

# CHEME

Centre for Health  
Economics and  
Medicines Evaluation



PRIFYSGOL  
**BANGOR**  
UNIVERSITY



## SUMMER 2014

### Welcome to the fifth newsletter of the Centre for Health Economics and Medicines Evaluation (CHEME)

In this issue, we focus on key achievements and research activities at CHEME during the first half of 2014. Highlights include the successful launch of the CHEME short course in Health Economics for Public Health Practice and Research-running again next year March 23rd to 25th 2015; the CHEME Pharmacoeconomics group winning the Bangor University ESRC Impact Acceleration Award for Best Impact on Public Policy, and the Welsh Health Economists Group (WHEG) Conference on the theme of Environmental Sustainability and Health, held at the Centre for Alternative Technology.

More information on research, teaching and NHS support activities is available from our website: [cheme.bangor.ac.uk](http://cheme.bangor.ac.uk) or contact our administrator Ann Lawton: [cheme@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:cheme@bangor.ac.uk). Follow us on Twitter @CHEMEBangor and @ProfRTEdwards.

**Dyfrig Hughes & Rhiannon Tudor Edwards**

CHEME CO-DIRECTORS

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Rhiannon Tudor Edwards presenting at the Health Economics for Public Practice & Research short course held at Bangor University

## SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH...

### ESRC Award for Best Impact on Public Policy

At Bangor University's annual Impact & Innovation Awards ceremony, Dyfrig Hughes and colleagues from the pharmacoeconomics section of CHEME won the 2014 ESRC Impact Acceleration Award for Best Impact on Public Policy and/or Public Services.

CHEME's research into evidence-based policies for new medicines has had an impact through informing the decision-making processes by which new medicines are assessed. Our research also informed the decisions of the Welsh and Scottish Governments to reject the notion of Cancer Drugs Funds. Unlike the NHS in England, where £200m is ring-fenced annually for cancer medicines, policies in Wales and Scotland aim to reduce inequalities in the health service by ensuring that patients with all conditions can access effective treatments. CHEME also works closely with the All Wales Therapeutics and Toxicology Centre to conduct health

economic assessments of new medicines for Wales. These assessments (over 200 to date) inform decisions made by the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG), and have accounted for £263m in expenditure by the NHS in Wales for the period 2006-12.

On receiving the award, Dyfrig Hughes commented: "Since establishing pharmacoeconomics research within CHEME almost a decade ago, the focus has always been to achieve high quality outputs which impact directly on health policy. I am delighted that we have played a small part in shaping some NHS policies and am honoured to receive this award in recognition of these achievements."

### Commonwealth Fund Harkness Alumni Health Policy Forum in Washington, USA, July 2014

Research by Rhiannon Tudor Edwards and James Burrows on The Enhanced Care at Home Service on Anglesey was presented in Washington DC on 7th July 2014.

Their study, in conjunction with BCUHB colleagues Chris Couchman and Glynis Tabberer, to be published later by the Commonwealth Fund, on The Enhanced Care at Home Service on Anglesey which allows largely elderly patients to be cared for at home through their GP and Advanced Community Nursing Services, showed potential savings of one third and positive patient feedback. This specialised medical care in the home, with back up from a hospital consultant, complements the previous rapid response service on the island, further bringing together health and social care services. The service has been well received by patients and family carers and there is some evidence that it is reducing admissions to hospital.

The Commonwealth Fund is a leading health policy organisation influencing US and international health policy. <http://www.commonwealthfund.org/>

### Opportunity cost of NICE Technical Appraisal (TA) decisions in Wales

Research by Dyfrig Hughes in collaboration with colleagues from the Office of Health Economics (OHE) sought to examine how Local Health Boards (LHBs) in Wales adjust spending to meet the statutory requirement of providing access to technologies recommended by NICE.

The results showed services may be displaced as part of a response to the cumulative impact of all types of cost pressures, including cost-increasing health technologies newly recommended by NICE, but such displacements are not direct responses to the publication of individual NICE TAs. Instead, cost pressure from new NICE TAs are likely to be accommodated at least in part by greater efficiency and increased expenditure.

This has been published as a research paper. Details can be found at: <http://www.ohe.org/publications/article/opportunity-costs-and-nice-decisions-in-wales-146.cfm>



Lorna, Catrin, Colin and Dyfrig accept the 2014 ESRC Impact Acceleration Award for Best Impact on Public Policy and/or Public Services at a dinner event given by Bangor University.

