HEALTH ECONOMICS AT UCL

Friday 18 November 2016
9.00 – 14.00
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Introduction

Welcome to the first meeting of the health economics theme at UCL! Our theme is part of the UCL Populations & Lifelong Health Domain, and was set up to encourage interaction between health economists at UCL and to increase the visibility of our work.

As a first step, at this meeting we will be finding out about the wide range of health economics research activities conducted across the University. This will be followed by a discussion about what we might do as a theme moving forward, and what the University can do to support us.

There have been health economists at UCL for many years, and the establishment of the health economics theme, and that we are having this meeting at all, confirms the progress we have made in developing the discipline as an important activity at UCL. It is great to see so many people working in health economics at UCL, and I look forward to working with you all!
The UCL Research Domains are large, cross-disciplinary research communities that span UCL and our partner organisations, with the aim of fostering interaction and collaboration. By bringing together a critical mass of expertise, we believe that we can further encourage and support internationally leading research in our key areas of strength.

UCL Research Domains aim to:
• develop new research collaborations and partnerships, within and beyond UCL
• support academic communities in developing strategic ambitions that further develops UCL’s internationally leading research profile
• underpin strategic developments and attract major funding
• provide development opportunities for early career researchers
• exemplify how research communities can become greater than the sum of their parts.

The current UCL Research Domains are: Neuroscience; Personalised Medicine; Populations & Lifelong Health; Environment, eResearch and Collaborative Social Science.

UCL Populations & Lifelong Health Domain
UCL encompasses arguably the greatest concentration of biomedical science and population health expertise in Europe. The Domain brings together over 800 researchers with an interest in population health from across the university, who conduct world-leading work.

Our researchers generate 10% of the country’s contribution to the most highly cited publications in public, occupational and environmental health, and in the last five years the citations of the ten most highly cited researchers exceeded 180,000.

Populations & Lifelong Health is a strategic priority for UCL, with research in this field accounting for almost 20% of UCL’s entire research income.

Our success is built not just on world-class infrastructure but fundamentally on the people who make up the UCL Populations & Lifelong Health Domain community. Our vision is to build upon our existing excellence by supporting and investing in cross-disciplinary research teams, to become the world’s leading institution focussed on populations and lifelong health.

In addition to the six Institutes that form the UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences, the Domain brings together activity in six research Themes: Ageing; Cohorts; Global Health; Health Economics; NIHR School for Public Health Research and Tuberculosis. These Institutes and Themes reflect the strength of research in populations and lifelong health at UCL.

Our work ranges from studies that measure the burden of disease in populations, through to cross-sectional and longitudinal studies which seek to understand the relative influences of environmental, socio-economic, behavioural, biological and genetic factors on disease and lifelong health. We undertake clinical, behaviour change and health service interventions in community, primary and secondary care settings nationally and globally to evaluate their benefits to health in populations.

The health of populations is influenced by a wide range of factors including law, economics, culture and the environment. A key objective of the Domain is to bring together researchers across the UCL School of Life and Medical Sciences (SLMS) and beyond, whose work has a bearing on populations and lifelong health e.g. lawyers, health economists, geographers, philosophers, ethicists, anthropologists, mathematicians and those working on the built environment. We aim to build capacity by bringing together researchers working across a broad range of disciplines, and developing strategic initiatives to build the academic community and further developing novel research. We also aim to disseminate UCL’s research and support interaction with key opinion formers and practitioners to translate research into policy and practice.
Chairs

**Professor Graham J Hart**  
Dean of the UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences

Professor Graham J Hart is Professor of Sexual Health & HIV Research and Dean of the UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences. A medical sociologist, he was previously Associate Director of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Social & Public Health Sciences Unit, Glasgow. His research interests include sexual risk behaviour and the prevention of HIV and STIs, combining structural, behavioural and biomedical approaches to prevention. Graham chairs the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Programme Grants for Applied Health Research funding sub-panel, and the MRC / Department for International Development (DFID) African Research Leader Scheme. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, and was elected to its Council in 2013. He has recently been appointed as Chair of the MRC Public Health Intervention Development (PHIND) Scheme.

**Professor Orazio Attanasio**  
Professor of Economics and Head of Department of Economics, UCL Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

Orazio Attanasio is Professor and Head of the Department of Economics at University College London, a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), a Senior Fellow at the Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic and Policy Research. He is Research Director at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) and co-directs the Centre for the Evaluation of Development Policies (EDePo@IFS).

