



# THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH CENTRE

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## “Prioritising expenditures in health research funding - the UK perspective”

### Dr Saba Hinrichs

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United Kingdom

**Date:** 24 September 2015, Thursday  
**Time:** 12:30 – 14:00 (*sandwich lunch from 12:30 – 12:45; seminar begins at 12:45*)  
**Venue:** Seminar Room 4, G/F, Laboratory Block, LKS Faculty of Medicine Building, 21 Sassoon Road, Pokfulam, Hong Kong

### Abstract:

The Policy and Research in Science and Medicine (PRISM) unit between the Policy Institute at King's College London and RAND Europe has been set up to explore how health research funding can be assessed and prioritised. To help health policy makers make decisions, we are often faced with three basic questions: (1) Is research effective (i.e. is it making a difference)? (2) Is the research system efficient (i.e. can it be optimised and do we know if there is waste)? and, (3) Is research equitable (i.e. is it being prioritised according to health and disease burden)? In this presentation, work conducted by colleagues at the Policy Institute at King's will be presented that shows examples of calculating returns and identifying impacts of health research, based on analyses from the UK National Institute of Health Research. These examples primarily address the 'effectiveness' of research raised by policy makers. The presentation will also explore the less frequently examined questions necessary for policy and decision-making, surrounding the efficiency and equity of health research. This seminar is an opportunity to explore implications for future research allocation in health, which will be of interest to health researchers and scholars with an interest in policy.

### Bio-sketch:

Dr Saba Hinrichs is a Senior Research Fellow at the Policy Institute at King's College London. Her background is in Engineering and Health Policy and her interests are in advancing health research and delivery systems, and the need to engage with policymakers to bring evidence, ideas, and innovation into practice for this purpose. She holds a PhD in Engineering Design from the University of Cambridge, and is a Member of the Institution of Engineering and Technology.



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Saba recently worked on a study that analysed the 6,695 non-redacted impact case studies submitted to REF 2014, a project commissioned by the Higher Education Funding Council for England. Before joining King's she spent three years working at RAND Europe, a non-profit institution whose mission is to improve policy and decision making. Her focus was on health services and evaluation; she led on the development of three large grant applications, and actively worked across disciplines and teams within the company. In her more independent research roles, she recently led on a rapid evidence synthesis on procurement and supply chain management lessons for the NHS (funded by the National Institute for Health Research), bibliometric analyses, and complex evaluations of health and social care organisations. She has also worked on a programme of work on international comparisons of health systems (funded by the Department of Health) and completed studies for clients including the European Commission, the Dairy Council, and Macmillan Cancer Support. Saba previously worked for the medical device industry in the UK, continues her involvement in equipment donation and management in the charity sector as a Trustee for Medical Support in Romania (Reg. Charity 1058339), and is a technical advisor to Engineering World Health at the University of Cambridge.

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