University of Birmingham

Mr Alastair Canaway BA, MSc

Doctoral Researcher

Health Economics

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About

PhD title: Capturing family benefits of end of life care for resource allocation.

Supervisors: Professor Joanna Coast (/staff/profiles/haps/HealthEconomics/coast-joanna.aspx) and Doctor Hareth Al Janabi (/staff/profiles/haps/HealthEconomics/aljanabi-hareth.aspx)

Alastair Canaway is a Doctoral Researcher within the Health Economics Unit's team.

Alastair is in the infancy of his research career but has already made significant steps towards establishing himself within the health economics team. He is currently assisting with the health economics of a multi-million pound trial aimed at preventing obesity in children. Alastair's specialist subject area revolves around economic outcomes in children, specifically in regards to the methodological difficulties associated with this type of research.

He is young, enthusiastic and has high aspirations as both a researcher and teacher.

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Qualifications

- MSc in Economics and Health Economics, University of Sheffield, 2010
- BA in Economics, University of Sheffield, 2009

Biography

Like so many other sixth form students, after several indecisive years as a school pupil with little idea of what to do with his life, Alastair decided to study economics at university simply 'because it was his best subject'. Consequently, he studied economics at the University of Sheffield. Through his time at University he excelled at sport spending several years on the athletics and cross country committee whilst regularly competing in the British University Championships (BUCS). In his final year with few ideas of what career path to take he signed up for a module in health economics; it was an act that would shape his life.

The extraordinarily useful yet inherently flawed nature of health economics piqued his interest and led to him studying and completing the MSc in Economics and Health Economics at the University of Sheffield. Upon completion of his dissertation he took up the role of Research Fellow at the University of Birmingham (October 2010). Within the first 6 months of his working career, he had administered and completed a pilot study investigating the methodological properties of economic instruments in children. This project also investigated the sensitivity of economic instruments to changes in weight in children. The results from this study will shortly (July 2011) be reported at the Health Economics Study Group conference as well as being published in peer reviewed journals.

Alastair will be continuing his research into the quality of life of children with specific attention being paid to the impact of obesity on quality of life, as well as contributing to the teaching programme.

Teaching

- MPH – Economic Burden of Obesity

Research

Alastair is currently providing health economics assistance on the West Midlands Active Lifestyle & Healthy Eating in Schools (WAVES) Trial.

He is also investigating the methodological properties of child specific preference-based quality of life measures. In conjunction with this, he is assessing the impact of overweight and obesity on health related quality of life of children using such measures.

Other activities

HEe Working Group

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