He is a Fellow of the Econometric Society and of the British Academy. In 2014, he served as President of the European Economic Association.

After getting a PhD at the London School of Economics, he taught at Stanford University and the University of Bologna. He was also a National Fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford. He has been Managing Editor of the *Review of Economic Studies*, the *Journal of the European Economic Association* and *Quantitative Economics*. 
Dr Elena Pizzo
Senior Health Economist, Department of Applied Health Research, UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences

Dr Elena Pizzo holds a PhD in Economics and Management and an MSc in Economics and Management of Health Care Services. Her main research areas includes economic evaluation of health care technologies and interventions, clinical decision analysis and, more generally, costing and measurement of health and distributional aspects of health policy.
She has expertise in health economic evaluation of complex interventions, particularly those in primary care, prevention, dementia and maternity care. At UCL she is currently working as health economist for the NIHR CLAHRC North Thames and she is involved on a broad range of projects, including the evaluation of a new model of treatment in patients with dementia (VALID), the cost-effectiveness of mechanical thrombectomy to treat ischemic stroke and the evaluation of interventions to improve orthopaedics care (GIRFT).

Dr Gianluca Baio
Reader in Statistics and Health Economics, Department of Statistical Science, UCL Faculty of Maths & Physical Sciences

Dr Gianluca Baio graduated in Statistics and Economics from the University of Florence (Italy). He then completed a PhD programme in Applied Statistics again at the University of Florence, after a period at the Program on the Pharmaceutical Industry at the MIT Sloan School of Management, Cambridge (USA); he then worked as a Research Fellow and then Temporary Lecturer in the Department of Statistical Sciences at University College London. He currently is a Reader in Statistics and Health Economics. Gianluca's main interests are in Bayesian statistical modelling for cost effectiveness analysis and decision-making problems in the health systems, hierarchical/multilevel models and causal inference using the decision-theoretic approach. Gianluca leads the Statistics for Health Economic Evaluation research group within the Department of Statistical Science.

UCL Department of Applied Health Research

The Department of Applied Health Research is currently undertaking world-leading multi-disciplinary research to evaluate the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of health care and public health interventions, with particular expertise in reducing socioeconomic inequalities and evaluating health service re-organisation. DAHR is divided into 5 multidisciplinary research groups, comprising clinical and non-clinical academics with quantitative and/or qualitative expertise.

UCL Department of Statistical Science

The UCL Department of Statistical Science has a wide variety of methodological and applied research themes. The Biostatistics theme encompasses both applied health research and the development and evaluation of statistical methods. Much of the applied research is carried in collaboration with health researchers within UCLH/UCL and the PRIMENT Clinical Trials Unit.
Dr Marcos Vera Hernández
Reader in Economics, Department of Economics, UCL Faculty of Social and Historical Sciences

Dr Marcos Vera-Hernández is Reader in Economics at the UCL Economics Department, and Research Fellow at the Institute for Fiscal Studies. His research focuses on the application of contract theory (incentives, insurance, risk, etc.) to health issues, as well as the application of microeconometrics to study the production of health both in developed and developing economies. He has published several papers on health insurance, one of them was awarded the 2013 Royal Economic Society prize and another one the 2010 Inter American Award for Research on Social Security. Current research projects include the use of incentives for improving health in China, India, Nigeria, and the UK; and the effect of breastfeeding on children’s health and developmental outcomes.


UCL Department of Economics

The Department of Economics has an outstanding international reputation in key areas of current research. It is the only department of economics in the UK to have received the outstanding grade-point average of 3.78/4 in the 2014 REF with 79% of all indicators of output rated at the highest 4* level.

Dr Jolene Skordis-Worrall
Senior Lecturer in Health and Development Economics and Director of Centre for Global Health Economics, Institute for Global Health, UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences

Dr Jolene Skordis-Worrall is an economist specialising in Applied Health and Development Economics. For the last 10 years, Dr Skordis-Worrall has primarily worked within randomised trials of complex public health interventions, establishing research programmes that span gender empowerment, multidimensional poverty and antipoverty transfer programmes, social networks, health equity and understanding fiscal space for sustainable and scalable programme delivery. Dr Skordis-Worrall has published widely in high impact journals and her work has directly influenced government policy. She is the acting Director of UCL’s newly formed Centre for Global Health Economics.

