AUHE was established in 2007 to create a health economics research and education centre with a portfolio of applied and methodological research. The research includes: economic evaluations alongside clinical trials; value of information studies; valuation of health, health care and wellbeing; priority setting in health care; health care policy; early stage efficiency in research and development; and applied health econometrics.

Welcome to our Summer 2017 newsletter,

It has been an exciting first half of the year, not least as our Professor of Health Outcomes, Paul Kind, received an Outcomes Research Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for PharmacoEconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR). I’m sure you’ll join me in congratulating Paul on his fantastic achievement (details on page 2).

As the summer season is upon us so too is the conference season. Over the past few weeks there have been many conference presentations by both staff and students from the Unit (details of a few of these are given on page 4) and, as I write this, Hafidz Fidaus, Alison Smith, Andrew Sutton and Sandy Tubeuf are in Boston each presenting their work at iHEA.

Over the next few months we have lots going on with a one day introductory course in economic evaluation of diagnostics tests in October (details on page 5—places still available!) and an International Workshop in September on the economics of precision medicine. September also sees the celebration of our 10th Anniversary. We’d be happy for you to join us in our celebrations — details of how to register are on page 3).

Finally, a big thank you to all our speakers at the AUHE seminar series over the last few months; and good luck to all our MSc students who are immersed in their dissertations for another month or so.

Have a good summer,
Claire

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Our unit Away-Day at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park in May 2017
**ALABAMA:**

**Penicillin allergy status and its effect on antimicrobial prescribing, patient outcomes, and antimicrobial resistance**

Penicillins are an important group of antibiotics that are recommended as the first-choice treatment for many common infections. About 1/10 report a penicillin-allergy, often dating back many years to when they developed a rash while taking penicillin. Rashes are common in infections and are often mistaken for allergy. A "penicillin-allergy label" alerts doctors to avoid penicillin and use alternative antibiotics, which may not be as effective as penicillin, with more side-effects and greater cost. These alternative antibiotics act against a much broader range of bacteria, thereby destroying more of the body's normal "healthy" bacteria, and increasing the risk of subsequent infection with resistant bacteria.

Recent research shows that patients with a penicillin-allergy label have a higher risk of infection with resistant bacteria and poorer health outcomes compared to people without a penicillin-allergy label. About 9 out of 10 people who believe they are penicillin-allergic are found not to be allergic to penicillin if properly tested, and they could safely use penicillin antibiotics. These patients may be avoiding penicillin unnecessarily and receiving less effective antibiotic treatments that may also carry additional long-term health risks.

A Leeds inter-disciplinary team, led by Jonathan Sandoe and Sue Pavitt, have recently been successful in securing funding via the NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research to develop and evaluate a penicillin allergy assessment pathway (PAAP).

The idea is to test whether people identified with a penicillin-allergy label in primary care health records are really penicillin-allergic and whether the penicillin allergy assessment can lead to improved patient health outcomes and an increase in the prescribing of recommended first line antibiotics.

The AUHE team on the project is Claire Hulme, Andrew Sutton and Gurdeep Sagoo.

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**Spotlight on: Paul Kind**

**Congratulations on Paul !**

Paul Kind received the 2017 Avedis Donabedian Outcomes Research Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) and has been appointed to the ISPOR Health Science Policy Council.

This prestigious award recognises an individual’s outstanding, life-long achievement in the area of improving health outcomes. Paul received the award at the ISPOR International Meeting in Boston, USA in May 2017.

The goal of the ISPOR Health and Science Policy Council is to review and evaluate Good Practice Task Force proposals submitted by ISPOR members. The HSPC recommends proposals to ISPOR Board of Directors for discussion and further action. Council membership is composed of past ISPOR Presidents, recipients of the ISPOR Avedis Donabedian Outcomes Research Lifetime Achievement Award and key thought leaders in research selected by the Council.

Paul Kind will deliver the opening plenary at the 10th Anniversary of the Academic Unit of Health Economics on the 4th of September (see page 4).
DANTE: A randomized discontinuation trial to optimise duration of antibody treatment in patients with metastatic melanoma

Melanoma is the most aggressive form of skin cancer, which after metastasising has a median life expectancy of 8 months without treatment.

In the UK, rates are doubling every 10-20 years with 13,348 new cases and 2,148 deaths in 2012.

In collaboration with the University of Sheffield (CI: Dr Sarah Danson), we have recently been awarded NIHR HTA funding to determine whether reduced duration therapy is non-inferior to standard treatment in terms of progression-free survival (PFS).

The study will consist of both a feasibility and, if successful, a full RCT study. Additional work will be carried out to understand patients’ preferences around duration of therapy and explore their experience of being randomised in the study.

