

# HERG Virtual Research Seminar

We would like to invite  
fellow early researchers  
to the first HERG  
Virtual Research Seminar  
at 14.00 GMT  
on 28 January 2011.

Booking via email:  
[herg.vrs@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:herg.vrs@brunel.ac.uk)



## Virtual research seminar series

This initiative is led by PhD students. Our aim is to provide web-based meetings for doctoral researchers in health economics. We invite oral presentations on work-in-progress from PhD students conducting research with a focus on health economics. This is a distinctive opportunity to interact with colleagues with no travel time or costs. The meetings will encourage high quality, and positive academic feedback, and create opportunities for developing new and lasting collaborations.

**Brunel**  
UNIVERSITY  
WEST LONDON

**HERG**  
Health Economics Research Group

# HERG Virtual Research Seminar

**Speaker:**

James Chambers  
PhD student

*Health Economics Research  
Group, Brunel University*

**Title:**

Using cost-effectiveness  
evidence in the US health  
care system – Evidence  
from Medicare

**How can I listen to this  
presentation?**

Book via email at  
[herg.vrs@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:herg.vrs@brunel.ac.uk) and  
you will be sent an  
invitation link to the  
virtual seminar.

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**Summary:** Despite spending substantially more on health care than other countries, there is an apparent reluctance to use cost-effectiveness analysis to inform health care resource allocation in the US. James Chambers, a PhD student at HERG, will discuss his research evaluating Medicare coverage decisions. James has evaluated Medicare's national coverage decisions from 1999–2007 to determine to what extent they are in accordance with a criterion of cost-effectiveness. In addition, through the use of logistic regression models, he has evaluated what factors, including cost-effectiveness, appear to influence coverage decisions. Finally, estimates of the potential gains in efficiency possible through the incorporation of cost-effectiveness evidence will be presented.

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**Summary:** Most economic analyses of equity in health care use focus only on horizontal inequity, i.e. the principle of equal treatment for equal needs. A major limitation of this is that these analyses ignore the possibility that the estimated differential treatment received by individuals with different needs is inappropriate, i.e., vertical inequity aspects. This issue has already been highlighted on the literature and a measure of socio-economic-related vertical equity has been proposed. However, this method only captures the socioeconomic dimension of vertical equity, ignoring thus part of the extent to which individuals with different needs do not receive appropriately unequal treatment. Laura Vallejo-Torres's PhD work seeks to provide a measurement of vertical equity in health care delivery which fully accounts for variations in needs in the population. The methodology is illustrated using data from the Health Survey for England for individuals with cardiovascular disease.

## **Speaker:**

Laura Vallejo-Torres  
PhD student  
*Health Care Evaluation  
Group, UCL*

**Title:** An economic analysis of vertical equity in the delivery of health care in England

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# HERG Virtual Research Seminar

## **Organisers/Moderators:**

Nana Anokye

*Brunel University*

Christian Boehler

*Brunel University*

Timea Helter

*Brunel University*

Marta Trapero-Bertran

*Brunel University*

## **Further enquiries:**

Nana Anokye

Tel: +44 (0)1895 266662

Christian Boehler

Tel: +44 (0)1895 265446,

[christian.boehler@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:christian.boehler@brunel.ac.uk)

[nana.anokye@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:nana.anokye@brunel.ac.uk)

Timea Helter

Tel: +44 (0)1895 265446,

[timea.helter@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:timea.helter@brunel.ac.uk)

Marta Trapero-Bertran

Tel: +44 (0)1895 265105,

[\[bertran@brunel.ac.uk\]\(mailto:bertran@brunel.ac.uk\)](mailto:marta.trapero-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

## **Technical enquiries:**

Eszter Nagy

Tel: +44 (0)1895 265441

[herg.vrs@brunel.ac.uk](mailto:herg.vrs@brunel.ac.uk)

## **Mode**

Seminars will be held on-line using a web-conferencing tool (BT conference). To promote effective discussions, presentation slides will be distributed via email to participants a week in advance of meetings.

## **Schedule**

Seminars will commence with an opening address from a moderator, followed by presentations (up to three per session) and a Q&A session where participants are invited to put questions to presenters. Each presentation should not exceed 15 minutes, with a further 10-15 minutes for Q&A.

## **Frequency**

Seminars will be held quarterly.

## **Eligibility**

Presentations are welcome from all PhD students and early career researchers in health economics in the UK. Early career researchers should have completed their studies in the last 3 years. Other members of the faculty are welcome to listen and comment. Presenters in particular may want to encourage people to attend.

## **Subsequent series**

Prospective presenters for future seminars may contact the organisers.