UCL Institute for Global Health

The UCL Institute for Global Health is the thriving research and teaching community at the heart of UCL’s Grand Challenge of Global Health (http://www.ucl.ac.uk/global-health). Drawing on the expertise of over 200 staff from across UCL’s departments, IGH take a unique cross-disciplinary approach to global health in both our research and teaching, responding to the fact that health problems – and their solutions – are influenced by the social environment as well as medical innovation. Experienced staff manage cutting edge programmes in global health, uniting traditional public health concerns with economics, law, philosophy, geography, anthropology and other disciplines.
Presentations

Dr Gabriella Conti  
Reader in Economics, UCL Department of Economics and Department of Social Science, Centre for Longitudinal Studies and Co-Investigator of the National Child Development Study

Dr Gabriella Conti is Reader in Economics at UCL and Research Associate at the Institute for Fiscal Studies. She was Visiting Fellow at Princeton University and Faculty Research Fellow at the National Bureau of Economic Research. Her research draws on both the biomedical and the social sciences with the aim of understanding the developmental origins of health inequalities, and the behavioural and biological pathways through which early life development, investments and environments affect health throughout the lifecourse. She has published in prestigious journals, such as Science, PNAS, Journal of Econometrics, Economic Journal, and Lancet. She is currently working on several projects on the health effects of early interventions, starting in the prenatal period; and on the impacts of health insurance in developing countries. Gabriella holds a PhD (Economics) from Essex University. Prior to joining UCL, she was Post-Doctoral Scholar and then Assistant Professor at the University of Chicago.

Torsten Chandler  
Health Economist, The Comprehensive Clinical Trials Unit at UCL, UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences

Torsten Chandler is a trial health economist based at the Comprehensive Clinical Trials Unit (CCTU) at UCL. He is responsible for preparing and conducting cost-effectiveness and resource use analysis for a number of multicentre clinical trials including the ATTIRE, TARVA and FACT studies. Torsten holds economics related degrees from Exeter University and UCL at Bachelor’s and Master’s level respectively. He has previous experience working in health economics consultancy supporting the needs of pharmaceutical and medical device companies in market access, evidence generation strategies, conference abstracts and modelling support for a range of interventions. Torsten’s research interests include decision modelling, economic evaluations in eyes and incorporating economic evaluations into RCTs.

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies

The Centre for Longitudinal Studies (CLS) is an Economic and Social Research Council resource centre. It is based at the Department of Social Science, UCL Institute of Education. CLS is responsible for the scientific development and management of four of Britain’s internationally-renowned cohort studies: 1958 National Child Development Study (NCDS); 1970 British Cohort Study (BCS70); Millennium Cohort Study (MCS); Next Steps (previously Longitudinal Study of Young People in England).
**Presentations**

**Professor Christopher J Gerry**
Professor of Health Economics at National Research University Higher School of Economics, Academic Director of the School of Social Sciences and Humanities, and Senior Lecturer, UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies

Professor Chris Gerry joined UCL SSEES in 2002, after completing his PhD in Economics at the University of Essex. Following 12 years at UCL SSEES where he was Senior Lecturer in Health Economics, Deputy Director of the School and Head of Teaching, Chris accepted a three-year Chair at HSE St. Petersburg, Russia’s leading institution in Economics, Management, Social Sciences and Humanities. He is due to return to UCL in September 2017. At HSE, Chris has established the International Centre for Health Economics, Management and Policy (CHEMP), which now employs 17 researchers, and is involved in quantitative and qualitative projects in diverse fields: HTA, smoking, effects of co- and multi-morbidities, healthy ageing, cardiovascular disease (with LSHTM), HIV and drug use, and the economics of mental health. Chris also serves as the head of Internationalisation for HSE St. Petersburg, and oversees the universities strategic partnership with UCL.

**UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies**

The UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies is the world’s leading institution for research and teaching on Russia, the Baltics, and Central, Eastern and South-East Europe. The School’s mission is to foster cross-disciplinary approaches to area studies, using expertise in its primary geographical region to generate knowledge and understanding of the broader world.