## SPOTLIGHT ON CONFERENCES...

### WHEG 5th-6th June 2014

CHEME organised this summer's Welsh Health Economists Group (WHEG) meeting at the Centre for Alternative Technology (CAT) in Corris, Machynlleth. The event carried a theme of environmental sustainability and health.

Our keynote speaker, Jane Davidson the former Minister for Environment and Sustainability in Wales presented on linkages between sustainability and health. Jane is now Director of a new sustainability institute, INSPIRE, (Institute for Sustainability Practice, Innovation and Resource Effectiveness) at the University of Wales, Trinity Saint David.

Paul Allen the CAT External Relations Officer gave a presentation on CAT's recent Zero Carbon Britain (ZCB) Research, relating these to public health and challenges such as obesity. More details can be found on the internet at:  
[www.zerocarbonbritain.org](http://www.zerocarbonbritain.org).

A number of talks were given by members of CHEME. Dyfrig Hughes

presented work on the business of orphan drug development and a presentation on the ongoing Warm Homes for Health project given by Nathan Bray examined the impact of housing improvements on population health. Paul Parham discussed cost-effectiveness of malaria interventions in different climates and Laura Budd presented her PhD research on preferences for gynaecological cancer follow up after treatment.

Eleanor Heather from the Wales Centre for Behaviour Change, Bangor University's School of Psychology presented on behavioural economics and choice architecture in the context of the new PONTIO Arts Centre followed by a discussion on what the best methods of research, study and evaluation were.

### 2nd ICECAP users' group workshop 15th-16th February 2014

Lucy Bryning and Carys Jones presented posters at the ICECAP users' workshop held at Birmingham University in February. Funded by the



Ned with Audrey Schoomaker at the Medical Yoga Symposium. Audrey and her husband Eric, former Surgeon General of the US Army, have been instrumental in introducing yoga-based techniques and integrative medicine in the US Army.

MRC Hubs for Trials Methodology Research, the two-day event explored the use of ICECAP measures in clinical trials and economic evaluation.

### Cost-effectiveness of yoga

Ned Hartfiel presented on the "cost-effectiveness of yoga to reduce back pain and stress in the workplace" at two research conferences:

1) Medical Yoga Symposium, Washington DC. Hosted by The Smithsonian Institute and George Washington University, 11 – 12 January 2014

2) Yoga and Health: Research and Practice, London. Hosted by UCL and CONFER, 4 – 6 April 2014

### Upcoming Events

Dyfrig Hughes will be hosting the 2014 North Wales Medicines Research Symposium on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.

The event is now open for registration and research abstract submission. For further details contact: Ann Lawton:  
[a.b.lawton@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:a.b.lawton@bangor.ac.uk).



Health Economists from around Wales at the June WHEG conference, Centre for Alternative Technology, Machynlleth. The building in the background is made of rammed-earth walls and constitutes part of the Wales Institute for Sustainable Education (WISE)

## New Funding

Together with colleagues from the Universities of Bristol and Oxford, Colin Ridyard and Dyfrig Hughes have secured funding from the MRC Network of Hubs for Trial Methodology Research to establish a national Health Economic Resource Use and Costs Working Group.

Carys Jones, Rhiannon Tudor Edwards and Bob Woods have gained a NISCHR studentship entitled "Exploring the economics of hospital care for people with dementia".

Joanna Charles and Rhiannon Tudor Edwards from CHEME and John Parkinson, Bangor University School of Psychology, have gained a NISCHR studentship entitled "Improving the housing stock of Anglesey and Gwynedd: a health economics and behavioural psychology evaluation".

As part of the Public Health Economics programme at CHEME, Rhiannon Tudor Edwards, together with colleagues from Leicester, have received funding from NIHR to undertake a study entitled:

"A cluster randomised controlled trial to investigate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the 'Girls Active' intervention"

## Staff News

Congratulations to Emily and her husband Tim on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy Ifor William Holmes. Mum, dad and baby are all doing well.

Congratulations to Lucy and her husband Rob on the arrival of their beautiful baby boy Thomas Idris Laing. Mum, dad and baby are all doing well.

Farewell to Paul Parham, and best wishes in his new job at the University of Liverpool

Congratulations to Carys Jones on her graduation ceremony at Bangor University on 14th July

Welcome to Elin Owen, a Bangor graduate who has joined the Public Health Economics Group at CHEME. Elin is working on developing our social return on investment expertise.

Welcome to Lorna Tuersley who has joined the Pharmacoeconomics group at CHEME.