Gurdeep Sagoo and Claire Hulme will be working on this project.

PARAMEDIC: Pre-hospital randomised assessment of a mechanical compression device in out-of-hospital cardiac arrest

A pragmatic, cluster, randomised trial to evaluate a mechanical chest compression device (LUCAS-2) as a routine ambulance service treatment for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest is now complete. The study was funded by NIHR HTA, enrolling 4471 patients, across four ambulance comprising 91 urban and semi-urban ambulance stations.

The study found no evidence of improvement in 30-day survival with LUCAS-2 compared with manual compressions.

AUHE carried out the health economic analyses, consisting of a within-trial analysis and a decision-analytic model to extrapolate the results over the expected lifetime of the trial participants. The economic analysis consistently showed that treatment with the LUCAS-2 device was more costly and less effective than manual CPR.

Joachim Marti, Christopher McCabe, Silviya Nikolova, Zenia Ferreira and Claire Hulme worked on this project.

Welcome!

Sarah Abraham joined the Unit as a Research Assistant in March 2017.

Sarah joined the unit following completion of her MSc in Health Economics from University of Birmingham where she explored novel techniques for improving the efficiency of the current NHS care pathway for pancreatic cancer patients.

Sarah has joined the Test Evaluation Group and NIHR Leeds Diagnostic Evidence Co-operative and currently works on a number of projects focused on streamlining NHS diagnostic pathways.

AUHE 10th Anniversary Event
4th September 2017
University House, University of Leeds

It has been 10 years since the Academic Unit of Health Economics was established, so we are having an anniversary bash to celebrate!

We have organised an exciting line-up of talks followed by a drinks reception at University House, University of Leeds.

Professor Paul Kind will be delivering his inaugural lecture and Professor Chris McCabe, who founded the unit, is returning to speak about what the unit was like all those years ago.

Current members of the unit will also be showcasing their research.

If you would like to attend this event, please register by going to the following link: http://bit.ly/2vfJu0d
Bethany Shinkins discussed the NIHR Leeds DEC and our approach to early economic modelling at the 12th Annual Biomarker Congress in Manchester in February. She also presented a poster “Early economic modelling of EMI-137 to improve the detection rate of polyps in patients at risk of colorectal cancer” at the CRUK Conference (23-24th February).

Ed Webb presented his PhD research “Attention and perception in decision-making and interactions” at the March Thesis Thursday on the Academic Health Economists’ blog.

Laetitia Schmitt participated to the workshop “Naturally Healthy: assessing the value of the natural outdoors for public health purposes” in Birmingham on March 21st and gave an interview on Xerfi Canal.

Claire Hulme’s work on the Mo-CHA project “Community Hospitals: A Study to Understand and Optimise Community Hospital Ward Care in the NHS” and working paper 16-01 were used in a briefing paper prepared by the CHARM (Community Hospitals Association Research & Media) group for the Rothbury Hospital campaign and discussed in the House of Commons in March.

In April, Roberta Longo taught a 1 week module on Health Economics for the Health Care Management course in the Department of Economics at the University of Pisa.

David Meads attended the 5th International Choice Modelling Conference in Cape Town, South Africa on 3-5th April. He presented his work on the CIVAS trial and chaired a workshop “Putting Africa on the map in field of choice modelling”.

Adam Martin and Chris Bojke gave a talk entitled “From muddied waters to causal clarity? The use and limitations of Instrumental Variables in health economics” at the April Session of the Leeds/Bradford Group of the Royal Statistical Society.

To access AUHE working papers, please visit:
http://medhealth.leeds.ac.uk/auhe
http://tinyurl.com/auhewps

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Leeds Institute of Health Sciences
Postgraduate Research Symposium

AUHE PhD students presented their research work at the Leeds Institute of Health Sciences and Leeds Institute of Clinical Trial Research Symposium on Tuesday 20th June.

It was a very successful days with three prizes for best presentations awarded to Zhuxin, Davide, and Charlotte.

Congratulations!
The Economic Evaluation of Diagnostic Tests: An Introductory One-Day Course

Academic Unit of Health Economics

3rd October 2017

Key learning objectives:

- Recognise the nuances of test evaluation and some key considerations when carrying out an economic evaluation of a test
- Understand the importance of mapping the care pathway to recognise the potential downstream consequences of introducing a new test into clinical practice
- Be able to identify the types of information needed to inform an economic evaluation of a test
- Recognise the value of early economic modelling in test evaluation

Pre-requisite knowledge: No prior knowledge of health economics or software packages is necessary

To register, please email: D.L.Womersley@leeds.ac.uk

Registration closes: 25th September 2017

Course fees: £165 (including lunch)

£110 for PhD students & Leeds University staff