Manchester Centre for Health Economics
Launch Event
28th November 2013
I am very pleased to welcome you all to the official launch event for the Manchester Centre for Health Economics. We have been delighted with the level of interest and are looking forward to the day’s discussions.

The development of health economics capacity at the University of Manchester gathered pace when it was made a University priority by the Institute of Health Sciences and it was agreed that the existing health economists should be brought together into a single group. This bringing together of expertise in 2007 ensured more co-ordinated effort and clearer career prospects for health economists at Manchester. Just six years later, there are 35 health economist researchers and PhD students at the University of Manchester.

The re-organisation of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences in August last year offered the opportunity to further establish a distinct capacity in health economics. The Manchester Centre for Health Economics is one of the six Centres of expertise within the newly-established Institute of Population Health.

We are hosting this launch event to celebrate the growth of health economics at Manchester and to showcase the diversity of research that we undertake. Most of our research is collaborative and we have arranged for four presentations to be jointly-delivered by a member of the Centre and one of their local collaborators. These presentations illustrate the reach of our collaborations into different parts of the Faculty of Medical and Human Sciences and into other faculties within the University. Following these presentations, delegates will be able to join a choice of 10 small group discussions about different parts of our work portfolio.

We are delighted that Professor Alan Maynard from the University of York has agreed to give the keynote speech at our event. Alan has been a central figure in the establishment and development of health economics and has had a profound effect on many of our careers. His thoughts will provide ample stimulation for the Questions and Answers session that will bring our event to a close, and we hope that many of you will join us for the drinks reception afterwards.

Finally, I would like to thank all my colleagues for their help in this event, particularly those who helped with its design, preparation and organisation: Ian Jacob, Will Whittaker, Philippa Turner, Rebecca Fenwick and Eleanor Heather.

Matt Sutton
Professor of Health Economics
Centre Lead, Manchester Centre for Health Economics
University of Manchester
matt.sutton@manchester.ac.uk

28th November 2013
Keynote Speaker: Professor Alan Maynard

Professor Alan Maynard has been instrumental in the establishment of health economics as a discipline, a career and as a contribution to health policy. He led the creation of the first Masters Programme in Health Economics in the UK, founded the Centre for Health Economics at the University of York in 1983, and created the journal *Health Economics* in 1992. In addition, he is a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences and the Royal Society of Medicine and is an Editorial Board member for the British Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and for Health Policy.

His main research interests are in economic aspects of health workforce planning, health care reform, incentive systems, addiction policies and industrial regulation. In addition to his academic roles, Alan was Chairman of York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust between 1997 and 2010 and is currently Chairman of the Vale of York NHS Commissioning Group. He was awarded an OBE for services to the NHS in 2009. He has given several hundred invited talks and has made regular media appearances throughout his career, and is a very active member of the Twitter community (@ProfAlanMaynard).

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1. Policy evaluation (Lead: Matt Sutton)
Over the last few years we have undertaken economic research on several national policies and initiatives, including targets for waiting times, plans to increase spending on primary care and new formulae for allocating budgets to local NHS organisations. We will discuss the non-experimental evaluation methods we have adopted and our principal findings, and describe our current work.

2. Planning health care services (Lead: Steve Birch)
Many health care ‘crises’ are the result of required services not being available in the right place at the right time. Existing planning methods fail to reflect the needs of populations and have occurred separately for health care services, the workforce and funding. Several studies using integrated population needs-based methods for planning future services and the workforce are currently being carried out at MCHE, many with applications in dentistry. We will discuss how these methods can inform policy makers concerned with workforce planning, budget management and the sustainability of publicly-funded health care.

3. Valuing non-health outcomes (Lead: Katherine Payne)
Most economic evaluations focus on health status as the patient benefits of an intervention. Health status is quantified using measures of life years gained, adjusted by public weightings for health related quality of life, to give the composite measure, the ‘QALY’. The focus of several of our projects is how to value non-health outcomes. These are important benefits to measure in economic evaluations of complex interventions, such as genetic testing and genetic services. We will discuss the methodological approaches we are exploring and evaluating to quantify the value of non-health outcomes.