**Ian Shemilt**
Senior Lecturer in Economic and Evidence Synthesis Methodology, EPPI-Centre, UCL Institute of Education

Ian Shemilt’s research career centres on improving policy and practice decisions through the development, application and evaluation of approaches to evidence synthesis that combine economics and systematic review methods. This includes developing and evaluating methods and tools for: improving the efficiency of systematic review and evidence synthesis production workflows; incorporating evidence from previously published economic analyses into reviews; identifying, appraising and synthesising evidence for de novo economic analyses; and integrating complexity and systems perspectives into the synthesis of evidence for the costs and effects of interventions. Ian is especially interested in how we can optimise systems, methods and workflows for efficient, semi-automated creation, curation, synthesis and use of research data at scale, to inform decision-making about health and welfare. He is an active member of the international research synthesis community, including current service as a Convenor of the Campbell and Cochrane Economics Methods Group, and member of the Cochrane Methods Executive.

**The Evidence for Policy and Practice Information and Co-ordinating Centre**

The EPPI-Centre is committed to informing policy and professional practice with sound evidence, and is therefore involved in two main areas of work: Systematic reviews, including developing systematic review and research synthesis methods, conducting reviews, and supporting others to undertake reviews; and Research use, including studying use of research evidence in decision-making.
Rachael Hunter
Principal Research Associate, Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health, Institute of Epidemiology, UCL Faculty of Population Health Sciences

Rachael Hunter is the senior health economist in the department of Primary Care and Population Health at UCL and for PRIMENT Clinical Trials Unit. Her work focuses on providing expertise on economic evaluations of complex interventions and health care policy. She has a particular interest in health economics in the areas of mental health, intellectual disabilities, primary care and criminal justice.

Rachael previously worked for the NHS on improving and monitoring the quality of mental health services and for the Department of Health on Public Health in prisons. She was a member of the project team for Lord Kamlesh Patel’s review of drug treatment in prisons, providing expertise on the health economics of substance misuse treatment in prisons. She is currently completing her PhD on the economics of improving the health of people in prison.

The Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health at UCL

The Research Department of Primary Care and Population Health (PCPH) conducts research and provides teaching in a wide range of areas related to primary care and population health including health system improvement and service redesign. PCPH has projects in all phases of clinical research from epidemiology through intervention development and evaluation to implementation, as well as methodological research and development. We are a multi-disciplinary department, bringing together clinicians and scientists with a wide range of methodological skills.

Dr Anna Gola
Senior Research Associate, Division of Psychiatry, UCL Faculty of Brain Sciences

Dr Anna Gola is a health economist at the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research department in the Division of Psychiatry. She provides economic evaluations for the studies conducted within the unit, such as those examining complex interventions and the costs associated with caring for people at the end of life. Anna has obtained an MSc in Mathematics from the University of Chicago, an MPhil in Economics from Cambridge and PhD in Biostatistics from Imperial College London. She has taught numerous economics and statistics courses at Cambridge and Imperial College London. Her main research interests are in economics of end of life care, econometric modelling and economic inequality.

UCL Division of Psychiatry

The Division of Psychiatry is an interdisciplinary centre for research and teaching in mental health and illness. Our aim is to address clinical problems in order to achieve benefits for patients and public health. At the Marie Curie Palliative Care Research Department within the Division, the main research centres on the evaluation of interventions and effectiveness in palliative care.
Round table session

Chair: Professor Dame Anne Johnson
Professor of Infectious Disease
Epidemiology, UCL Institute of
Epidemiology & Health Care, and Chair of
the UCL Population & Lifelong Health
Domain

Professor Dame Anne M. Johnson (MD FMedSci
FRCP FFPH FRCGP) is Professor of Infectious
Disease Epidemiology at UCL. She is also Chair
of the UCL Population & Lifelong Health Domain,
and Vice-Dean for External and International
Relations, Faculty of Population Health Sciences
at UCL. She is a member of the Adaptation
Sub-committee of the Committee on Climate
Change and is Chair of the Academy of Medical
Sciences Health of the Public 2040 Working
Group. She is a Governor of the Wellcome Trust.

How the round table session will work

The seating plan for the round table session has been configured so that
each table will have a mix of people from
across the field of health economics.
There will be two facilitators on each
table, who will chair the discussion
and take notes.

Each table will take the hour to discuss the following three questions:

1. What do you see as the main issues in the economics of health?

2. What are the benefits and challenges of collaborative working? Would the health economics network strengthen this?

3. How could UCL better support health economists?

When the hour is up, one facilitator from
each table will be asked to take a few
minutes each to present their tables
thoughts/findings, after which there will be an open discussion about possible
next steps.

All attendees are kindly asked to turn
their electronic devices off for the
duration of the round table session.