

20th

1990-2010

Celebrating twenty years of **Training**

Health Economics Unit . School of Public Health & Family Medicine . University of Cape Town



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Foreword

Within the first few years of forming the Health Economics Unit, the need to develop training programmes in health economics, policy analysis and management became apparent.

The first priority was to provide training opportunities for the newly elected democratic government in 1994. Specifically, the HEU sought to train senior public health government officials with skills relevant to their roles in transforming the health system. This marked the launch of the Oliver Tambo Fellowship Programme (OTFP).

In the late 1990s, the urgent need to train health economists across Africa also became apparent, which led to the initiation and development of Masters and PhD-level training in health economics.

Through financial support from Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), the HEU has provided bursaries to 60 students to undertake their Masters studies.

In 2007, the HEU started a Postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics, which has proved to be particularly popular among people who are employed full-time and require training that will give them some background to health economics.

Within the African context, the HEU initiated a network in 2000 to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions in health economics and health policy analysis in sub-Saharan Africa. HEPNet (the Health Economics and Policy Network) now incorporates South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Uganda, Tanzania, Kenya, Ghana and Nigeria.

This document outlines the HEU's training programmes and profiles some graduates to highlight how the courses have contributed to their careers in health economics, health systems and policy. A listing of PhD titles and a summary of what HEPNet has achieved is also presented.

As the HEU celebrates its 20th anniversary, we take this opportunity to highlight our main accomplishments to date. This is one of three documents that outline our research, teaching and health policy contributions from 1990 to 2010.

HEU mission statement:

The HEU will be a world-class independent authority in health economics and related fields. It will lead in publishing innovative research which addresses priority conceptual and methodological issues in low- and middle- income countries. It will play a key role in global post-graduate training in health economics and offer expert policy advice on relevant issues in Sub-Saharan Africa. To achieve this, the HEU will pursue a balance of mainstream and developmental health economics drawing on a strong human resource base with a full range of relevant skills and a diversity of nationalities and backgrounds.

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Introduction to HEU teaching

Over the years the HEU has initiated the following postgraduate training programmes:

1994:

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management

The programme was initiated by the HEU, but now falls under the School of Public Health & Family Medicine (SPHFM) and is run in collaboration with the Graduate School of Business (GSB). It is intended for senior health managers, particularly those working in the public sector, and aims to develop the practices and behaviours of strategic and effective leaders in order to strengthen the South African health system. It is part of a broader health management programme, known as the 'Oliver Tambo Fellowship Programme'.

Convenor: Professor Lucy Gilson (jointly appointed as professor at UCT and the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine)

1996:

Masters in Health Economics

The programme aims to equip economists to apply forms of economic theory, principles and techniques to the health sector and is convened with the School of Economics.

Convenor: Dr Ayako Honda (Lecturer at the HEU)

1998:

PhD

The HEU supervises a limited number of students undertaking a PhD by dissertation.

Convenor: Dr Edina Sinanovic (Senior Lecturer at the HEU)

1999:

Masters in Public Health specialising in Health Economics

The programme is the only Masters in Public Health within Anglophone Africa that offers a specialisation in health economics and is convened with the School of Public Health and Family Medicine.

Convenor: Dr Ayako Honda (Lecturer at the HEU)

2007:

Postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics

The curriculum gives a thorough introduction to economics as applied to health and the health care sector; it is the first online Postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics to be available from an African university.

Convenor: Dr Sue Cleary (Director of the HEU)



Since 1994, the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Management has trained over 200 people; since 1996, the Masters programmes have trained over 100 people; since 1998, the PhD programme has trained 14 people; and since 2007, the Postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics has trained over 50 people.

HEU graduate profiles

Masters graduates: Where are they now?

These profiles provide an indication of how geographically dispersed¹ many of our graduates are, working across South Africa, Africa and abroad doing a variety of strategic work in health economics.

- **Charlotte Muheki Zikusooka** - Senior Health Economist for HealthNet Consult (Uganda)
- **Espen Movik** - Adviser/Health Economist for the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (Norway)
- **Eyob Zere Asbu** - Technical Officer for the World Health Organisation (Zimbabwe)
- **Lee Cullingworth** - Director for 3 Degree Clinical Research and Consulting (South Africa)

Notable OTFP Alumni

The new form of the OTFP is a joint GSB-SOPHEM programme and has learnt from early developments when it was initiated and managed by the HEU in the 1990s. We profile a few notable officials in the Department of Health and find out their views of the course and what elements have proved to be particularly beneficial in their careers.

