



During the virtual meeting we also organized an interesting discussion on management of the existing health systems for resisting in a crisis situation: The Italian experience facing the Coronavirus emergency. You can watch via this link

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BitRcF-IDU&feature=youtu.be> **Some sad news..**

Unfortunately, Armin Lucevic (ESR8) has decided to resign from the HealthPros Network and his position at Corvinus. This was not an easy decision for him, and he has carefully thought about it and considered various options, but due to personal reasons he finally decided to leave. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity for learning and development, and the support and guidance.

From our side, we are very sorry, but of course have to respect his decision. We have to think about whether (and how) we might try to find a replacement, especially considering the current situation with COVID-19.

Introducing...The team from Germany!

[Nicolas Larrain](#)

Where were you born?

Santiago, Chile.

What is your background?

I am a Master in International Healthcare Management, Economics, and Policy from SDA Bocconi; Business Administration professional

degree with a Bachelor in Economics from Universidad de Chile. In addition, I had two years of working experience prior to joining OptiMedis at the Jameel Abdul Latif Poverty Action Lab.

When did you start working at Optimedis?

I started October 2018

What is the main focus of your research?

My research is focused on measuring the performance of integrated healthcare systems.

What is the added-value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

In my opinion, MSCA is special in two different ways. First, the interaction with renowned researchers and other young researchers from different backgrounds and professional experiences is extremely valuable and directly influences the construction of a professional network that will shape my career. Second, together with the scope and reach given by the HealthPros consortium, the training network gives you the environment, time, resources, and support to develop an idea that is easily connected to a tangible contribution to society.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I am an early stage researcher in HealthPros and my role is to conclude my research with publications that can be used in practice or add knowledge to the field of health system performance assessment.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

The biggest challenge of the network is to live up to its potential.

What do you do in your free time?

Mostly read, watch movies and play basketball. Good dining is always a nice activity as well!

[Sophie Wang](#)

Where were you born?

Kaohsiung, Taiwan

What is your background?

I have a Masters of Public Health and have worked in areas of evaluation, surveillance and clinical research. Prior to joining the HealthPros Network, I was working on evaluating the Patient Voices Network, a provincial patient engagement initiative in British Columbia and also leading quality improvement work with physicians at Vancouver Coastal Health.

When did you start working at Optimedis?

I started in October 2018

What is the main focus of your research?

My research is focused on applying behavioural economics to changing physician behaviour.

What is the added-value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

MC ETN offers the opportunity for early-career research to engage with a prestigious network of new and established researchers internationally. As well, there is a considerable amount of investment in time and resources for training that give us opportunity to work and learn from network members. I believe that these experiences and networks will really open up opportunities for the next stage of our career.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

As a PhD researcher, I will contribute to the network through my research activities including attending conferences, holding workshops, and publishing my research studies.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

For us all to stay connected during the network and stay connected after!

What do you do in your free time?

I like to be outdoors - be it hiking, kayaking, skiing, biking! Reading and cooking is also a big passion of mine!

Oliver Gröne

Where were you born?

I was born in the beautiful Spa Town of Bad Pyrmont, in sleepy country-side Germany.

What is your background?

Quite a while back, I did my A Levels in Social Sciences at a modern German Gymnasium, focusing on inequalities and global warming. How peculiar how current these topics are! Because of the topic of my A levels, I went to study sociology at Bielefeld University, at that time world renowned for its system thinker Prof Luhmann. Bielefeld was also the University where the first German School of Public Health was set up, the founding dean a sociologist, Prof Hurrelmann. His works on health and socialization and the focus of the subsequent dean Prof Badura (also a sociologist) on health systems convinced me to focus more on medical sociology and, after completing my 5-year degree, to pursue a MSc in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. After my MSc, I was offered a position at the World Health Organization and the initial 1-year assignment turned into a 7-year career at the WHO. In parallel, I started working on my PhD on patient-centred health systems, with Prof Klazinga, HealthPros coordinator as a co-supervisor next to Prof Alonso, a leading health services researcher and PROMs expert. Subsequently I took a position as Director of Research and Education at the Avedis Donabedian Institute, Autonomous University of Barcelona, conducting various large-scale studies on quality and safety of health care. I was then offered the possibility to return to the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as a Lecturer (and soon thereafter as a Senior Lecturer) in Health Services Research.

When did you start working at Optimedis?

Five years ago, I thought it was time to go back to Germany to join OptiMedis, a leading integrated care management company, with whom I had been loosely collaborating since my time at WHO.

What is the main focus of your research?

During my time at LSHTM I concentrated more on methodological issues in advancing causal inference in large scale observational studies. My



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research now centres on the links between patient-centred care (survey and PROM development and shared decision-making), advanced data analytics and implementation science. In fact, my work is split between continuing my research agenda and more importantly in my current role, actually managing the growing OptiMedis company network.

What is the added-value of Marie-Curie European Training Networks in comparison to other types of (EU) research projects?

It is not just another EU Project. The HealthPros focus on a range of methodological themes within the overarching focus on assessing and improving health system performance. What I appreciate is that dynamic relationships that are forming amongst the HealthPros fellows and being able to provide input to the direction of the studies pursued.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I am managing WP2 on Performance-based Healthcare Governance Mechanisms. PhD studies under this WP focus in particular on some of the managerial issues of improving health system performance. I am also supervising the work of Nicolas and Sophie and have coordinated the HealthPros training week on real-world evidence, addressing with colleagues the themes of quasi-experimental study designs, propensity score matching and machine learning.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

While it is a great opportunity to immerse in different organizations during secondments and to have such a generous travel budget, there is a risk that less time is spent on pursuing the own research agenda if secondments are not very well aligned with the actual PhD work.