4. Complex interventions (Lead: Linda Davies)
Mental health conditions are the largest cause of economic and social burden in the UK, exceeding that of other chronic conditions. Lack of sufficient contact with health services for patients with mental health conditions has a negative effect on their health, and is associated with poorer condition management and increased utilisation of unscheduled care. Collaborative care is an alternative healthcare delivery model that facilitates engagement of healthcare professionals and patients in active case management. We will discuss the integrated economic evaluations that we have undertaken alongside randomised control trials to investigate the cost effectiveness of such complex interventions.

5. Health and ageing (Lead: Brenda Gannon)
Our current projects include cognitive decline and health care utilization, social capital and health at retirement, the impact of physical activity on health and key performance indicators in emergency care. In all projects, we develop innovative econometric models to estimate the direction and magnitude of causal effects. We will discuss the policy context and data from these projects.

6. Decision making aids (Lead: Mark Harrison)
The primary focus of economic evaluation is often how we should best spend the money available. A focus of a number of our projects is whether economic evaluation can make a contribution beyond resource allocation, for example in clinical decision making. We will discuss structured methodological approaches toward understanding patient and public preferences for treatment delivery and risk:benefit trade-offs, approaches to assessing the costs and consequences of treatment in unique populations, and less structured approaches to providing information to patients and clinicians to support shared decision making.

7. Microeconometrics (Lead: William Whittaker)
At MCHE we have a large number of researchers with an applied econometrics background. We have transferred these skills into applications of health and care topics including: access to dentistry, work and sickness absence, provider incentive schemes, and individual health behaviours. We will discuss how economic theory and econometric methods add value to these areas and our current work in progress.

8. Risky health behaviours (Lead: Eleonora Ficher)
Behaviours such as smoking, drinking, drug use, poor diets and sedentary lifestyles are major sources of preventable deaths and risk factors for chronic diseases. Our research focuses on the socio-economic determinants of such behaviours and the planned and unplanned effects of interventions that engage individuals in healthier lifestyles, with a specific interest on the effect of information. Our approach is driven by economic theory and applies micro-econometric methods to administrative data, cross-sectional and longitudinal surveys, and randomised controlled trials. We will discuss our research questions, methods and findings.

9. Pay for performance (P4P) (Lead: Søren Kristensen)
It is becoming increasingly popular to offer health care providers incentives for increasing their quality of care by linking a share of their income to performance indicators. Starting with our on-going research in this area, we will discuss new methods for evaluating P4P initiatives, the short and long term effects of such interventions, and whether introducing P4P is a cost-effective use of resources. We will draw on examples from the Advancing Quality and Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) schemes recently implemented in the English NHS.

10. Screening programmes (Lead: Ian Jacob)
Decision makers need to incorporate all appropriate evidence and the uncertainty surrounding this evidence when making resource allocation decisions. Decision modelling offers a systematic approach to decision making, in which the possible consequences that would flow from alternative options are represented by mathematical relationships. These models pose particular challenges when evaluating screening policy options. These include the need to incorporate non-randomised trial data, calibrate unobserved model parameters and represent complex participant/patient pathways. We will discuss applications of these models to breast cancer prevention, screening and treatment.
Liz Camacho
Research Associate

Liz joined the Centre in 2013 after completing her PhD in Epidemiology at the University of Manchester. Her undergraduate background is in Psychology. She works alongside Linda Davies analysing the economics of mental health, with a focus on economic evaluation within integrated clinical and economic trials.

Martin Eden
Research Associate

Martin started working at the Centre in 2012 after working as a health services researcher on a variety of projects. He is interested in the economic evaluation of complex interventions where health and non-health outcomes matter. He works on a research programme aimed at improving clinical genetics services. He is a teaching assistant on a Masters Degree module delivered by the Centre. He is doing a part-time MSc in Health Economics at the University of Birmingham.

Eleonora Fichera
MRC Early Career Research Fellow in the Economics of Health

Eleonora obtained her PhD in Economics at the University of Nottingham in 2010. She is co-director of the MSc Economics of Health and an associated researcher of the Econometrics & Applied Economics group. She applies micro-econometrics methods to development economics and health economics. She is interested in the socioeconomics determinants of health and in the effect of government interventions on individuals’ engagement in risky health behaviours.