- **Joey Cupido** - Deputy Director General responsible for District Health Services and Health Programmes for the Western Cape Department of Health
- **Keith Cloete** - Chief Director: District Health Services (Metro) for the Western Cape Department of Health

Diploma graduates at work

These profiles indicate how graduates are applying what they learnt in the diploma programme to everyday work challenges.

- **Hannah Simonds** - Senior Specialist Radiation and Clinical Oncology at Tygerberg Hospital and University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)
- **Javaid Khan** - Senior Expert Health Economics/Health Policy at the Department for Social Development (Qatar)
- **Lebogang Ramma** – Lecturer at the University of Cape Town
- **Shelley Mcgee** - Pharmacist – Health Economics at Discovery Health (South Africa)

¹ A recent study showed that of the 78 students who had graduated between 1996 and 2005, most were situated in Africa (especially Zambia, Uganda, SA, Nigeria, Kenya and Ghana) while a relatively smaller proportion went on to work in high-income countries (McIntyre, D. Wayling, S. 2008. 'Strengthening health economics capability in Africa'. TDR / WHO).

Masters graduates: Where are they now?

Dr Charlotte Muheki Zikusooka



Graduated from the MPH programme: 1998

Occupation: Senior Health Economist - HealthNet Consult

Location: Kampala, Uganda

“Providing technical support to the Minister of Health”

Working in Uganda

Dr Charlotte Muheki Zikusooka works for a consulting firm in Uganda; she graduated from the Masters programme in December 1998 and completed a PhD in December 2006. Currently, she provides technical support to the Minister of Health in Uganda through research and generation of evidence for decision- and policy-making, particularly in the areas of health financing, expenditure reviews, costing of health interventions and strategic plans, and social health insurance. She supports the Ugandan National Malaria Control Programme in various ways by, for example, helping to write up their new 5-year strategic plan.

Further, she provides technical support in various health economics areas to countries within the region (namely Kenya, Zanzibar, Sierra Leone, and Namibia) and builds health economics capacity through training and mentoring of young researchers. Besides consulting and research, Charlotte also participates in capacity-building networks throughout Africa. She has had her research published in peer-reviewed international journals, and she is a reviewer of several international journals. She is also a member of various technical advisory committees.

Mr Espen Movik



Graduated from the MPH programme: Awaiting final results (expected: 2010)

Occupation: Adviser/Health Economist - Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services

Location: Oslo, Norway

“Conducting evaluations in the field of cancer and rheumatology”

Working in Norway

Mr Espen Movik completed the coursework in 2006 and, after some practical delays, has recently submitted his thesis; he is expected to graduate in late 2010. He is currently busy with research and consultancy work for the Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services (NOKC). Completing the Masters programme has given him the opportunity to be part of a health economics team at NOKC, which is the only non-profit institution (with the exception of academia) that conducts economic evaluation and health technology assessment in Norway.

He conducts evaluations, mainly in the field of cancer and rheumatology, and is participating in the Cochrane review of pharmaceutical policies with other authors from South Africa as part of the Cochrane Effective Practice and Organisation of Care Group. This group, also known as EPOC, is a Collaborative Review Group of the Cochrane Collaboration. Espen is a member of the working group set up to recommend guidelines on health economic evaluations in Norway.

Dr Eyob Zere Asbu



Graduated from the MPH programme: 1998

Occupation: Technical Officer, Health Financing and Social Protection Programme - World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Africa

Location: Harare, Zimbabwe

“Supporting countries in generating important health economics evidence”

Working in Zimbabwe

Dr Eyob Zere Asbu completed the Masters programme in 1998 and went on to complete a PhD in 2002. He now works for the World Health Organisation, Regional Office for Africa, Inter-country Support Team for Eastern and Southern Africa, based in Harare, Zimbabwe.

His work has involved providing technical support in the area of health systems and health economics to countries in the World Health Organisation Africa region (Eastern and Southern African block).

He has supported countries in generating important health economics evidence (for example, in health

financing, equity, efficiency of health systems) for policy, planning and management.

He has also contributed to health economics capacity building in countries through training workshops and on-the-job mentoring of staff from Ministries of Health and teaching institutions.

