

Minutes from HESG Summer Meeting
Julian Study Centre Lecture Theatre, UEA
3rd July 2019

The meeting was called to order at 17:30 by Paula Lorgelly and Bruce Hollingsworth, HESG National Organisers, presiding this properly constituted meeting of the Health Economists' Study Group. There were 40 members in attendance, thereby the meeting was declared quorate.

1. Standing items

a) Host Thanks

Thanks were given to the UEA Health Economics Group for hosting the Summer HESG meeting. Particular thanks were made to Stamatina Cheilari, Lisa Irvine, Emma McManus, Tracey Sach, Kat Downes (UEA Conferences), and Heather Parr (Administrative support).

A report from the local organisers is attached (Appendix 1).

b) Minutes from last meeting (PL)

Caroline Clarke tabled a motion that these were an accurate reflection of the members' meeting at York. This was seconded by Adam Wagner.

c) Finances (BH/PL)

There are 344 members, giving income less bank fees of £11318. HESG had expenditure of £6,394. The bank balance as at 1.7.19 is £4,924. Two substantial invoices are expected (EuHEA and OHE for webmaster's time), such that the expected balance at end of 'academic' year is likely to be £2650.

Expenditure for the year includes four PhD students across two meetings, the website and the York pre-conference workshop.

Daliya Kaskirbayeva and Baptiste Leurent both received PhD scholarships to attend the meeting. Note that we had EoI from 6 students, much greater demand than previous meetings. BH and PL together with the local organisers considered it application on merit and awarded two scholarships to the highest scored papers.

The issue of paying EuHEA fees was raised – BH is going to a meeting in September in Porto, Portugal for EuHEA PhD and ECR conference, and will raise this issue. EuHEA finances might be stable enough now such that all groups in Europe can stop paying fees. Another query was raised about whether HESG might receive a rebate if EuHEA have a lot of funds – again BH will ask.

See Appendix 2 for an account summary.

d) Future meetings (BH/PL)

Newcastle 6th to 8th January 2020 (Mon-Wed)

Laura Ternent introduced the 2020 winter meeting. It will be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel close to the train station. They are planning a workshop on the Monday morning focusing on systematic

reviews run by Cochrane members, it will target ECRs. The gala dinner will be at the BALTIC centre for Contemporary Art.

Oxford 29th to 31st July 2020 (Wed-Fri)

Due to circumstances beyond their control Cambridge could not commit to hosting the summer meeting in 2020. They raised this early with the national organisers and Oxford agreed to bring their hosting forward a year. Thank you to Oxford. It will be held in Keble College on campus.

Other future meetings

Winter 2021	LSHTM
Summer 2021	University of Cambridge
Winter 2022	University of Leeds (100 th HESG meeting)
Summer 2022	University of Sheffield
Winter 2023	University of Manchester
Summer 2023	Bangor University
Winter 2024	University of Exeter
Summer 2024	University of Warwick
Winter 2025	University of Bristol
Summer 2025	Office of Health Economics

Offers to host HESG meetings were invited, beyond this time horizon

e) iHEA – PL on behalf of Rich Smith

Next meetings:

- 13th World Congress in Basel 13-17 July 2019: Expecting 1000+ attendees
- 14th World Congress in Cape Town 24th-28th July 2021

iHEA activities members may be interested in include:

- ‘Social Link’ networking app
- Webinar series – live but also recordings hosted on the website
- Mentoring programme for both ECR and MCR. Aims to promote and foster a global network of scientists in health economics with mentoring support from leading experts in the field.
- Number of special interest groups; including Early Career Researchers; Economics of Obesity; Economics of Palliative and End-of-Life Care; Financing for UHC in LMICs; Health Preference Research; Health Systems Efficiency; Immunization Economics; Teaching Health Economics; Health Workforce – NEW

Role of Association-nominated directors

- There are three categories of iHEA Board Directors (member-elected directors – as a membership-based organization, some directors and the President are directly elected by the membership; association-nominated directors – given the international nature of the association, this category promotes geographic diversity on the Board and ensures that there is at least one Board member from each UN region; board appointed directors – at least one appointed director should be an early career researcher)
- Last HESG Rich was queried as to the role of association-nominated directors. He can confirm the purpose is to promote geographic diversity on the Board and as a means to strengthen the relationship between iHEA and regional associations, however this category of Board directors would not be association representatives per se. There is no distinction in the rights, roles and responsibilities of Directors, irrespective of whether they were member-elected,

association-appointed, or Board-appointed (for ECR and/or to ensure gender and regional balance).

iHEA 2030!

