



Quarterly

Autumn 2009



Project Updates

Ontario Pressure Ulcer Model (OPUM)

Cost-effectiveness Analysis of Minimum Standard for Patient Support Surfaces in Operating Rooms and Emergency Departments to Prevent Hospital-Acquired Pressure Ulcers and Risk Assessment and Alternative Foam Mattresses to Prevent Community-Acquired Pressure Ulcers: A Cost-Effectiveness Analysis were presented to OHTAC.

Manuscripts for both studies are currently in the final stages of preparation.

The Ontario Cardiovascular Economic Model (OCVEM)

Long-term costs associated with the current (standard) management of heart failure patients in Ontario were estimated from a retrospective cohort of patients. A comprehensive systematic literature review followed by meta-analysis evaluated the efficacy of heart failure clinics on the overall and specific mortality and co-morbidity reduction in comparison to current standards in the care of patients diagnosed with HF. A cost-effectiveness analysis was conducted by comparing the standard care cohort versus a hypothetical cohort of HF clinic patients. The economic perspective taken was that of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care.

The project is currently under final stages of analysis and report writing.

Cost-effectiveness of Non-invasive Cardiac Imaging Technologies Compared to Invasive Coronary Angiography in Persons Presenting with Stable Chest Pain Suspected of Having Coronary Artery Disease: Systematic Review of Economic Evaluations

The systematic search of MEDLINE and NHS EED databases have been completed. Data extraction and critical appraisal of the selected studies began in September.

Systematic Review of Economic Evaluations of Biologics for Rheumatoid Arthritis in Adults

A manuscript has been circulated among co-authors and to a content expert (Dr. Andreas Maetzel) for final comments.

Using Mathematical and Economic Models to Guide Screening Policy in Cervical Cancer

Both the natural history model of HPV infection and cervical cancer and the sexual network model have been developed and are currently being parameterized. The data to be used will come mainly from literature and ICES.

Academic Rounds

Many thanks to past presenters:

Michael Carter
Wendy Ungar
Katia Noyes

Upcoming Presenters:

Jean Yong
Sara Khor
Parneet Cheema
Eyal Cohen
Warren Chin
Nicole Mittman



Project Updates^{Cont'd}

Turning for Ulcer Reduction (TURN) Study

Participant recruitment was initiated in the US in the fall of 2008. Recruitment in Ontario began in April, 2009 and will continue until December, 2010. Currently, 144 participants have been recruited from 5 long-term care homes in the GTA. Recruitment targets for the US and Ontario are 900 and 500 participants, respectively.

A Clinical Evaluation of Subcallosal Cingulate Gyrus Deep Brain Stimulation for Treatment-Resistant Depression

The field evaluation has received approval from Health Canada. Participant recruitment will commence in October.



Research Grants

Health Care, Technology, and Place: An Interdisciplinary Research Training Program

Canadian Institutes of Health Research Strategic Training Programs, \$3,290,000, 2009-2015, Peter Coyte (PI) with over twenty co-investigators.

The purpose of this grant is to enhance research capacity in the area of health services research that pertains to the social, spatial and technological configurations that characterize health care. To achieve its goals, [HCTP](#) offers an integrated, collaborative and interdisciplinary approach to research training in order to foster humanistically-informed scientists and scientifically-informed humanists with the capacity to generate scholarship concerning technologically-mediated and geographically dispersed health care.

A Program of Health Technology Assessment in Children: Assessing the Use of Biologic Response Modifiers for Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis and the Use of Thiopurine Methyltransferase Genetic Testing for Predicting Mercaptopurine Doses in Children with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia

MoHLTC Drug Innovation Fund 2-year program grant. Wendy Ungar (PI); Shinya Ito, Ahmed Bayoumi (co-investigators).

Platform for Outcomes Research and Translation in Asthma and Allergy (PORTAL)

Funded by Allergan (Network of Centres for Excellence). Co-PIs: Larry Lynd (UBC), Wendy Ungar, Carlo Marra (UBC); co-investigators: Sharon Dell (Sick Kids), J. Mark Fitzgerald (UBC), Anne Clartke (McGill), Susan Elliott (McMaster).

Predictors of Place of Death and Family Caregiver Burden Across the Home-Based Palliative Care Trajectory

Co-PIs Peter Coyte, Denise Guerriere (HPME, University of Toronto); co-investigators: Hsein-Yeang Seow (Dept. of Oncology, McMaster University) Kevin Brazil (Dept. of Clinical & Epidemiology & Biostatistics, McMaster University); decision-makers: Amna Husain (Temmy Latner Centre for Palliative Care, Mt. Sinai Hospital), Denise Marshall (Niagara West Palliative Care Team), Eric Nauenberg (Health Systems & Policy Unit/Health Economics Unit, MoHLTC), Julie Darnay (HNHB Hospice Palliative Care Network).



Research Grants^{Cont'd}

Patterns of care and direct medical costs associated with type 2 diabetes in China and Canada: comparisons between a developing country and a developed country.

Murray Krahn, PI; Wendong Chen, Baiju Shah (ICES), Zhengzhong Zhang (China Health Economics Institute – CHEI), and Kun Zhao (CHEI), Co-PIs.

This project has been submitted for a team grant titled, China (Ministry of Science and Technology – MOST)-Canada Collaborative Teams in Health Research. The Letter of Intent has been accepted and full application was submitted to CIHR on October 12, 2009.

In July, 2009, Murray Krahn, Wendy Ungar and Wendong Chen attended the iHEA 7th World Congress on Health Economics in Beijing, China. A tour was also organized by CHEI to help Canadian researchers gain insight on the Chinese healthcare system.



