Welcome

Hello and welcome to the final issue of your Faculty of Health and Medicine Postgraduate Newsletter.

Find out more

You can find out more about the Faculty of Health and Medicine and your new division on our website.

Fees and funding information is available on the University website.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with us.

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Our Research

At Lancaster’s Division of Health Research, we are proud to be doing research that has real-world impacts, with our work contributing to improved health and wellbeing around the world. To give you an idea of the world changing work happening in the faculty at the moment, below are some of the projects our current postgraduate students are doing. We hope these stories inspire you and encourage you on your way to becoming part of our community.

The work of Charlotte Appleton (PhD in Statistics and Epidemiology) is detects outbreaks within domestic animals using veterinary data. In January 2020, Charlotte discovered an outbreak of diarrhoea and vomiting and dogs, which was later determined to be Canine Enteric Coronavirus.

She says “further work for my PhD is to look into the data spatially to assess the spread of any illnesses (if any) and to produce any work to keep the stakeholders and veterinary surgeries informed down to their local authority areas.”

Over the last decade, virtual reality (VR) has gained more interest and acceptance as an innovative technology intervention in a wide range of health settings for older adults. Research has demonstrated the benefits of VR use by older adults including improved mood, memory and cognition.

However, the effects of VR use on emotional and social wellbeing (including issues of loneliness and social isolation, which have potentially been worsened by the pandemic) are unknown.

This is the question that PhD student Sangeetha Babu seeks to answer with their research. Sangeetha’s research explores the potential impact of immersive VR on the wellbeing of older adults living in their own homes, supported living or in long-term care.

A research group comprised of Professor Nancy Preston, Professor Catherine Walshe, Bader Remawi (a third year PhD student from the Medical School) and Dr Naveen Salins (a PhD student from the Division of Health Research) in India, have been working to develop palliative care in intensive care (ICU).

Professor Nancy Preston explained: “when we got the grant from the Global Challenge Research Fund we hadn’t anticipated the huge wave of COVID-19 about to hit India. Initially they thought they would need to cancel the project as they were working closely with doctors in the ICU, which were becoming overwhelmed. However, the doctors were keen to continue the project and we met weekly to develop a protocol to improve the end of life care of these patients which will be implemented later in the year.”

Discover more about the world changing research happening at the Division of Health Research on our website.
Our People

"Working with the calibre of academics we get to work with at DHR is mentally stimulating and at times challenging (in a good way). This is the perfect combination to keep students engaged through the PhD journey. They are also always there to offer support. Most students on the programme have a busy schedule with work and family responsibilities, so the flexible approach offered by the team of academics is invaluable."

- PhD Health Economics and Policy student Facundo Herrera

Céu leads on the programme alongside expert colleagues across the Division of Health Research. She supervises MSc and PhD students. Previous project topics include: economics evaluation, food safety, mental health and willingness to pay for human enhancement.

Céu holds a PhD in Public Health and Health Economics from the National School of Public Health, Nova University of Lisbon in Portugal, an MSc in European Social Policy Analysis from Bath University in the UK, and graduated in Economics from ISEG – Lisbon School of Economics and Management, Lisbon University in Portugal.

Céu has over 25 years of experience in research and has developed her expertise around economic evaluation of health technologies and interventions, efficiency measurement, equity, ageing and quality of life.

Alongside her role at Lancaster, Céu is one of the experts in the Appraisals Committee of Infarmed, the Portuguese National Authority of Medicines and Health Products. She has been involved in several scientific associations in the field of health care such as PCSI, EuHEA and the Portuguese Chapter of ISPOR. She is the current President of the Portuguese Health Economics Association.

Professor Céu Mateus
Professor of Health Economics and Admissions Tutor for MSc Health Economics and Policy and PhD Health Economics and Policy.

If you’re joining our Master’s in Health Economics and Policy you will explore issues related to the supply and demand of health care, economic evaluation of health technologies, and characteristics of health systems around the world. You will also take modules on systematic reviews and data analysis.
Q&A with Master’s graduate Luis

Hi Luis, please tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Mexico by a family that taught me incredible values and the meaning of hard work and perseverance, which led me to start my undergraduate degree in Economics at the University of Maryland Baltimore County in the United States.

After a very unpleasant medical issue, I realised how different and intriguing healthcare is in the United States and this ignited my interest in healthcare systems. As a result, I decided to finish my undergraduate studies with two degrees, one in Economics and the other one in Health Administration and Public Policy in 2020. I then studied for my Master’s in Health Economics and Policy at Lancaster University.

My research interests lie in the fields of health economics, public policy, public policy evaluation and health and experimental economics.

What did you hope to get from your Master’s?

My goal in life has always been to be part of something bigger than myself. I completed the Master’s to develop my knowledge in the field so that in the future, with enough experience, I could work as a health economist in the World Health Organization. By working hard to achieve my goals I believe I can help to make a better world for those with less opportunities.

Did you enjoy your time studying at Lancaster’s Division of Health Research?

Working alongside the academics in the Division of Health Research has been an invaluable opportunity. Being able to interact with more experienced people from different parts of the world has given me a tremendous variety of communication skills, which allows me to be more efficient during my daily work. Alongside developing my communication skills, it has provided me with new ideas for my work as an economist. The feeling of learning and being able to practice what you have learned is unmatched.

If you could give any advice to a future student what would it be?

If you plan to study this course at a distance know that it’s not always easy but as long as you are passionate you can do it. Also, talk to your professors and make a strong relationship with your classmates. The connections I have made with my classmates have really enriched my experience on the programme.