“How the data you collect & analyse in clinical trials is used in the real world”

Hannah Verry & Toby Gould

When: Thursday 3rd November, 2011
3:30pm – 4:30pm

Where: Level 5 Training Room, Medical Foundation Building
92-94 Parramatta Road, Camperdown

Map ref:
1. campus map http://db.auth.usyd.edu.au/directories/map/building.stm?location=01B
2. local street map http://www.whereis.com/index.htm?ref=homeMap#session=MjE=

Biography

Hannah Verry has a Bachelor of Economics from the University of Queensland and is currently enrolled in a PhD through the Sydney Medical School entitled “Accounting for the economic burden of mortality in Australia and opportunities for intervention”. Hannah has worked at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre since 2009 and is involved in performing health economic evaluations using data from clinical trials. She has expertise in modelling the cost effectiveness of cancer interventions.

Toby Gould joined NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre in July after working for the Victorian Department of Health where he was responsible for guiding Victorian government investments into translational cancer research. Prior to his role in government Toby worked in the biotechnology sector specialising in the development of In-Vitro Diagnostic tests for Human Papilloma Virus screening and cancer mutation detection applications.

Toby’s work at the NHMRC Clinical Trials Centre is focussed on the appraisal of funding applications for new health care technologies that are being considered for listing on the Medicare Benefits Schedule. These assessments are undertaken on behalf of the Federal governments Department of Health and Ageing. Toby’s main interest is in the development and implementation of techniques for the economic evaluation of biomarker tests.

Abstract

New health care interventions can no longer afford to rely on demonstrating effectiveness alone in order to change clinical practice. Decision makers around the world are increasingly concerned with cost-effectiveness, which can be seen as a measure of ‘bang for your buck’ when spending precious health budget dollars. In this seminar, Hannah will present a decision model of sentinel node biopsy for patients with early stage breast cancer. The model synthesises health outcomes, costs and patient preferences from a number of RCTs in order to estimate the long term effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the procedure.

Following this, Toby will take a broader perspective and outline how clinical trial data and results are considered as part of the decision making process of whether a new health care intervention should receive government subsidy. This part of the seminar aims to explore how both clinical and economic considerations are balanced during the health care funding decision making process, as well as highlight the value of collecting data for use in economic models during clinical trials.