs, economic evaluation alongside an HTA-funded trial of newer treatments for epilepsy - SANAD II (www.sanad2.org.uk), economic modelling of interventions for the Cochrane Epilepsy Group, and a cost-effectiveness analysis of a pharmacogenetic test prior to carbamazepine treatment.

Warren Linley and Dyfrig Hughes recently completed a survey of 4,118 members of the public on their views on NICE, Cancer Drugs Fund and Value-Based Pricing criteria for prioritising medicines.

Seow Tien Yeo is working on an economic analysis of the SDO-funded EPIC Trial of ”Evidence into Practice: evaluating a child centred intervention for diabetes medicine management”.

Barry Hounsome and Nathan Bray are working in collaboration with colleagues from Hull on exploring prescribing patterns in care home residents with challenging behaviour, as part of the NIHR DEMCARE programme (www.challengedemcare.com).

Pat Linck is working on the NIHR funded PLINY Trial (www.phr.nihr.ac.uk/funded_projects/09_3004_01.asp) in conjunction with Sheffield University, undertaking a cost effectiveness analysis of implementation of telephone friendship groups to improve wellbeing in people aged 75 and over.

Emily Fargher, Catrin Plumpton and Dyfrig Hughes recently completed an FP7-funded project that investigated the causes and consequences of sub-optimal adherence to medicines (http://abcproject.eu/). The findings were presented at the European Parliament (picture 1).

Nathan Bray is working on the DEPVIT Trial (www.cardiff.ac.uk/optom/research/researchprojects/depvit/depvit.html), funded by Guide Dogs, to explore the cost effectiveness of putting counselling services into low vision centres in Cardiff and London.

Pat Linck, Carys Jones, Jo Charles and Rhiannon Tudor Edwards have recently completed, in collaboration with the Dartington Trust (www.dartington.org), an economic evaluation of parenting and classroom based programmes as part of the Birmingham City Council Brighter Futures Initiative (www.birmingham.gov.uk/brighter-futures).

UPCOMING EVENTS

☐ Seminar – Professor Matt Sutton, University of Manchester.

☐ CHEME is hosting the winter 2012 Welsh Health Economics Group meeting, December 13th and 14th. Dr Ruth Hussey, newly appointed Chief Medical Officer for Wales will discuss how Health Economics can further contribute to health and social care policy in Wales.

SEMINARY SERIES

CHOME runs a regular seminar series with invited speakers from all over the world. Recent seminars include:

☐ Dr Sat Bir Khalsa, Assistant Professor of Medicine, Harvard Medical School, presented on Yoga: Research on its Efficacy and Cost-Effectiveness for Wellness, Prevention and Therapy.

☐ Professor Katherine Payne, School of Community Based Medicine, University of Manchester, presented on: Valuing the economic benefits of complex interventions: when maximising health is not sufficient.
Congratulations to Warren Linley who was recently appointed as Senior Research Fellow and to Dr Jo Charles and Dr Catrin Plumpton who both successfully completed their PhDs and graduated this summer.

We wish our PhD student Joshua Pink all the best in his new position of Research Fellow at the University of Warwick. Congratulations to Dalia Dawoud and our PhD student, Lucy Bryning, for gaining their MScs in Economic Evaluations in Health Care and Psychology, respectively – both with distinctions.

Lucy and Seow Tien Yeo, both funded by Tenovus cancer charity PhD studentships, recently contributed to the Tenovus North Wales research roadshow (www.tenovus.org.uk) (right) Seow Tien Yeo, Lucy Bryning and Rhiannon Tudor Edwards at the Tenovous meeting.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH DESIGN

CHEME provides research design support via the Welsh Health Economics Support Service (WHESS) (www.hepru.research.glam.ac.uk/whess/), and the Research Design Service (www.rds-nw.nihr.ac.uk). CHEME also provides health economics support to MAST, the Methodology Advisory Service for Trials, as part of its collaborative work with the MRC North West Hub for Trials Methodological Research. Feel free to submit a request for advice on “non-standard” methodological problems http://www.methodologyhubs.mrc.ac.uk/methodology_advisory_service.aspx

CHEME’S NEWEST PHD STUDENT

Ned Hartfiel, originally from USA is funded by the Welsh Government, through the Welsh Health Economics Support Service (WHESS) to undertake a PhD on the cost effectiveness of yoga-based back pain prevention programmes for the workplace (www.druworldwide.com/ned-hartfiel).

