

December, 2010

## Summary

- The Cancer Research Economic Support Team aims to provide high quality, expert advice and support to Clinical Trial Groups to incorporate health and pharmacoeconomic analyses into trial protocols, and to build capacity for health economics
- The Cancer Research Economic Support Team is available to all 13 Multi-site Collaborative National Cancer Clinical Trials Groups funded by Cancer Australia
- The Cancer Research Economic Support Team is funded by Cancer Australia until July 2013
- The Cancer Research Economic Support Team can be contacted on: +61 (2) 9514 9799

## Welcome to CHERE and CREST

The Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation (CHERE) at the University of Technology, Sydney is recognized nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence in health economics.

As part of the Cancer Australia Support for Clinical Trials program and the Boost Cancer Research Measure, CHERE has been contracted to establish a dedicated Cancer Research Economic Support Team (CREST) to provide high quality, expert advice and support to the existing and new Multi-site Collaborative National Cancer Clinical Trials Groups.

The main focus of CREST will be to assist the Groups to incorporate health and pharmaco-

economic analyses into trial protocols and to build capacity within the groups. In turn, CREST's work will play an important part in delivering high quality economic evidence able to be incorporated into future decision making, and ultimately contribute to providing patients with improved access to cost-effective treatments.

The first steps will be for the CREST team to engage and consult with each Group about their health economics needs and capacities. These initial meetings will focus on developing an understanding of the Groups, the trials being undertaken or planned by each Group, and identifying additional opportunities for health economics questions to be incorpo-

rated into trials.

CHERE regards this project as vitally important to the development of health economics, and ultimately to improved access for patients to cost effective cancer treatments in Australia. We look forward to working with all the Groups to develop and conduct world's best health economic analysis alongside clinical trials in the field of cancer care.

*Rosalie Viney*  
Crest Program Leader



**Jane Hall, Kees van Gool, Marion Haas and Rosalie Viney—key members of the CHERE CREST Team**

## What can the Cancer Research Economic Support Team do for you?

The Cancer Research Economic Support Team (CREST) will provide services to individual groups, as well as producing products and services that will be of benefit across all groups. Development of capacity and capability within the groups to develop and undertaken economic analysis is an important part of the strategy.

The services available to groups through CREST include:

1. Advice and support for planning and analysis of health economics in cancer trials
2. Advice on the development of health economic studies within existing trials
3. Developing appropriate trial protocols for health economic analysis
4. Expert advice on health economic data collection and analysis
5. Checking and monitoring economic modeling conducted by groups
6. Advice on appraising health and health economics results
7. Capacity building through workshops, seminars, briefing papers and secondments at CHERE
8. Collaborative relations with the Cancer Australia Chair of Cancer Quality of Life.

## The CHERE Cancer Research Economic Support Team

| Team member                       | CREST Role                                 | Area(s) of Expertise  |
|-----------------------------------|--|---|
| Associate Professor Rosalie Viney | Program Leader;<br>Senior Management Team  | Economic evaluation, valuation of health outcomes, discrete choice methods, health policy |
| Associate Professor Marion Haas   | Program Manager;<br>Senior Management Team | Health services research, economic evaluation, patient preferences                        |
| Dr Stephen Goodall                | Senior Management Team                     | Modelling, trial design and policy requirements   |
| Mr Kees van Gool                  | Senior Management Team                     | Economic evaluation, costing and data protocols, data analysis                            |
| Dr Philip Haywood                 | Medical and Health<br>Economic Advisor     | Practicing doctor and health economist, high cost drugs, economic modelling and analysis  |
| Mr Richard Norman                 | Group support                              | Quality Adjusted Life Year (QALY) measurement, analysis and modelling                     |
| Ms Paula Cronin                   | Group Support                              | Economic data analysis, economic modelling  |
| Ms Jody Church                    | Group Support                              | Economic evaluation and economic modelling  |
| Ms Bonny Parkinson                | Group Support                              | Data protocols, economic evaluation and modelling   |
| Professor Jane Hall               | Expert advisor                             | Economic evaluation, health economics and policy  |
| Ms Stephanie Knox                 | Expert advisor                             | Patient preference measurement and biostatistics  |
| Ms Patsy Kenny                    | Expert advisor                             | Protocols, costing, Quality of Life measurement and analysis                              |
| Dr Sallie-Anne Pearson (UNSW)     | Expert advisor                             | Linked data protocols and analysis, pharmaco-epidemiology                                 |
| Ms Preeyaporn Srasuebku (UNSW)    | Expert advisor                             | Biostatistics   |
| Ms Alison Pearce                  | Program Co-ordinator;<br>Group Support     | Trial design, costing methodology and protocols   |

### Contact the Cancer Research Economic Support Team:

**+61 (2) 9514 9799**

**Marion Haas**

**marion.haas@chere.uts.edu.au;**

**+61 (2) 9514 4721**

**Alison Pearce:**

**alison.pearce@chere.uts.edu.au;**

**+61 (2) 9514 4742**

## Using clinical and economic evidence to inform local decision making in cancer care (EM-CAP)

The outcome of this program is to produce and disseminate evidence about the cost effective use of cancer medicines in clinical practice. Freely available economic models in a readily accessible form integrated into local circumstances will allow decision makers, clinicians and patients to better determine suitable cancer treatments.

This NHMRC Health Services Research Program grant is a collaboration between CHERE and researchers at UNSW and consists of a number of projects, three of which involve CHERE.