Eyob’s work in developing needs-based resource allocation formulae has further demonstrated the relevance of health economics to evidence-based decision-making.

Dr Lee Cullingworth



Graduated from the MPH programme: 2008

Occupation: Director, 3 Degree Clinical Research and Consulting

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

“Overseeing health economic and statistical modelling and consulting activities”

Working in South Africa

Dr Lee Cullingworth completed a medical degree in 1991, and obtained a Diploma from the Faculty of Sexual and Reproductive Health of the RCOG (DFSRH) in 1995. She graduated from the HEU Masters programme in 2008.

She is a co-founder of 3 Degree Clinical Research and Consulting, a full services Contract Research Organisation niched in the medical devices industry.

3 Degree specialises in the development and execution of clinical trials, and also consults more broadly to a

variety of health-related companies, primarily in the areas of clinical policy development and clinical risk management.

Lee takes responsibility for clinical and process integrity within the business, and oversees 3 Degree’s health economic and statistical modelling and consulting activities.

Diploma graduates at work

Dr Hannah Simonds



Graduated from the Diploma programme: 2009

Occupation: Senior Specialist Radiation and Clinical Oncology, Tygerberg Hospital and University of Stellenbosch

Location: Cape Town, South Africa

“I have examined how treatment can be delivered in less time with limited toxicity”

Current role

Dr Hannah Simonds is a clinician and researcher working in a state institution. She specialises in radiation and chemotherapy in gynaecological cancers and sees and treats approximately 250 women per year, many of whom will be cured of their disease.

Everyday challenges

The diploma has equipped Hannah with the essential skill of recognising that resources are scarce. This is without doubt the limit of working in a public health system. The radiation machines have limited capacity and chemotherapy treatments are expensive and

intensive. Becoming mindful of resource allocation, she has rationalised her own practice and examined how treatment can be delivered in less time with limited toxicity. Access to a new screening modality has become available and her group will be studying the question of whether this may lead to more appropriate treatment, saving both financial and personal cost of radiation in advanced cervical cancer patients. Health economic principles will form the backbone of this study. The diploma has highlighted that as a medical professional, she must play a part in rational management of resources.

Dr M. Javid Khan



Graduated from the Diploma programme: 2008

Occupation: Senior Expert Health Economics/Health Policy, Department for Social Development, General Secretariat for Development Planning Doha

Location: Doha, Qatar

“The tools of health economics has empowered me to contribute more proactively in developing an evidence-informed Health Sector Strategy”

Current role

Dr Javid Khan is currently working in an advisory role at the Department for Social Development, General Secretariat for Development Planning (GSDP), Qatar, in close coordination with Ministry of Health for the development of the Qatar National Health Strategy 2011-2016.

Everyday challenges

The tools of health economics learnt during the course have empowered him to contribute more proactively to developing an evidence-informed Health Sector Strategy that will form part of the overall Qatar National Development Strategy document, the first of its kind in the region.

Applying health economics tools helped to build arguments about how quality not only saves lives but also saves money – a *prima facie* paradoxical statement but very true indeed. He has also given lectures on health economics and health financing in several renowned public health institutes in Pakistan and organised health economics short courses. The abovementioned responsibilities have contributed to the development of a culture that thinks of health sector planning in Qatar and Pakistan in economic ways.

Dr Lebogang Ramma



Graduated from the Diploma programme: 2008

Occupation: Lecturer at UCT

Location: South Africa

“Working on a project that looks at resource allocation and utilisation with regard to assistive devices in the public health sector”

Current role

Dr Lebogang Ramma is currently a lecturer in the School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences. He is also the convenor for the undergraduate audiology training programme.

He recently completed this project, and is hoping to get the findings published in the not so distant future. He is also busy with a project that looks at resource allocation and utilisation with regard to assistive devices in the public health sector.

Everyday challenges

The course has been very helpful in helping to focus his research area. The information that he learnt in a module on economic evaluation was so interesting that a year later he got involved in research that looked at health status valuation.

The intended goal is to determine the technical efficiency of the provision of rehabilitation services.