- Following on from the 'iHEA 2020' review, there will be a new exercise on Vision 2030 to look at planning for next steps.

f) EuHEA

Next meeting will be July 7th-10th 2020 in Oslo. The call for abstracts will open on the 1st of November 2019.

There are two candidates for EuHEA 2022: Athens and Vienna – the case for each will be presented at a board meeting at the EuHEA ECR meeting. Matt Sutton and BH who are attending this will then vote. Members are asked to email BH if they have a strong preference for one over the other.

g) EuHEA PhD Student-Supervisor and ECR Conference [Luke Munford]

Next meeting of the Student/Supervisor Conference is 4-6 September 2019, Porto, Portugal

Registration is open until 31st of July.

There is a pre-course training workshop "Beyond difference-in-differences: advancements in non-experimental programme evaluation methods", a Stata based methods course. It is €40.

A reminder that Luke is standing down, see next item.

h) HESG ECR sub-committee [Note new standing item]

PL thanked all those members who put their name forward for this subcommittee. PL and BH chose 5 individuals who they think provide a good representation of ECRs and PhD students, are geographically dispersed and gender representative of the membership.

The members are: Lucy Abel, Ashleigh Kernohan, Ekaterina Kuznetsova, Francesco Longo and Luke Wilson. Additionally James Buchanan and Rachel Meacock are members for their respective ECR roles on iHEA and EuHEA.

Postscript: The ECR subcommittee met the next day (Thursday 4th) and have been tasked with defining their remit, and undertaking a survey of ECRs to find out what they have available to them and what they want/need. They will report at the next HESG meeting in Newcastle.

We have had three EoI for the EuHEA representative role (to replace Luke Munford), BH, PL, Luke Munford and Rachel Meacock will decide.

i) Website/IT/social media [PL for Chris Sampson] webmaster@hesg.org.uk

Chris is preparing some instruments for local organisers for how the website functions for meetings.

Email issues appear to have been resolved.

Members renewals will soon be due, these should be automated emails and for many automatic paypal payments.

2. Health Foundation

Recall that the Health Foundation made an offer of funding to HESG.

In February BH and PL submitted a proposal for £72k across 3 years.

Funding was requested for PhD/ECR workshops, website improvements, a history of HESG (for the 100th meeting) and upscaling the mentoring programme.

There have been considerable delays in receiving a decision from the Health Foundation.

Postscript: subsequent conversations with the Health Foundation have involved where the money will sit, they are required to fund only registered companies/charities. PL has been working with UCL to find a solution to this.

If the funding materialises before the Newcastle meeting then PL and BH will look for ways to support ECR attendance at the workshop. If the funding does not materialise then the membership many have to have a discussion about increasing the membership fee to fund these additional activities.

3. Mentoring Programme (BH for Rhiannon Tudor Edwards)

HESG is now running a second round of mentoring, there are 8 mentoring pairs for 2019-20.

The purpose of the scheme is to match up early to mid-career mentees with mentors amongst the community of health economists working across the UK to mutual benefit. The scheme aims to encourage a culture of coaching and mentoring within HESG as an organisation.

The pilot programme in 2018-19 had 7 mentee-mentor pairs and feedback was received from 5 mentees and 5 mentors (not necessarily mentoring pairs). This feedback identified some barriers (distance, area of work, time, vague objectives) and enablers (time, motivation and HESG as a venue to meet). Additional feedback from mentors suggested a need for mentors to receive some training and have contact with other mentors. Rhiannon will present a full report at the meeting in Newcastle.

4. AoB

None.

The meeting was formally drawn to a close at 18:15.