Hannah Forbes
NIHR Research Methods Fellow

Hannah is on a two-year NIHR Research Methods Fellowship within the Centre. Hannah moved to the Centre in 2012 after completing an MSc in Economics and Health Economics at the University of Sheffield. The focus of Hannah’s research is to gain greater understanding of self-management behaviour among patients with chronic conditions. Hannah is currently investigating the relationship between socio-economic status and self-management.

Sean Gavan
PhD Student

Sean began a PhD in October 2013, supervised by Katherine Payne, Mark Harrison and Anne Barton. He is funded by a NIHR Manchester Musculoskeletal Biomedical Research Unit studentship, researching a biomarker test to enable stratified treatment of patients with rheumatoid arthritis. He holds an MSc in Economics and an MSc in Health Economics. Previous research includes analysing the effect of monetary and non-monetary incentives on voluntary blood donation in Europe, and using a micro-simulation approach to decompose inequalities in GP utilisation.

Stephen Birch
Professor

Stephen is part-time Chair in Health Economics in the Centre. He is Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University and honorary professor at the Centre for Health Economics Research & Evaluation at the University of Technology, Sydney. He also serves as Senior Scholar at the WHO Collaborating Centre for Health Human Resources Planning and Evaluation at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Canada.

Linda Davies
Professor

Linda is a chair in the Centre. Linda’s key roles are the design and implementation of economic evaluations in mental health and chronic disabilities, focussing on complex interventions for people with complex needs and measurement and valuation of preferences for health and social care. Linda is a member of the NIHR Health Technology Assessment Programme Clinical Evaluation and Trials Board and the Core group of methodological experts for the NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research.

Charlotte Camp
Research Associate

Charlotte has recently started at the Centre, having worked for two years at a pharmaceutical market research agency in Cheshire. Charlotte graduated with an Economics BSc from Bristol University in 2010, followed by an MSc in Business Analytics and Management Science from Southampton University in 2011. Her current work involves evaluating the success of the Advancing Quality pay-for-performances initiative, running in North West hospitals since 2008, with a particular focus on its recent extension into care quality in dementia.

Rebecca Fenwick
PA to Matt Sutton and Brenda Gannon

Rebecca started working for Manchester Centre for Health Economics in February 2012 as PA for Matt Sutton. She also provides administrative support for the Centre and for Brenda Gannon.

Brenda Gannon
Reader

Brenda Gannon joined the Centre in 2013 as Reader in Health Economics and works on health econometrics, with particular focus on economics of ageing and related analysis of longitudinal datasets, e.g. English Longitudinal Study of Ageing. Previously she held positions at the University of Leeds and at the National University of Ireland, Galway. She has been a Visiting Fellow at Curtin University, Perth, and is a regular participant in the European Workshops on Econometrics and Health Economics.

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Tommy joined the Centre in 2010 after completing his MSc in Economics at the University of Manchester. Tommy is currently a 3rd year PhD student who also teaches Econometrics and Economic Policy Analysis. Research interests include pay-for-performance in primary care and hospital reimbursement.

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Ewan Gray  
Research Associate  
Ewan joined the Centre as a Research Associate in 2012. He previously completed a PhD in Health Economics at the University of Aberdeen. His current research focuses on the economic evaluation of personalized breast cancer screening. Other research interests include time preferences, health behaviors and choice experiments.

Matthew Hamilton  
Research Associate  
Matthew joined the Centre after completing an MSc in Health Economics at NUI Galway, Ireland (2013) and works on economic modelling and integrated clinical and economic trials in poririasis and mental health. Previously, Matthew worked as part of healthcare systems development teams in Australia and Ireland and has taught decision making courses to young people in Central America and the Eastern Caribbean. He has a particular interest in mental health, preventative health behaviours, pharmacy and the application of process improvement and information technology in healthcare.

Mark Harrison  
Senior Research Fellow  
Mark joined the Centre in 2010, having completed his PhD in the Epidemiology Research Group in 2008 and a post-doctoral post working on projects exploring the association between emergency hospital admissions and quality of primary care with the Primary Care Research Group, both at The University of Manchester. Mark is an adviser for the NIHR Research Design Service, and supervises three PhD students. His main methodological and research interests lie in the measurement and valuation of health, health technology assessment, and preferences for healthcare interventions.