Ms Shelley Mcgee



Graduated from the Diploma programme: 2009

Occupation: Pharmacist – Health Economics – Clinical Policy Unit, Discovery Health

Location: South Africa

“The course broadened my knowledge base to a level where it has become applicable on a daily basis”

Current role

Shelley Mcgee’s current role involves mainly economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals and medical technology - based largely on cost-effectiveness and budget impact analysis within the Discovery Health environment.

into contentious and topical issues around health economics, public health and priority-setting have undoubtedly assisted in the application of a greater wisdom and macro-understanding to the work she does at the more ‘micro’ level.

Everyday challenges

The course has been fantastic in assisting her, not only in understanding the technicalities of health economic evaluations, but in her appreciation of the broader issues facing health policy makers, when considering health care funding. Although her role remains one which largely involves technical analysis, which she thoroughly enjoys, the insights provided by the course

The additional research and reading encouraged by the structure of the course broadened her knowledge base to a level where it has become applicable on a daily basis to the debates and issues she faces in her work environment – contributing to improved and more rational decision-making within her unit, for the benefit of all Discovery members.

Notable OTFP Alumni

Dr Joey Cupido



Graduated from the OTFP: 1996

Occupation: Deputy Director General responsible for District Health Services and Health Programmes, Western Cape Department of Health

“The programme has established an ‘African identity’ through adapting international good practices to the South African challenges”

Current role

Dr Joey Cupido is currently a member of the departmental Top Executive Committee (TEXCO), which consists of the Head of Department and 3 Deputy Director Generals (DDGs). He is the DDG responsible for District Health Services and Health Programmes.

Most useful course elements

Useful elements include the lectures and training sessions related to Strategic & Operational Planning (A. Green: Rational Planning Cycle; P. Human: Strategic Planning & Project management); Human Resource Planning (R. Krause’s software modelling, based on HR

norms); and Financial Management (Budget planning by I. Abedian).

Course profile

The programme has established an ‘African identity’ through adapting international good practices to the South African challenges. OTFP should incorporate certain lessons learnt over the past 15 years in reshaping the course contents in ensuing years as a wealth of good practices have emerged from the hands of managers engaged in transforming the health system in our country.

Dr Keith Cloete



Graduated from the OTFP: 2000

Occupation: Chief Director: District Health Services (Metro), Western Cape Department of Health

“The high profile of the course can be attributed to the calibre of the facilitators”

Current role

Dr Keith Cloete is the Chief Director of Metro District Health Services. He has overall responsibility and accountability for the provision of District Health Services (ranging from community-based services to clinic/ Community Day Care centre (CDC)/ Community Health Centre (CHC) and district hospital services) in the Cape Metropole in the Western Cape.

Most useful course elements

Elements of the OTFP that were particularly useful

include the ‘workplace-based learning’ of the assignments, the peer learning and the leadership development.

Course profile

The high profile of the course can be attributed to the calibre of the facilitators and innovative methodologies; the calibre/stature/achievements of the alumni and the formal/informal OTFP network.

HEU PhD graduates

Professor Di McIntyre

Health care financing and expenditure in South Africa: Towards equity and efficiency in policy-making

Dr Stephen Thomas

The political economy of health care financing reform with special reference to South Africa

Dr Eyob Asbu

Equity and efficiency in health care delivery and financing in the South African health care system

Dr Zakariaou Njoumemi

The impact of public sector interventions on market dynamics: A case study of promoting private sector health care provision for malaria control in the West province of Cameroon

Dr Mark Blecher

Aspects of the downsizing and restructuring of the Western Cape Department of Health

Dr Charlotte Muheki Zikusooka

An economic evaluation of mono-therapy compared with combination therapy for malaria in South Africa, Swaziland and Mozambique

Dr Felix Masiye

An analysis of economic efficiency in the Zambian health care system

Dr Patricia Akweongo

Equity in access to health care: case study of malaria treatment and control in the Kassena-Nankana District of Northern Ghana

Dr Jane Chuma

Economic response to Malaria: the role and costs of coping strategies in rural Kenya