SUPPORTING HEALTH POLICY AND THE NHS IN WALES

Rhiannon Tudor Edwards, assisted by Jo Charles provide health economics support to Public Health Wales. We are contributing to an all-Wales PBMA review of over 50 health improvement programmes, spanning smoking cessation services, obesity prevention and exercise promotion initiatives. Rhiannon and Jo also support the Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB) Prioritisation Board, contributing to the evidence base for decisions on candidate services in North Wales.

Dyfrig Hughes, Warren Linley, Natalia Hounsome and Dalia Dawoud lead on the economic assessment of all new (non-NICE appraised) medicines in Wales. In 2012 we have contributed to 30 assessment reports for consideration by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (www.wales.nhs.uk/awmsg/). Dyfrig is also academic lead for the Pharmacy and Medicines Management Clinical Programme Group of the BCUHB and advises on research related to medicines.

VACANCIES

We are currently recruiting a Post-Doctoral Research Officer in Mathematical Modelling. Contact us for further details.

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NEW FUNDING

www.dirum.org is a project funded by the MRC Hub for Trials Methodological Research to compile a Database of Instruments for Resource Use Measurement. If you have a resource-use measure based on patient recall, such as a questionnaire or diary, which you think we should include in DIRUM, please contact us: info@dirum.org

The National Institute for Social Care & Health Research (NISCHR) has granted Bangor University two Health Awards. CHEME will be providing economic evaluation support to these two NISCHR research fellowships.

Congratulations to Tom O’Brien and colleagues, School of Sport, Health and Exercise Sciences, who will be leading a project on wellbeing, health and fitness of children with mobility impairments (well MI); and to Pam Martin and colleagues, School of Psychology, who will be investigating management in dementia: a pilot trial of the development, efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a SM group intervention.

STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to Warren Linley who was recently appointed as Senior Research Fellow and to Dr Jo Charles and Dr Catrin Plumpton who both successfully completed their PhDs and graduated this summer. (pictures 2 & 3) We wish our PhD student Joshua Pink all the best in his new position of Research Fellow at the University of Warwick. Congratulations to Dalia Dawoud and our PhD student, Lucy Bryning, for gaining their MScs in Economic Evaluations in Health Care and Psychology, respectively – both with distinctions.

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(1) Sahdia Parveen, Val Morrison (School of Psychology), Emily Fargher, Catrin Plumpton and Dyfrig Hughes at the European Parliament. (2) Jo Charles and Lucy Bryning graduating, with Rhiannon Tudor Edwards. (3) Catrin Plumpton on graduation day.
RECENT PRESENTATIONS

- Dyfrig Hughes was among 7 UK delegates invited by the British Embassy in Tokyo, to participate in a workshop on personalised medicine. The presentation focused on the economic implications of genetic tests.

- Nathan Bray, Catrin Plumpton, Joshua Pink, James Burrows presented at the Summer Welsh Health Economics Group meeting in Swansea.

- Rhiannon Tudor Edwards gave the 2012 Keynote Guest Lecture to the British Geriatric Society, Venue Cymru, N Wales entitled ‘Can We Afford to Age?’

- Rhiannon Tudor Edwards was visiting Professor to the Health Economics Research Group at Manchester University during July. She gave a guest seminar entitled ‘Working with Government - PBMA of an All-Wales Public Health Improvement Programme’. She also ran a ‘Top Ten Tips PhD Clinic’ for the Department.

- Emily Fargher presented on ‘Stated preferences for persistence with medications: A discrete choice experiment’ at the Oxford HESG meeting.

- Dyfrig Hughes presented at the Welsh Psychiatric Society Conference at Swansea, on ‘The economics of new medicines’, and chaired a workshop on Individual Patient Funding Requests at the All Nations Centre, Cardiff.

- Rhiannon Tudor Edwards presented research from the CHARISMA trial of Housing Adaptation for Children Living with Asthma, to the MRC funded, Population Health Economics Conference, Glasgow University.

- Rhiannon Tudor Edwards gave the opening presentation at the Welsh Economists’ Colloquium, Gregynog.

- Dyfrig Hughes presented at the AWMSG 10 year conference, at Cardiff’s Millennium stadium on “New Medicines – Are they value for money” [see picture above].

- Barry Hounsome and Seow Tien Yeo presented at the NWORTH seminar day.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS


