



HealthPros

International Training Network for
Healthcare Performance Intelligence Professionals

Introduction

Here we present the 7th HealthPros newsletter, in which we introduce the team in UK and we reflect on the current pandemic how it poses challenges but also opportunities for Health-Pros.

HealthPros and COVID-19

As we stated in the previous newsletter; as HealthPros is a large EU-funded Training Network with access to many different databases and holds interdisciplinary expertise, we do see the opportunity, but also feel the obligation, to re-focus projects within our Network to healthcare systems responsiveness and impact on health outcomes, both on the short and long term.

Therefore, we are now pleased to inform you that our HealthPros Commentary 'Managing COVID-19 within and across health systems: why we need performance intelligence to coordinate a global response' has been published in Health Research Policy and Systems: <https://rdcu.be/b5CIB>.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, activity has surged worldwide to develop dashboards as dynamic, visual tools for communicating COVID-19 data. Dashboards can inform decision-making and support behavior change. To do so, they must be actionable. But what constitutes an actionable dashboard in the context of the pandemic? In July 2020, all fellows jointly conducted a descriptive

assessment and scoring with an international panel of experts on a global sample of 158 dashboards from 53 countries. They found that COVID-19 dashboards are diverse in why, what and how they communicate insights on the pandemic and support data-driven decision-making. In order to leverage their full potential, dashboard developers should consider adopting seven actionability features that the project identified. What these are can be read in the [pre-print publication](#). Also our individual fellows and PIs are involved in COVID-19 related initiatives. For instance, our AMC-based fellow, Damir Ivankovic was involved in the following article "Early lessons from COVID-19 response and shifts in authority: public trust, policy legitimacy and political inclusion" published in the European Journal of Public Health. <https://academic.oup.com/eurpub/article/30/5/854/5918171>

HealthPros' coordinator (Niek Klazinga) has been closely engaged in the expert group of the Regional Office to support the health system COVID-19 response and most recently, members of the HealthPros Network have provided reviews to the WHO/EURO COVID-19 impact indicators.

All in all, with all EU wide restrictions and the impact this has on their personal PhD experience, we are happy to say our fellows are continuing to do well and also take on the challenges this new situation brings them!

Introducing...The team from UK!

Bernardo Meza Torres

Where were you born?

In Mexico City.

What is your background?

I am a medical doctor, but I gradually shifted from clinical medicine towards public health and health economics. I also completed a master in bioethics, which has proven valuable to recognize the various dimensions of health.

When did you start working at Oxford?

Overall, one and a half years ago, on February 2019. But I started working at the University of Surrey, then our team was transferred to the University of Oxford on October 2019.

What is the main focus of your research?

My research focus is on the use of clinical routine data to improve and monitor quality of care in patients with type 2 diabetes and foot ulcers.

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

Foremost, the team and the research network. Collaborating with people from various national research centres is not only insightful but you also always find open doors to expand your research. Letting others view your project from a different angle is fundamental to improving it.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

Primarily, to contribute to the HealthPros focus and goals, from my specific workplan which uses routine data to improve the care of chronic conditions using diabetes as an exemplar. But I'd also like characterize a long-term meaning of the project, perhaps helping to delineate areas where

the it could pivot for future research, after the end of the grant.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

On one hand, improving healthcare quality using the existing data intelligence. On the other, adapting to the post-COVID environment, which is not only changing the way care is provided, but also changing the way in which HealthPros must keep its team and research community together. Collaboration networks must adapt and not drift apart.

What do you do in your free time?

Run.

Mekha Ann Matthew

Where were you born?

Kerala, India

What is your background?

I graduated with a Bachelor's in Dental Surgery (BDS) in 2016, while also being a Rotaract member and helping in setting up free health camps in rural India.

After the successful completion of Internship, I took up Public Health (Msc) in University College Cork, Ireland. Getting acquainted with quantitative analysis, SPSS, Epidemiology and Biostatistics, I chose "Oral health literacy amongst third level students in Cork" as the key area of focus for my master's thesis. During the duration of the course, I took up an Internship with Cork Sports Partnership, and concentrated on Health Promotion.

Subsequently, I began working on a HRB funded project with Hospital In-Patient (HIPE) data, regarding Activity based funding (ABF) amongst the hospitals groups of Ireland in 2018 and contributed significantly to setting up of the conference "Social Determinants of Health 2020" as a medium of dissemination for the key findings. The scope of the project expanded to include area level deprivation in relation to small areas and

Pobal HP index and length of stay and diagnosis related categories. The results will be further distributed as a report for policy changes with the stakeholders, Health Services Executive (HSE), Health Pricing Office (HPO), Healthy Ireland, Hospital Groups Ireland and University of Limerick.

When did you start working at Oxford?

1st July 2020

What is the main focus of your research?

Currently, I'm based in Nuffield department of health, University of Oxford, analysing the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre's (RSC) data with R. The proposed topic of research is "The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on new cardiovascular events and lower extremity amputations (LEA) amongst people with type 2 diabetes". Through my work, I intend to halt the "book to shelf" phenomenon common in academics and make relevant real-life changes with the right interventions in policy and practise.

