



University  
of Glasgow

# HEHTA Newsletter

School of Health  
& Wellbeing

Winter 2024

## Kathleen Boyd Appointed to Scottish Medicines Consortium

We are delighted to announce that Kathleen Boyd, Professor of Health Economics and Director of Research at the School of Health & Wellbeing, was appointed to the Scottish Medicines Consortium (SMC) in October.



The SMC are the national source of advice on the clinical and cost-effectiveness of all new medicines for NHS Scotland, working to ensure that people nation-wide have timely access to medicines that provide the most benefits based on the best available evidence. As a voting member, Kathleen joins a national decision-making committee, further developing HEHTA's existing scope and influence in national health and wellbeing decision making.

## Kickstart your Career in the New Year



Block 2 of our online short CPD courses in Health Economics and HTA starts in January 2025. Choose from a new selection of topics and join like-minded professionals in the following expert-led sessions, linked below:

**Real-World Data in Healthcare Decision-Making;**

**Survival Analysis for HTA;**

**Health Economics for HTA;**

**Choice Experiments for Health Economics, HTA, & One Health.**

Find out more about our other short courses here.



## Land Use for Net Zero

We are part of a University of Glasgow-led research team that has been awarded £4.5 million over three years by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and government partners. The funding comes as part of the Land Use for Net Zero (LUNZ) research programme's broader mission to provide the UK Government with the rapid evidence to develop policies that will drive the land transformation needed to achieve Net Zero by 2050.

HEHTA will contribute to the Rapid Engagement with Stressed Peatland Environments and Communities in Transformation (RESPECT) project through Dr Katherine Simpson, Lecturer in One Health and Environmental Economics. Katherine will use her expertise in discrete choice experiments (DCEs) to assist the team in their assessment of stakeholders' willingness to engage in restoration by examining factors like contract terms, monitoring requirements, social expectations, and incentive structures.

[Read the full article on our university website here.](#)



## Looking for a Funded PhD Studentship in HE & HTA?

As part of College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences's College Future's PhD Programme, HEHTA are part of the following opportunities, linked below:

- [Precision Medicine for Adv. Diagnostics and Therapeutics to Improve Outcomes after Ischaemic Stroke](#)
- [Measuring socioeconomic position in clinical trials](#)



## Informing Clyde Metro

HEHTA's Manuela Deidda and Samuel Owusu-Achiaw are leading a health economics work package as part of a 6-month research project, titled "Informing Clyde Metro", which aims to assist Glasgow City Council in best aligning active travel and mass transit.

The Clyde Metro initiative plans to better connect the 1.5 million people in and around Glasgow through a multi-billion-pound investment into a mass transit scheme, which looks to reduce private car usage in favor of sustainable active travel alternatives. The research project has set out 5 interlinking objectives to support the initiative, with HEHTA responsible for objective 5, which is to summarise the evidence of the health economic impact of mass transit schemes and develop a conceptual model showing the potential costs and outcomes associated.

[Read the full article on our university website here.](#)

## Award Nomination

Our NIHR Global Health Research Group on Arthritis was shortlisted for the University of Glasgow Changing Futures award. This award recognises collaborative teams that are making meaningful contributions in areas of sustainability and net zero, societal and health inequalities, or other global and societal challenges. Co-Director of HEHTA, Professor Emma McIntosh, was principal investigator for the project, which investigated the adverse effects that musculoskeletal disorders, including arthritis, have on health, wealth, and quality of life for individuals and communities in Tanzania.



[You can read more about the impact of the project, which concluded in 2022, here.](#)



## Housing Quality and Health

We have been successful in our bid for a new research grant which will see our remit of research broadened into the field of housing and health outcomes. The research proposal, titled "Housing Quality and Health - a Cost Consequence Analysis", has been funded jointly by the Scottish Futures Trust (SFT) and Public Health Scotland (PHS) and sets out to develop an economic case for the investment of good quality housing that delivers better health and wellbeing outcomes for occupants. The research is a 6-month collaboration between HEHTA and the UK Collaborative Centre for Housing Evidence (CaCHE), with HEHTA's Professor Kathleen Boyd leading the group as Principal Investigator. Using her extensive experience in economic evaluation of complex interventions, Kathleen will contribute to the body of knowledge by evidencing value for money on health and social care investments and policies by leading on the work packages utilising evidence synthesis, cost-consequences analysis, and future economic evaluation.

[Read the full article on our university website here.](#)

## HEHTA Away Day 2024

Our annual away day took place in October, providing another formal opportunity for the team to gather together, take stock, and look ahead to what's next. Before having a ball bowling, the team met to discuss the future of the research themes that underpin our work and participate in a core competency training session.



## Arrivals



### Hajar Norji and Laura Bentley PhD Students

Two new PhD students joined HEHTA in October: Hajar Norji, and Laura Bentley.

Hajar's research project looks at the assessment of the cost-effectiveness and affordability of new and expensive treatment options and their impact on the sustainability of health systems. Her career as a hospital pharmacist inspired her decision to study Health Economics and Health Technology Assessment so that she can apply her learnings to the benefit of policy makers, helping inform their selection of the most cost-effective drugs.

Laura's research will explore the relationship between ecological health and human wellbeing in coastal and marine environments using a natural capital framework, building on over a decade of experience in college teaching and community engagement.

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## Departures

### Mudith Karunatilaka Visiting Researcher



### Visiting Researcher

Mudith Karunatilaka returned to Sri Lanka after a 2-year knowledge sharing project with HEHTA. Mudith leaves HEHTA an HTA advocate, hoping to transfer his learnings to the next generation of health care managers in Sri Lanka and develop an HTA system in his role within the Ministry of Health.

### Ryan Field Research Associate



In October, we said goodbye to Dr Ryan Field after five years with HEHTA, as he embarked on the next stage of his career at the University of Glasgow.

Ryan completed his PhD with us before becoming a Research Associate, and was a hugely influential and popular figure in the unit. Ryan stays within the College of Medical, Veterinary & Life Sciences in his new role as a Research Software Engineer for MVLS Research Facilities.

## Publications

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