Welcome to Jackie Williams- Bulkeley

who has joined CHEME to assist Rhiannon Tudor Edwards in co-editing with Emma McIntosh, University of Glasgow, the 5th handbook in economics text "Applied Health Economics for Public Health Practice and Research", to be published in 2016.

## Recent Publications

Whitaker R, Hendry M, Booth A, Carter B, Charles J, Craine N, Edwards RT, Lyons M, Noyes J, Pasterfield D, Rycroft-Malone J, Williams N. Intervention Now To Eliminate Repeat Unintended Pregnancy in Teenagers (INTERUPT): a systematic review of intervention effectiveness and cost-effectiveness, qualitative and realist synthesis of implementation factors and user engagement. *BMJ Open* 2014;4:e004733. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2013-004733

Noyes J, Lowes L, Whitaker R, Allen D, Carter C, Edwards RT, Rycroft-Malone J, Sharp J, Edwards D, Spencer LH, Sylvestre Y, Yeo S T and Gregory JW. Evidence into practice: The 'EPIC Project': Developing and evaluating a child-centered intervention for diabetes medicine management using mixed-methods and a multi-centre Randomised Controlled Trial. *National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Health Services and Delivery Research*, 2014; 2(8). DOI: 10.3310/hsdr02080.

Schaffer S K, Sussex J, Hughes D and Devlin N. Opportunity costs of implementing NICE decisions in NHS Wales. *Research Paper 14/02*. 2014. London: Office of Health Economics.

Davies R, Jones M, Lloyd-Williams H. Age and work-related health: insights from the UK Labour Force Survey. *British Journal of Industrial Relations*. 2014. Published Online. Doi: 1111/bjir.12059

Mulhern B, Rowen D, Snape D, Jacoby A, Marson T, Hughes D, Baker G, Brazier J. Valuations of epilepsy-specific health states: a comparison of patients with epilepsy and the general population. *Epilepsy Behav*. 2014 May 15;36C:12-17

Sutton S, Kinmonth AL, Hardeman W, Hughes D, Boase S, Prevost AT, Kellar I, Gaffy J, Griffin S, Farmer A. Does Electronic Monitoring Influence Adherence to Medication? Randomized Controlled Trial of Measurement Reactivity. *Ann Behav Med*. 2014 Feb 27.

Mountain GA, Hind D, Gossage-Worrall R, Walters SJ, Duncan R, Newbould L, Rex S, Jones C, Bowling A, Cattan M, Cairns A, Cooper C, Edwards RT and Goyder EC. Putting Life in Years (PLINY) telephone friendship groups research study: pilot randomised controlled trial. *Trials*. 2014;15:141. doi:10.1186/1745-6215-15-141

Quinn C, Anderson D, Toms G, Whitaker R, Edwards RT, Jones C and Clare L. Self-management in early-stage dementia: a pilot randomised controlled trial of the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of a self-management group intervention (The SMART study). *Trials*. 2014;15:74 doi:10.1186/1745-6215-15-74

Jones C, Edwards RT, Hounsborne B. Qualitative exploration of the suitability of capability based instruments to measure quality of life in family carers of people with dementia. *ISRN Family Medicine*. 2014. Article ID 919613, doi:10.1155/2014/919613.

Bedson E, Bell D, Carr D, Carter B, Hughes D, Jorgensen A, et al. Folate Augmentation of Treatment - Evaluation for Depression (FoIATED): randomised trial and economic evaluation. *Health Technol Assess* 2014;18(48)

O'Brien TD, Noyes J, Spencer LH, Kubis HP, Hastings RP, Edwards RT, Bray N, Whitaker R. 'Keep fit' exercise interventions to improve health, fitness and well-being of children and young people who use wheelchairs: mixed-method systematic review protocol. *Journal of Advanced Nursing*. 2014. doi: 10.1111/jan.12428

## Vacancies

CHEME is currently recruiting for Research Officer (PhD level) and Research Assistant (MSc level) posts in Health Economics. The post holders will conduct economic evaluations alongside clinical trials and contribute to methodological research related to the economic evaluation of medicines. Please contact Professor Dyfrig Hughes for further details and an informal discussion at: d.a.hughes@bangor.ac.uk

CHEME is recruiting for two PhD studentships in the field of Public Health economics and dementia care. Please contact Professor Rhiannon Tudor Edwards for further details on: r.t.edwards@bangor.ac.uk

## How to find us

CHEME is based on the Normal Site situated between Bangor and the Isle of Anglesey along the A5

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