Minutes taken by Tracey Sach, UEA

Appendix 1: HESG Norwich Summer 2019 – scientific committee report

The UEA HESG meeting was organised by the Health Economics Group (HEG) at the University of East Anglia. It was held from Wednesday 3rd July to Friday 5th July 2019 at the University of East Anglia campus. The venue was chosen to reflect the tradition of HESG meetings being held on university campuses, value for money and available facilities. The overall feedback was largely positive, in particular the organisation of the meeting was highly rated (we would like to thank participants for this feedback). We had 48 completed feedback forms and the results of this can be seen in table 1 below and is included here as it may help future HESG organisers in their planning.

Table 1: Meeting feedback

Criteria	Proportion rating it 1 or 2 best (proportion rating it 4 or 5 worst)
Meeting venue	94% (0%)
Meeting accommodation	52% (15%)
Meeting Programme	96% (0%)
Meeting Organisation	100% (0%)
Sainsbury Centre Lunch	67% (2%)
Breakfasts at INTO	67% (4%)
Refreshments	88% (6%)
BBQ	81% (0%)
Tour buses	81% (0%)
Conference dinner (OPEN)	81% (0%)
Plenary Session	63% (10%)
Things you liked (main themes)	Things you would change (Main themes)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very friendly and welcoming environment; • Accessibility of sessions; • The meeting format; • Range of topics included; • Organisation of the meeting; • Social events (particularly the BBQ, bus tour, and plenary); • Weather; • The walking; • Lovely campus; • Conference dinner and food; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start first sessions later particularly on the Friday; • Training sessions for PhDs and ECRs; • Include more sessions/more days; • Include posters so more can attend the meeting; • Distance between venue and accommodation and conference dinner (city centre preferred); • Accommodation not in residences; • Have an economist for the plenary speaker; • Schedule in travel time between sessions rather than include in the scheduled timings; • More water and greater range of biscuits; • Not have sandwich lunches; • Environment and equity concerns (e.g. have a scaled back conference dinner and ensure accommodation doesn't waste toiletries and wash towels too often)

The conference was attended by 126 health economists from predominantly the UK but with representation from around the world also.

Costs of the meeting:

We substantially reduced the registration fee compared with recent meetings, due to cost savings made from hosting the meeting on campus. Worth noting that as the majority of delegates were funded from HEIs/research grants, this decision saved the taxpayer approximately £10k.

Timelines:

The call for abstracts was issued on the 1st February 2019 and the abstract submission deadline was 8th March 2019, with a view of accepting final drafts by the 28th May. The call was announced on the *healthecon-all* jiscmail list (which distributes to the HESG jiscmail list) and was further circulated via personal networks. The response to the call was positive and we received a total of 117 abstract submissions. Submissions came from 39 different institutional affiliations across 11 countries (Australia, Egypt, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Pakistan, UK, and USA).

The review process was managed by the scientific committee (Stamatina Cheilari, Tracey Sach (Chair), Lisa Irvine, Emma McManus). This group, who did not submit papers as first authors, also made the final decision on which abstracts to include in the conference programme. A team of reviewers, comprising 14 individuals from UEA Health Economics Group/Health Economics Consulting (current hosts), 4 with associations to UEA HEG (UEA School of Economics, Ex-employee at University of Manchester, and ex-employee now at OHE), 2 from Newcastle (subsequent host) and 3 from York (previous host), were asked four questions: 1) Sufficient Health Economic content (Yes or No); 2) Relevance to and likely interest in the abstract at HESG (score 0-3); 3) Quality of the research (score 0-3); and 4) Likelihood of the abstract initiating debate and discussion at HESG (score 0-3). Each abstract was reviewed by three reviewers.

The average score from the three reviewers for each abstract was used as the primary way of prioritising abstracts. An additional mark of 1 was added to the total score of abstracts submitted by PhD students. 60 was the maximum number of potential slots allowing for the fact that some of the accepted abstracts would not materialise into submitted papers. The papers were ranked from highest to lowest and all those with a score above 6.5 were accepted. This left 10 abstracts with a score of 6.33 but only four spaces, the scientific committee had discussion and choices were made on the basis of trying to create a balanced programme in terms of topic areas. The average abstract score was 6.74 (SD: 0.88, range 6.33 to 8.5) for accepted abstracts and 5.92 (SD: 1.42; range 1 to 8.5) for all submitted abstracts. We accepted 60 abstracts, of which 20 were from PhD students. The final number of papers discussed was 52 (15 papers each on Wednesday and Friday, 22 papers on Thursday).