Jack Higgins  
NIHR Research Methods Fellow  
Jack joined the Centre in July as a Research Intern and worked on the costs of genetic tests and Digital Breast Tomosynthesis with Ian Jacob and Ewan Gray. Since then, Jack has been awarded a two-year NIHR Research Methods Fellowship in Health Economics and is currently undertaking an MSc Economics (Economics of Health) at Manchester. He expresses a particular interest in social inequality in health outcomes and attitudes to risk, working with Ian Jacobs, Rachel Meacock and Matt Sutton.

Cheryl Jones  
Research Associate  
Cheryl has recently completed her Masters degree in Health Economics at The University of York. She is now working at the Centre as a Research Associate. She is currently working on two research projects; The REGARD study, in which she has a particular interest in social inequality in health, and a Key Performance Indicator feasibility study working with Dr. Brenda Gannon.

Harry Hill  
Research Associate  
Harry attained a BSc, (first class) in Economics, MSc, (distinction) in Economics and Health Economics and PhD in Economics at the University of Sheffield. He then moved to work at the Institute of Health and Society researching the economic impact of national NHS policies. At the Centre he is investigating the productive efficiency of dental practitioners and the optimal model for role-substitution (skill mix) in dental services.

Mark Jacob  
Research Associate  
Mark joined the Centre in December 2009, while studying for an MSc in Health Economics & Decision Modelling at the University of Sheffield. Ian has previously worked with GlaxoSmithKline Ireland and holds a BA and MA in Economics from the National University of Ireland Galway. Ian’s main research focus has been in the modelling of screening and diagnostic technologies, with a particular interest in genetics. Alongside his position as Research Associate, Ian is also undertaking a PhD.

Søren Kristensen  
Research Fellow  
Søren joined the Centre in 2012 after completing his PhD in Economics at the University of Southern Denmark. Søren is interested in the use and design of performance incentives in organisations, and does research in this topic using incentive theory and microeconometric analyses of large data sets. In Manchester, Søren has been involved in a project on resource allocation, and projects on the use of financial incentives for improving provider quality.

James McDonald  
Research Associate  
After studying MSc Economics and Health Economics at the University of Sheffield James undertook a NIHR training fellowship at the University of Manchester during which he worked on the GP Worklife Survey. James is now a Research Associate working on the MUNROS project.

Ian Jacob  
Research Associate  
Ian joined the Centre in December 2009, while studying for an MSc in Health Economics & Decision Modelling at the University of Sheffield. Ian has previously worked with GlaxoSmithKline Ireland and holds a BA and MA in Economics from the National University of Ireland Galway. Ian’s main research focus has been in the modelling of screening and diagnostic technologies, with a particular interest in genetics. Alongside his position as Research Associate, Ian is also undertaking a PhD.

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Syed Mohiuddin  
Research Fellow  
Syed joined the Centre in January 2012. Syed has a background in mathematical operations research and completed his PhD in healthcare modelling at the University of Southampton. Syed’s research interests centre around economic evaluation, health technology assessments, value of information analysis and meta-analysis. Syed previously worked for University of Warwick as a Research Fellow in Health Technology Assessments and for University of Wolverhampton as an Operational Research Lecturer.

Rachel Meacock  
Research Associate  
Rachel joined the Centre in January 2011, shortly after completing her MSc in Economics & Health Economics at The University of Sheffield. Her research interests and skills centre around economic evaluation methods and financial incentives. She is currently working on a number of projects including the Advancing Quality (AQ) pay-for-performance (P4P) initiative, upon which Rachel is undertaking her PhD part-time. Rachel also collaborates with The Institute of Brain, Behaviour and Mental Health on the NIHR-funded trial of the effectiveness of the Older prisoner Health and Social Care Assessment and Plan (OHSCAP).
Silviya Nikolova, Research Fellow

Silviya Nikolova is a Research Fellow within the Centre. She is a health economist and applied econometrician whose research interests include policy evaluations and methods for policy evaluations. Prior to joining the Centre, Silviya studied at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where she obtained her Ph.D.

Matt Sutton, Professor Centre Lead

Matt joined the University of Manchester as Professor of Health Economics in April 2008. Matt's research addresses the financing and organisation of health care, the healthcare workforce and influences on health and health behaviours. It primarily involves the development and application of micro-econometric techniques. He is an Associate Editor of Health Economics and a member of the NIHR Health Services & Delivery Research Programme Board.

