

1990-2010

Health Economics Unit 20th Anniversary



The Health Economics Unit in the School of Public Health & Family Medicine at the University of Cape Town was formed in 1990 by Professor Di McIntyre with Drs Steve Taylor, William Pick and Max Bachmann. Professor McIntyre ran the unit for 14 years, and handed over directorship in 2004. Dr Sue Cleary is the current director of the HEU. Over the years, the HEU has achieved the following milestones:

1994

- Introduced the Oliver Tambo Fellowship Programme to train health system leaders in South Africa. This course has graduated over 200 people, and now is coordinated by the School of Public Health & Family Medicine with the Graduate School of Business.

1996:

- Introduced the Masters in Health Economics Programme, which is run in collaboration with the School of Economics.

1998:

- Introduced the PhD programme in health economics. This programme has graduated 10 doctoral candidates.
- The HEU began to contribute to Regional Network for Equity in Health in East and Southern Africa (EQUINET) work around equitable financing of health systems and equitable allocation of health care resources.



1999:

- Completed first comprehensive review of health care financing in post-apartheid South Africa.
- Introduced the Masters in Public Health specialising in Health Economics programme. The Masters programmes have graduated over 100 people.

2000:

- Initiated the Health Economics & Policy Network in Africa (HEPNet) to strengthen capacity in health economics, policy and systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

2005:

- Joined the international Consortium for Research on Equitable Health Systems (CREHS) to work in partnership to strengthen health systems in developing countries.



2007:

- Introduced an online Postgraduate Diploma in Health Economics. This is a distance learning programme, the first of its kind in Africa.

2008:

- Di McIntyre was awarded her Professorship and the Research Chair in 'Health and Wealth'.
- Dr Sue Cleary co-chaired the sub-group that costed the recent comprehensive National Strategic Plan for HIV/AIDS.

2009:

- Professor McIntyre was nominated to be on the NHI Ministerial Advisory Committee and was awarded UCT's first Social Responsiveness award.
- Strong collaborative links with HEU's honorary academics were recognised when Lucy Gilson was appointed as Professor and Gavin Mooney as Honorary Professor by UCT.

2010:

- The HEU has produced over 100 published journal articles.



Working to improve equity and social justice in health systems