Confirmation of abstract acceptance was sent to authors on the 29th March, i.e. approximately 8 weeks before the full paper submission deadline. 8 abstracts were withdrawn either after the confirmation notification or after the paper deadline. No replacements were sought as we had allowed for drop-outs in our acceptance rate.

We choose not to include a poster session as the conference venue was not suitable to house poster boards. As soon as authors had been notified of acceptance we published an abstract book on the HESG meeting website and put out a call for preferences for discussing and chairing sessions (3 options, in priority order). The responses were compiled so that discussants and then chairs could be allocated to sessions in a way that maximised the number of sessions being covered. This was a manual process and there was a disappointing number of volunteers despite reminder delegate emails sent every two weeks, including personal emails to any delegate who had not yet volunteered and was not a first author. We found that the number of offers to discuss or chair sessions was lower than expected given the number of registered conference attendees. Ultimately, a number of helpful individuals offered to take on more than one role and UEA had to find internal staff to cover

the 9 chairs and 6 discussant slots which remained. HESG may wish to consider how best to encourage participation as a discussant or chair at future meetings given the disappointing number of volunteers at recent meetings.

We are very grateful to those helpful volunteers who chaired and discussed papers at the meeting, without whom the meeting would not have been the success it was. We would also like to place on record our thanks to colleagues who helped review abstract submissions and, ultimately, create an interesting conference programme. These are:

Centre for Health Economics (CHE), University of York:

Dr Nils Gutacker
Dr Noemi Kreif
Ms Helen Weatherly

Health Economics Group (HEG), University of East Anglia (including honorary members):

Prof Garry Barton
Dr Farasat Bokhari (School of Economics, UEA)
Ms Stamatina Cheilari*
Dr Charlotte Davies
Prof Ruth Hancock
Ms Lisa Irvine*
Ms Emma McManus* (Now at the University of Manchester)
Prof Peter Moffatt (School of Economics, UEA)
Dr Marcello Morciano (Now at the University of Manchester)
Ms Chizoba Nwabichie
Ms Krishnali Parsekar
Prof Tracey Sach*
Dr Chris Skedgel (now at OHE)
Mr David Turner
Dr Adam Wagner
Prof Jenny Whitty
Dr Ed Wilson
Mr Georgios Xydopoulos

University of Newcastle:

Dr Heather Brown
Dr Laura Ternent

*These individuals also made the final decisions on abstract acceptance.

The HESG UEA 2019 local organisers:

Stamatina Cheilari
Lisa Irvine
Emma McManus
Tracey Sach

With administrative and technical support from:

Kat Downes (UEA Conferences)
Heather Parr (Administrative support)
Chris Sampson (HESG Webmaster)

A big thank you goes especially to Stamatina and Emma, who are PhD students at UEA, for helping with the organisation of HESG.

Appendix 2: Financial Accounts

<i>2017/18 academic year</i>		<i>Since 01/08/18 till current 01/07)</i>	
Income	£ 5,190.00	Income	£ 11,318.60
		Manchester carry-over	£ 6,373.10
		344 members less fees	£ 4,945.49
		Paypal check	£ 0.01
Expenditures	£ 7,045.16	Expenditure	£ 6,394.36
PhD students	£ 1,660.00	PhD students	£ 1,816.00
Advisory Group	£ 104.10	Advisory Group	-
EuHEA	£ 881.06	EuHEA	- *
Admin	£ 2,000.00	Admin	£ -
Website	£ 2,400.00	Website maintenance	£ 2,400.00 **
		Website registration	£ 251.71
Mentoring Scheme	??	Mentoring Scheme	£ 153.90
		Farewell gifts	£ 212.75
		York pre-conf short course	£ 1,560.00
Net	-£ 1,855.16		-
Reserves	£ 8,228.26		-
Balance at end May 2018	£ 6,373.10	Balance as at 1st July 2019	£ 4,924.24

Notes: * subsequent to the meeting an invoice from EuHEA for €1000 have been received and paid
 ** Expecting an invoice of £1336.80 from OHE for Chris' time for period till end of June.