Rural hospital in Xinhua County, Hunan, China. Back row (L-R): Hunan Ministry of Health delegates, Murray Krahn, Wendy Ungar. Front row (L-R): Hospital physicians, Wendong Chen



Collaboration

Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit

In 2007, Cancer Care Ontario decided to fund a Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit. Dr. Jeffrey Hoch was selected to develop and direct the Unit responsible for helping Cancer Care Ontario, the Committee to Evaluate Drugs Cancer Subcommittee and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care with health economics issues related to new, expensive cancer treatments. The Unit has also provided expertise with economic evaluations of screening strategies and radiation treatments. Other grant funded projects include “real world” cost-effectiveness analysis and cancer health services research.

Together with the Cancer Health Economics Centre in British Columbia, the Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit is providing leadership for a new National Centre for Health Economics, Services, Policy and Ethics in Cancer Control funded by the Canadian Cancer Society. Perhaps most impressive, the Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit possess one of the most

feared volleyball teams in the field of Health Technology Assessment. They are undefeated against teams in the THETA Collaborative*.

This summer, **Christopher Livings** (below) did his placement at the Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit. As a MSc student in the Graduate Programme in Health Economics at the University of York in the United Kingdom, Chris chose the Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit because of their skillful reputation in volleyball, among other reasons. For his MSc thesis, Chris studied the cost-effectiveness of intensity modulated radiation therapy (IMRT). The project will be developed even further to inform Cancer Care Ontario’s decisions about IMRT. The project also represents a collaboration between THETA Collaborative and the Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit. The Pharmacoeconomics Research Unit is eager to develop more projects with other groups that are members of the THETA Collaborative.



Back row (L-R): Sara, Jay, Ying, Jean, Katie; Front row (L-R): Chris, Zahra, Sandjar, Jeff, Dilfuza

*a formally sanctioned match has not yet been played, as Jeff’s team has been very apprehensive.



Publications

Journals

Brouwer W, Culyer AJ, van Exel N, Rutten F (2008). [Welfarism vs. extra-welfarism](#). *Journal of Health Economics*, 27, 325-338.

Chalkidou K, Walley T, Culyer AJ, Littlejohns P, Hoy A (2008). [Evidence-informed evidence-making](#). *Journal of Health Services Research & Policy*, 13, 167-173.

Chalkidou K, Culyer AJ, Naidoo B, Littlejohns P (2008). [Cost-effective public health guidance: asking questions from the decision-maker's viewpoint](#). *Health Economics*, 17, 441-448.

Chong C, Li S, Nguyen G, Sutton A, Levy M, Butler T, Krahn M, Thein H (2009). [Health-state utilities in a prisoner population: a cross-sectional survey](#). *Health and Quality of Life Outcomes*, 7, 78.

Claxton K, Briggs A, Buxton M, Culyer AJ, McCabe C, Walker S, Sculpher M (2008). [Value based pricing for NHS drugs: an opportunity not to be missed](#). *British Medical Journal*, 336, 251-254.

Krahn M, Zagorski B, Laporte A, Alibhai S, Bremner K, Tomlinson G, Warde P, Naglie G (2009). [Healthcare costs associated with prostate cancer: estimates from a population-based study](#). *BJU International*, Advance online publication July 7, 2009.

Krahn M, Bremner K, Tomlinson G, Nagle G (2009). [Utility and health-related quality of life in prostate cancer patients 12 months after radical prostatectomy or radiation therapy](#). *Prostate Cancer and Prostatic Diseases*, Advance online publication September 1, 2009.

McCabe C, Claxton K, Culyer AJ (2008). [The NICE cost-effectiveness threshold: what it is and what that means](#). *Pharmacoeconomics*, 26, 733-744.

Waldmann A, Rohde V, Bremner K, Krahn M, Kuechler T, Katalinic A (2009). [Measuring prostate-specific quality of life in prostate cancer patients scheduled for radiotherapy or radical prostatectomy and reference men in Germany and Canada using the Patient Oriented Prostate Utility Scale-Psychometric \(PORPUS-P\)](#). *BMC Cancer*, 9, 295.

Books & Web

Chalkidou K, Culyer AJ, Naidoo B, Littlejohns P (2009). The challenges of developing cost-effective public health guidance: A NICE perspective. In Dawson S & Morris Z (Eds.), [Future public health: Burdens, challenges and opportunities](#) (pp. 276-291). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Culyer AJ (2009). [Deliberative processes in decisions about health care technologies: combining different types of evidence, values, algorithms and people](#). London: Office of Health Economics.

Health Care Cost Monitor, Hastings Center Blog. [How nice is NICE? A conversation with Anthony Culyer](#).

Tomba E, Culyer AJ, Dolinschi R (2008). [Economic evaluation of interventions for occupational health and safety: Developing good practice](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Ungar WJ (2009). [Economic evaluation in child health](#). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

THETA Staff



Welcome Mike Paulden to the THETA team! Mike recently completed his Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York. He will be working as a Health Economist at THETA Collaborative.



Social Event



On the first Friday of each month at 4pm, THETA staff, students and collaborators congregate at a selected pub in downtown Toronto. We will circulate an e-mail approximately 1 week prior to inform you of the selected pub. If you have any suggestions, please feel free to let [Karen Liu](#) know. We look forward to seeing you there! Above are a few pictures of our latest event – you can view the rest of our photos on the THETA website.

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If you would like an item published in THETA Quarterly, please contact [Steven Carcone](#)