Dionysios Ntais, Research Associate

Dio moved to the Centre in 2013 to work as a research associate for Professor Linda Davies. He completed his MSc in public health (health economics stream) in the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and has extensive experience in the field of molecular biology. His primary research interests are in economic evaluation, mental health and chronic conditions.

Katherine Payne, Professor

Katherine was awarded a personal Chair in Health Economics in August 2010. She has an honorary position with Newgen – A Centre for Genetics in Healthcare. In September 2007, Katherine was awarded a five-year Research Councils UK Academic Fellowship in Health Economics. Katherine is a qualified pharmacist with experience of working as a hospital pharmacist. Between October 2003 and 2012, Katherine was a member of an NICE Appraisal Committee.

Claire Pleasance, Research Associate

Claire joined the Centre in January 2013 after completing her Masters in Health Economics at the University of York. Claire is supervised by Professor Katherine Payne and her research interests are in the field of economic evaluation. Currently her work is focused on two projects in economic evaluation, these are 'The QUEST Study' (Quantifying the Economic Impact on Sepsis Patient Care Pathway by Point-of-Care Testing) and 'Tam-Prev' (Tamoxifen as a chemopreventative treatment in women at high risk of breast cancer).

Alex Thompson, Research Associate

Alex completed his Economics undergraduate degree at The University of York in 2010 and went on to complete the Masters in Health Economics at York before joining the Centre in 2011. He undertook the economic analysis for the first RCT to assess the cost-effectiveness of a pharmacogenetic test - the TARGET study. Currently he works on a project with researchers from the University of Dundee and NICE to improve clinical guidelines so they can better accommodate for patients with multi-morbidity. Alex started a PhD in October 2012 and tutors on the MPH Health Economics module.

Philippa Turner, PA to Linda Davies and Katherine Payne

Philippa started working for the Centre in August 2013. She provides administrative support for the centre and is PA to Prof Linda Davies and Prof Katherine Payne.

Juliet Price, PhD student in Health Economics and Dentistry

Juliet's PhD aims to investigate socioeconomic-related inequity in the provision and outcomes of NHS orthodontic treatment, and how needs-based workforce planning could help to alleviate these issues. Juliet completed a degree in Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge and then gained a Master’s in Public Health from Imperial College London. She spent a year working with a healthcare consultancy on health technology assessments, patient reported outcome measures and the economic burden of inflammatory arthritides, before beginning her PhD.

Alex Turner, PhD Student

Alex started at the Centre in October 2012 after completing his MSc in Economics & Econometrics at the University of Manchester. He has worked on projects in a number of areas including pay-for-performance schemes, frailty in the elderly population, econometric techniques for the analysis on non-normal dependent variables, and comparing provider performance when choice of provider is endogenous. Alex started his PhD in October 2013 focusing on assessing the long-term and cross-sectoral costs and benefits of social & emotional well-being interventions for children.

Stuart Wright, Research Associate

Stuart joined the Centre in October 2013 having completed his MSc Health Economics degree at the University of East Anglia. He will be working on the PINSA study which seeks to assess the current costs of providing information for the Newborn Blood Spot Screening Programme and to investigate parent and midwife preferences for different models of information provision and informed consent. His current methodological strength lies in the conducting of systematic reviews and he will be developing his expertise in discrete choice experiments and modelling over the course of the project.

Caroline Vass, PhD Student in Health Economics and Primary Care

Caroline started her PhD in 2011 after completing her undergraduate in Economics and master's degree in Health Economics at the University of Birmingham. Caroline's PhD investigates the framing of risk attributes in discrete choice experiments (DCEs). Her research interests include the use of qualitative research and eye-tracking methods alongside DCEs.

David Smith, PhD student

David’s research focuses on the valuation of non-economic outcomes in economic evaluation. This includes patient and public involvement in economic evaluation, and the use of multi-criteria methods in economic evaluation. He has worked on NICE guidelines so they can better accommodate for patients with multi-morbidity. Before starting his PhD, David worked as a research assistant at the University of Manchester andAddenbrookes Hospital.

Claire Vass, Research Associate

Claire joined the Centre in January 2013. She is an Economist and has an MSc in Health Economics and is currently working on projects investigating the economic burden of inflammatory arthritides, including costs and benefits of social & emotional well being, and assessing the long-term and cross-sectoral costs and benefits of social & emotional well-being interventions for children.