



University
of Glasgow

HEHTA Newsletter

School of Health
& Wellbeing

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Spring 2025

Olivia Wu named director of two NIHR programmes

Our Co-Director Professor Olivia Wu has been appointed as director of two National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) programmes. Olivia will serve as the inaugural director of Better Methods for Better Research (BMBR) and take over as director of the existing National Research Collaboration Programme (NRCP).



She will be stepping down from her current role as Chair of NIHR HTA Clinical Evaluations & Trials Funding Committee. In addition to her new directorships, Olivia will act as a strategic advisor, leading the implementation of innovative methodologies across the NIHR. She will draw on her expertise in a broad range of health technology assessment (HTA) methodologies to guide effective research and investment strategies aimed at enhancing public welfare and quality of life.



HEHTA to host HESG's Summer Conference 2026

HEHTA are proud to be hosting the Health Economists' Study Group (HESG) summer conference 2026. HESG's bi-annual conferences take place in summer and winter, providing a forum for economists, researchers, and policymakers to discuss new research and developments in health economics.

Our executive committee has been formed, and preparations are underway for Glasgow's summer iteration - watch this space!



EQUITA

Although cancer screening can save lives, participation among UK ethnic minority groups remains low - especially within Black communities. As fewer Black African and Caribbean individuals take part in important screening tests for breast, bowel, and cervical cancers, as well as abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), they are at an increased risk of being diagnosed with serious illnesses too late.

EQUITY in Black Adult Health (EQUITA) is a randomised feasibility trial designed to address this health inequality by

developing a specialised workshop, created with and for the Black community, to inform and encourage participation in these potentially life-saving tests.

This NIHR-funded project is led by the University of Sunderland with HEHTA Research Fellow Manuela Deidda co-investigating. Manuela will be leading the economic evaluation by developing a decision analytic model to explore the potential cost-effectiveness of the EQUITA intervention compared to the control.

Read our full article [here](#).

Eleanor Grieve to participate in upcoming WHO meeting

Dr Eleanor Grieve has been chosen to participate in an upcoming World Health Organisation (WHO) meeting following an open call for experts on the valuation of foodborne diseases. As selected participant, Eleanor will contribute to an upcoming virtual meeting, currently scheduled for 2025, by providing advice on current economic health valuation practices and their use in low- and middle-income countries, and on the availability and representativeness of medical treatment cost data in all countries.





ASPIRE

Atrial Fibrillation (AF) is a type of irregular heartbeat found in roughly four percent of UK adults, and those with the condition are five times more likely to suffer from a stroke than the general population. However, many adults in the UK are living undiagnosed, and therefore do not realise they are at risk.

ASPIRE: Preventing strokes through better atrial fibrillation screening, is a University of Glasgow-led study that aims to address this issue by developing an AF risk score that can help identify and screen those most at risk of having this condition. HEHTA Research Fellow Dr Robert Heggie is an experienced researcher in the field of HTA and cardiovascular health and is a co-investigator on ASPIRE. He has been contributing to the project by using his expertise in decision-analytic modelling to assess the cost-effectiveness of the prognostic model.

Read our full article [here](#).

New role for Yuejiao Duan

2025 has seen our PhD student Yuejiao embark on a new HEHTA journey - trainee health economist. Split alongside her current studies, Yuejiao's new role has her working with Professor Kathleen Boyd on the Partnership for Change (PfC) research project, which aims to improve mental health in struggling communities by providing targeted support for infants and families facing challenges.

Yuejiao's story highlights both her personal contribution and development since joining the team as well as the growth opportunities within HEHTA.



Arrivals

Jingyi (Steve) Gu
Trainee Health
Economist



Jingyi is a PhD student from the School of Biodiversity, One Health, and Veterinary Medicine at University of Glasgow. His PhD research focuses on recycling behavior, willingness to pay, and well-being, with a focus on the DCE model.

He joined HEHTA team on January 6th, 2025, as a Trainee Health Economist, working on the Gambling Discrete Choice Experiment 2025 project. He will be contributing to this project for the next six months.

Rime Bousetta
Visiting Researcher



Rime Bousetta is an MSc Public Health student, at the Université Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium. Rime had the opportunity to attend a summer school at the University of Glasgow through the Erasmus+ program, inspiring her to come back to Glasgow for her final-year internship.

Over February and March, she will be working with Jim Lewsey and David McAllister, as well as SHW's Peter Hanlon, on a project comparing the assessment of the frailty index in clinical trials and observational data. The goal is to explore how different approaches to frailty measurement impact its distribution and associations

Departures

**Khalid Alsallumi and
Saleh Ali M Almazam**
PhD Students

PhD students Khalid Alsallumi and Saleh Ali M Almazam completed their vivas at the end of 2024 and have returned to Saudi Arabia. We wish them all the best and hope to see them return to Glasgow for their graduation.



HEHTA Short CPD Courses - Block 3

Two new short courses conclude our 24/25 CPD series. Don't miss out - find out more from our links below:

[HTA in a Global Context](#)

[Statistical Methods for HTA & EBM](#)



Publications

Al-Haddad M, Jamieson S, **Germeni E**. International medical graduates' social connections: A qualitative study. *Med Educ*. 2025;59(3):338-349. doi:10.1111/medu.15542. PMID:39344747; PMCID:PMC11789848.

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Hanlon P, **Butterly E, Wei L**, Wightman H, **Almazam SA** (inc. **Alsallumi K, McChrystal R, Lewsey J**) et al. Age and sex differences in efficacy of treatments for type 2 diabetes: a network meta-analysis. *JAMA*. 2025. doi:10.1001/jama.2024.27402. PMID:39899304; PMCID:PMC11791772.

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Igelström E, Munafò MR, Brumpton BM, Davies NM, Davey Smith G (inc. **Lewsey J**) et al. Investigating causal effects of income on health using two-sample Mendelian randomisation. *BMC Glob Public Health*. 2025. (Accepted for publication).

Laurie E., Msoka EF, Wyke S, Yongolo NM, Bunn C (inc. **McIntosh E**) et al. '... You become a prisoner of your life': a qualitative study exploring the experience of joint pain and accessing care in Hai, Tanzania. *SSM Qual Res Health*. 2024;6:100481. doi:10.1016/j.ssmqr.2024.100481.

Mendes ÂJ, Haydon DT, de Glanville WA, Bodenham RF, Lukambagire AS (inc. **McIntosh E**) et al. Livestock production losses attributable to brucellosis in northern and central Tanzania: Application of an epidemiological-economic modelling framework. *PLoS Negl Trop Dis*. 2025;19(2):e0012814. doi:10.1371/journal.pntd.0012814. PMID:39951456.

Owusu Achiaw S, Geue C, Grieve E. The role of universal health coverage in secondary prevention: a case study of Ghana's National Health Insurance Scheme and early-onset hypertension. *SSM - Health Systems*. 2025;4:100053. doi:10.1016/j.ssmhs.2025.100053.

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