The first of these is a prospective cohort study using

primary data collected in metropolitan and rural NSW hospitals. The aim is to identify the individual care elements involved in administering specific chemotherapy protocols and estimate the costs associated with each care element and determine where these costs are borne.

Secondly, a project developing a model to estimate the resource use associated with managing chemotherapy side effects is underway. This includes exploring the management of adverse events in standard practice, and an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of trial data as an input to economic models.

Finally, in 2009 general economic models to estimate the resources associated with administration of chemotherapy medicines was completed. The major findings were that costs estimated in the field are higher than those typically reported in Australian costing data and that there are significant differences in costs between different types of protocols.

**CHERE staff:** Marion Haas, Kees van Gool, Jane Hall, Alison Pearce (PhD student), Rosalie Viney.

**Collaborators:** Lowy Cancer Institute UNSW, NSW Cancer Institute, SESI Area Health Service.



## Combining health economics & econometrics for technology

In 2009 CHERE commenced a NHMRC funded Capacity Building Program of research to develop innovative methods for economic evaluation in health care.

The aim is to use a range of data sources and sophisticated econometrics techniques to address areas of uncertainty in economic evaluation. The research brings together technology assessment, econometric

analysis, cost-effectiveness modeling and pharmaco-epidemiology.

The program will build capacity in new methods of economic evaluation and in econometric analysis of administrative and clinical trial data. A number of challenges in HTA will be addressed:

1. Incorporating the most relevant patient outcomes, allowing for het-

- erogeneity in preferences;
2. Characterising and evaluating the inherent uncertainty due to inadequate evidence; and
3. Monitoring diffusion, effectiveness and cost effectiveness of technology in real-world settings.

**CHERE staff:** Rosalie Viney, Marion Haas, Kees van Gool, Rebecca Reeve, Yuanyuan Gu

## MSAC submission reviews and PBAC submission critiques

In 2007, ASERNIP-S (Australian Safety and Efficacy Register of New Interventional Procedures—Surgical) and CHERE commenced a formal collaboration to undertake health technology assessments for the Medicare Services Advisory Committee (MSAC).

ASERNIP-S and CHERE have produced a total of six reviews together for MSAC over the last twelve months.

In 2009, CHERE won a competitive tender to become an independent evaluator for the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC). CHERE evaluates and prepares high quality commentaries on a number of major submissions each year.

The evaluations involve analysis and review of complex clinical and economic data, including modelled analyses. The work is cycli-

cal and has to be completed within a tight, strictly adhered to timeframe corresponding to each PBAC meeting, which are held every four months.

**CHERE staff:** Stephen Goodall, Richard Norman, Paula Parkinson, Jody Church, Bonny Parkinson, Rebecca Reeve, Phil Haywood, Marion Haas.



## University of Technology, Sydney

PO Box 123  
Broadway

Phone: +61-2-9514-9799  
Fax: +61-2-6514-4730  
E-mail: [mail@chere.uts.edu.au](mailto:mail@chere.uts.edu.au)



*CHERE's aim is to contribute to the development and application of health economics and health services research through research, teaching and policy*

### WHO TO CONTACT?

Associate Professor Marion Haas is a Deputy Director at CHERE and has been appointed the Program Manager for the Cancer Research Economic Support Team (CREST). She will be supported by Ms Alison Pearce in managing the day to day operations of the service, including being the point-of-contact for the Groups.

In addition, each group will be assigned a designated member of staff from CREST. The role of the CREST staff member will be to understand the specifics of the Group's trials, and will become the first point of contact once work on specific trials has commenced. This means there will always be someone available to answer your questions.

#### **Marion Haas (CREST Program Manager)**

[marion.haas@chere.uts.edu.au](mailto:marion.haas@chere.uts.edu.au);  
+61 (2) 9514 4721

#### **Alison Pearce (CREST Program Co-ordinator)**

[Alison.pearce@chere.uts.edu.au](mailto:Alison.pearce@chere.uts.edu.au);  
+61(2) 9514 4742



## About CHERE

CHERE was established in 1991 and is recognised nationally and internationally as a centre of excellence in health economics. CHERE employs both health economists and health services researchers, with expertise in complementary areas such as biostatistics, epidemiology, public health and policy.

Our understanding of the nexus between clinical trial evidence, economic evaluation and decision making is widely recognized. CHERE is one of five academic groups who independently assess and evaluate applications for listing new pharmaceuticals on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). We also collaborate to undertake economic evaluations for the Medicare Services Advisory Committee.

CHERE has established a national and international reputation in providing high quality and timely policy advice. Our recent work on the Medicare Safety Net was a major impetus to the Government's policy changes announced in the 2009 Federal budget.

We also have a strong record in working collaboratively with clinical and other researchers, including a strong history of involvement in a range of clinical trials. Recent examples include a randomized trial on Positron Emission Tomography in NSCLC; trials of physiotherapy and rehabilitation after ankle fracture; and a trial of alternative methods of delivering cardiac rehabilitation.

CHERE has been a leader in the development of health economics in Australia. Through our health economics training programs,

teaching and PhD support, we have a proud track record in building health economics capacity in Australia.

For CREST, the CHERE project team is complemented by staff members from the Adult Cancer Group (ACG) based at the Lowy Cancer Institute, University of NSW. The overall aim of the ACG team is to undertake research that impacts on the community as well as clinical management and pushes the boundaries of cancer research.

The members of the ACG team have recognized skills and expertise in fields of health services research, epidemiology, pharmaco-epidemiology, biostatistics and analysis of large secondary health datasets.