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

Gaining experience of different working environments and also developing international networks and other transferable skills. Access to multiple international databases and being part of multiple training conferences.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

Be an active student representative, more so as the venue is University of Oxford. I would also like to share a PPT regarding my proposed to work to the wider HealthPros audience.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

Access to data, scheduling hands-on-training and right now, working around the virtual secondments.

What do you do in your free time?

Read, travel and write.

Ivelina Yonova

Where were you born?

Bulgaria

What is your background?

I have a BA in Applied Linguistics (Bulgaria); MA in Business Translation with Interpreting (University of Surrey, UK) and am currently enrolled in the Executive MBA programme at the University of Surrey. I am also PRINCE2® certified practitioner. Although I have a strong background in the linguistics and translation/interpreting field, for the past 6 years I have been part of the Clinical Informatics research group led by Prof Simon de Lusignan. I managed multiple primary care research projects over the years and was heavily involved in the expansion of our network of general practices (these are research ready practices providing data for research and surveillance).

When did you start working at Oxford?

I started working at Oxford in 2019, but I joined the team about 6 years ago when it was still based at the University of Surrey.

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

I believe that the most valuable aspect of this project is the direct interaction between early stage researchers and renowned researchers and experts.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I support the Oxford HealthPros team with any organisational aspects of the work - including budget management, monitoring of deliverables' progress and deadlines and anything else the Fellows may need help with.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

Perhaps, apart from ensuring that this complex programme is delivered as proposed, one of the



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biggest challenges is to engage with non-academic institutions.

What do you do in your free time?

I am very social person and I love spending time with family and friends. Dancing is my other passion, Bulgarian folklore dances in particular, and I also teach a small group of non-professional dancers. I also take part in various cultural dancing festivals.

Simon de Lusignan

Where were you born?

I was born in Firmley, Surrey, not far from London, United Kingdom. I now live in Guildford around 15 kilometres from where I was born.

What is your background?

I am a senior academic GP and Professor of Primary Care and Clinical Informatics at Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences,

University of Oxford. My research interests are in clinical informatics/digital health. These interests include disease surveillance, quality improvement (QI), measuring health outcomes from routine data, incorporating technology into clinical workflow, and new technology enabled roles in health care. I am developing more robust methods of collecting and harnessing real world evidence (RWE). My academic role includes the Directorship of the Royal College of General Practice (RCGP) Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC); England's primary care flu and infectious disease surveillance and vaccine effectiveness system.

When did you start working at Oxford?

In June 2019 my group moved from the University of Surrey to the University of Oxford. I continue to practice family medicine in Guildford, I have been a GP in my practice for over 34 years.

What is the main focus of your research?

My principal academic ambition is the development of the Oxford-RCGP RSC into a major health research facility, including hosting clinical

vaccine trials across the ever-growing network of practices. The Oxford-RCGP RSC has had spectacular growth through the COVID-19 crisis with lots of GPs wanting to help with pandemic related research. We are currently extracting data from a pool of 6 million registered patients – but have just topped 1,700 practices signing up, which if we can expand the extraction would take us to well over 15 million records. We are also undertaking comprehensive data linkage, to hospital, death, cancer and other data registries.

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

It is very important to be training a new generation of professionals in an innovative and multidisciplinary way. It's a very unique opportunity for the Early Stage Researchers to expand their skills, develop and strengthen relationships with their international colleagues.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

I am the lead Investigator of HealthPros at Oxford and I supervise the Oxford's ESRs – Bernardo Meza-Torres and Mekha Mathew, our HealthPros Fellows. My principle role is to ensure their success as early stage researchers and that they develop a network that will sustain them long term.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

Coordinating research across several countries and the variety of health care systems while maintaining and delivering world class results!

What do you do in your free time?

My family, I have five children, occupies a fair amount of time. I enjoy walking and cycling, but COVID-19 has limited my opportunities. Though Surrey is a very green county and I am rediscovering a lot of local walks.

Fabrizio Carinci

Where were you born?

Pescara, Italy...where I live now. Best place in the world, but please do not tell anyone.



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What is your background?

Statistical and Economical Sciences. At Uni time I could not imagine I would have done anything related to Medicine.

When did you start working at Oxford?

I started collaboration in the HealthPros project in 2019.

What is the main focus of your research?

Quality of care indicators in diabetes using large scale linked medical databases.

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

A multidisciplinary framework dedicated to nurturing a new generation of experts in health services research. It is a rather unique scheme that can allow early stage researchers specialise in different areas that can offer employment in public institutions, private companies and the academia.

What will you do as part of the HealthPros consortium?

Offer my expertise to fulfil research plans exploring the contents of diabetes-related information stored in national databases maintained in England and Scotland.

What is the biggest challenge for HealthPros?

Delivering actionable results that can be used for policy at international level.

What do you do in your free time?

Take care of olive trees, play guitars, bass, drums, record and listen music + play beach volleyball (even in winter). Our beach season ends on the 31st December and starts on the 1st January.

In our next Newsletter:

A report from the Fall Meeting (16 – 20 November 2020) and fifth training week of the ESRs in virtual UK.

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

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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>



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