What do you do in your free time?

I need to look up that term in a dictionary ... Jokes aside, free time is mostly spent with my wife and

young kids, if any time is left I like to pursue various sports.

The first fellows have started their secondments! Some impressions below...

Erica Barbazza (AMC) - seconded to UofT/CIHI, Toronto, Canada



As someone who has lived abroad for nearly a decade, the prospect of a secondment sending me home – back to my childhood house to live with my parents, with the possibility to reconnect with lifelong friends and rediscover the Canadian health services research landscape – was truly thrilling.

In January 2020, I began my secondment in Toronto, splitting my time between both the Institute of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation and its North American Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, and the Canadian Institute for Health Information's Primary Health Care Information Team. This collaboration between an academic and policy partner would prove to be a huge asset to our study exploring the current and potential use of EMR data for primary health care (PHC) performance measurement across the country.

While the secondment has been paralleled by wildly unexpected circumstances, it has



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certainly not changed the learning potential of my placement. My numerous interviews with Canadian stakeholders and researchers were hugely insightful, leaving me encouraged by the great momentum across the country around the development of PHC performance measurement. My team at both CIHI and UofT embodied Canadian friendliness to a degree I had forgotten and was pleased to rediscover. And my time in Toronto – when it was possible to explore – was a reminder of just how great a city is when it embraces its public for their differences.

As my placement wraps up at the end of April, when and if it is possible to return to Europe – I will certainly never forget “that time I went home to Toronto”, and really stayed home!

Bernardo Meza (University of Surrey) – seconded to the University of Dundee, Scotland



I started this winter my secondment at the University of Dundee, Scotland, which is one of the seats to the Scottish Care Information – Diabetes Collaboration (the national diabetes register, better known as SCI-DC, or SCI-Diabetes). This trip marked an important stage for the PhD project, since a significant part of its results depend on learning about the intricacies of this database. But for that, the team and people here have been of great help, always willing to share knowledge and

experiences, no matter how clumsy my Linux skills may be. Above all, I truly appreciate their involvement, humour and directness. And needless to say, it is strangely enjoyable to access the Scottish data, which can hopefully shed light on how to prevent complications in people with diabetic foot ulcers through better organized care. Overall, but keeping it short, it simply feels as the right decision being here. Looking forward to receive other fellows!

Sophie Wang (Hamburg- OptiMedis AG) on secondment to MesLab at Sant’Anna Pisa, Italy

From la dolce vita to casa dolce casa

“We might not be as famous as Britney (yet!) but we can confirm that indeed the cool thing about being a HealthPros Fellow is traveling... across seas, like to Canada and stuff.”- Mircha Poldrugovac and Damir Ivankovic, 2019 (HealthPros fellows)

In early February I moved to Pisa to start my month secondment at the Management and Healthcare Laboratory in Sant’Anna. Little did I know that the dolce vita that I was looking forward to experiencing will soon enough turn into a strict order to stay at casa dolce casa.

Having started my collaboration with behavioural science experts here at the MesLab virtually since last summer, I was very excited to work with the team in person. Working with a group of experts that lead the performance management of Tuscany public hospitals really opened my eyes to how the best Italian regional healthcare system functions and current challenges on the ground. It also provided more context to the work I lead in better understanding determinants of antibiotic prescribing decisions among Tuscan physicians.



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The first month in the office with my colleagues was a truly immersive cultural experience! From the lunch time recipes exchange to learning about the social faux pas of drinking any sort of coffee containing milk in the afternoon, I felt the hospitality, warmth and friendliness that Italians are known for the world over – which really carried me through what was to come. It feels like the epidemic crept up on us, but when it arrived, everything happened all at once in full force.

As I write this, we are in the 6th week of Italy's lock-down. I came across a New York Times article that summarized the timeline of decrease in Italy. The clarity in the summary of events that unfolded here in Italy was in sharp contrast to the confusion and uncertainty that I recall during the initial weeks. The past weeks has been a little surreal where the only sounds you hear on the street is silence, cats meowing or sirens. As Spring arrives, I have been enjoying waking up to birds chirping for a change! Upon reflecting on the last weeks of lockdown, I've learned to better appreciate this new pace of life, to adjust to a new model of working while staying connected to colleagues, and to be intentional in practicing gratitude.

This has been one of the most memorable trips that I have had, for reasons more than one. I feel privileged to have experienced such hospitality and warmth from locals here during such an unprecedented and devastating time in the

Italian history. Through all the uncertainty, one thing I know for sure is that I will be back!

Arrivederci Italia!

Upcoming events:

16th – 20th of November 2020

Fall Meeting, fifth training week ESRs in UK.

For more information on the network and topics/input for the next newsletter please contact the project manager (Laurian Jongejan);

You can find us on Twitter:

<https://twitter.com/HealthProsH2020>

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/HealthProsH2020/about/>

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/healthprosh2020>

and Research Gate:

<https://www.researchgate.net/project/HealthPros-Innovative-Training-Network-for-Healthcare-Performance-Intelligence-Professionals>

L.zuidmeer@amsterdamumc.nl