

Speaker Profile

Speaker Prof. Nicholas Graves

Designation Deputy Director, HSSR and HSRI, Duke-NUS Medical School



Title “ Using economics to reduce rates of Healthcare Associated Infections”

Abstract

I will review the problem of scarce resources in the context of infection prevention and describe an economics framework for addressing it. I will then present some research on this topic. One project is about the economics of improving hand hygiene compliance in Australia and the other is about the cost-effectiveness of an intervention to improve environmental cleaning in the hospital setting. Using economics approaches can lead to improvements in patient safety outcomes and cost savings or at worst modest cost increases. The evidence shows it is good value for money compared to many other health care interventions. There will be an open discussion and Q&A session after the talk.

Prof. Nicholas is the Deputy Director of HSSR and HSRI at Duke NUS medical school. He gained his PhD in Health Economics from the University of London and spent 10 years as a Lecturer and Research Fellow with the Health Services Research Unit at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Before joining Duke-NUS, he was a Professor of Health Economics at Queensland University of Technology where he worked for more than 15 years. Prof. Nicholas is an internationally renowned health economist.

Biography

Prof. Nicholas has received more than \$20M in research funding since 2004, mostly from international and national competitive schemes. He has made research contributions of international significance, publishing over 100 articles in top-ranking peer reviewed journals such as Nature, JAMA, BMJ, AIDS, Health Economics, Clinical Infectious Diseases, Lancet Infectious Diseases, The Journal of Infectious Diseases and Emerging Infectious Diseases.

His areas of knowledge include health economics, health services research, decision-making and cost-effectiveness. He is interested in projects that show high and low-value care and in the processes around implementing new policies. His major focus is on showing how health services can be improved at low cost, or even improved with cost savings. He enjoys collaborating with clinicians who wish to improve the performance of health services.

Applied economics work on:

Research interests

- Nosocomial infection/healthcare-acquired-infection
- Screening for chronic and infectious disease
- Mental health and workplace productivity
- Changing health behaviour among high risk groups
- The supply of blood products
- Complementary and alternative medicine
- Randomness and funding
- The economics of bureaucracy
- Modelling length of stay and hospital costs
- Using existing evidence to inform decision making
- Regulation and incentives for hospital administrators

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