Dr Susan Cleary

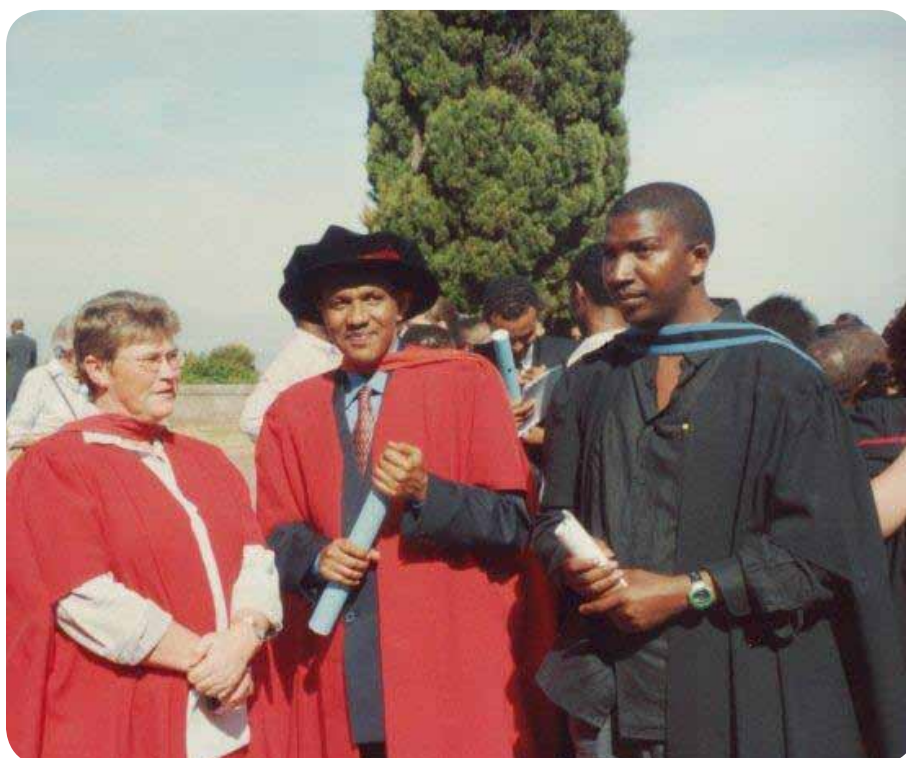
Equity and efficiency in health and health care for HIV-positive adults in South Africa

Dr Hyacinth Ichoku

Health inequalities and income redistributive effects of the health care financing system in a developing country: the case of Nigeria

Dr Okore Okorafor

Fiscal federalism and equity in the financing of primary health care: the case for South Africa



Di McIntyre and Sandi Mbatsha with the HEU's first PhD graduate - Eyobe Asbu

Capacity building

The HEU has coordinated the Health Economics and Policy Network in Africa (HEPNet) since 2000. HEPNet is a network of institutions aiming to improve capacity in health economics, policy or systems in the Sub-Saharan region.

There are eight member countries, namely Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The main objectives are to:

- Promote networking activities between member institutions and with international organisations active in the region.
- Strengthen, promote and increase the scope of capacity building in health economics and policy.
- Strengthen, promote and increase the scope of health economics and policy research.



Top left: Dr Sue Cleary (HEU director) attending the 2009 iHEA conference in China

Top right: Some of the HEPNet Steering Committee Members

Bottom left and right: HEPNet Training of Trainers Workshop in Uganda

HEPNet highlights over the past 10 years include:

- Providing financial support for members to present at 5 international iHEA (International Health Economics Association) conferences in the United Kingdom (2001), the USA (2003), Spain (2005), Denmark (2007) and China (2009) and the inaugural African Health Economics and Policy Association (AfHEA) conference in Ghana (2009).
- Convening 9 workshops: Training of Trainers (Dar es Salaam 2001), Training of Trainers (Kampala 2002), Writing Skills (Johannesburg 2002), Quantitative Techniques (Cape Town, 2003), Health Insurance (Cape Town, 2007), Eliciting Preferences (Johannesburg, 2007), Donor Funding (Zambia, 2008), Global Economic Crisis and Health in Africa (Uganda, 2009), Initiating Postgraduate Health Economics Courses (Cape Town, 2010).
- Expanding the network's membership base from 5 to 8 countries.
- Increasing the network's institutional membership from 13 to 37 institutions.
- Supporting the formation of related health economics associations in West Africa.
- Enabling members to study health economics through the provision of Sida (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) bursaries to complete the Masters in Health Economics and Masters in Public Health Programme (specialising in Health Economics) at the HEU.
- Redesigning the HEPNet website, producing a bi-annual newsletter and introducing a blog so members can discuss cutting-edge topics in health economics and interact with other members.



Top: HEPNet workshop in Cape Town - 2007
Bottom: HEPNet workshop in Uganda - 2009