CHEPA researchers have been helping to shape Canada's health system since 1988. Located at McMaster University, CHEPA (chepa.org) is a multidisciplinary centre providing timely and relevant evidence to inform policy-making at all levels of the health-care system.

CHEPA news is an electronic newsletter available by email or on the CHEPA website (chepa.org). If you would like to subscribe, send an email to ramsay@mcmaster.ca. If your email address is changing, please let us know.

In this issue
- DIVERT | COVID TOOLKIT
- New grants for CHEPA members
- Jeremiah Hurley reappointed McMaster's Dean of Social Sciences for 2nd term
- Appointments to advisory boards
- CHEPA revises its Mission, Vision and website

Photo: Christopher Longo is shown speaking at a CHEPA seminar on Feb. 26, 2020, when he presented the results of a national study he led into the financial burden that cancer treatment puts on Canadian patients and families.

New Publications

DIVERT | COVID TOOLKIT
The DIVERT | COVID TOOLKIT, which offers fact sheets and resources to support home care cardiorespiratory patients during the COVID-19 pandemic, was developed by the Big Data & Geriatric Models of Care Research Cluster (BDG Cluster), which is led by Andrew Costa, the Schlegel Research Chair in Clinical Epidemiology & Aging.

Journal articles

E-News

Grants

A team of CHEPA members (Jean-Éric Tarride, Michel Grignon, Hsien Seow, Feng Xie and Gordon Blackhouse) has been selected by the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer (CPAC) to conduct an economic evaluation and a budget impact analysis of a program that trains.
paramedics to provide palliative care in the homes of Canadians requiring urgent palliative services.

**Julia Abelson** is Principal Investigator (PI) of “**Impacts of Patient-Oriented Pain Research (IPOPR): A case study of the iCanCope with Pain Project**” which was awarded a one-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Operating Grant: Patient-Oriented Research Impact Assessment.

Abelson and **Meredith Vanstone** are co-Principal Investigators on a three-year study entitled "**Examining patient partner and advisor roles in the Canadian health system: A mixed-methods policy analysis**", which received a $330,000 CIHR Project Grant.

PI **Laura Anderson** leads a team of McMaster investigators on a three-year CIHR Project grant to study “**Late preterm birth and cardiometabolic outcomes in children and young adults: Identifying opportunities for early life interventions.**”

Abelson and **Elizabeth Alvarez** are among a team of investigators on "**The EMBOLDEN study: Enhancing physical and community Mobility in OLDER adults with health inequities using community co-design**" which received a CIHR Catalyst Grant: Patient-Oriented Research to continue its activities.

**Lisa Schwartz**, McMaster’s Arnold L. Johnson Chair in Health Care Ethics, and **Elysée Nouvet**, Assistant Professor in Global Health at Western University, are co-Principal Investigators in the global research project "**Triage and COVID-19: global preparedness, socio-cultural considerations, and communication.**"

**Hsien Seow**, the Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care and Health System Innovation, co-leads a large, collaborative research initiative which seeks to improve palliative care at home and in the community. The project, entitled "**Building CAPACITI (Community Access to Palliative Care via Interprofessional primary care Teams Intervention)**", was awarded a CIHR Project Grant of $1,216,350, over five years.

CHEPA director **Jean-Éric Tarride** and **Stelios Georgiades**, Co-Director of the **McMaster Autism Research Team (MacART)** and Core Member of the **Offord Centre for Child Studies**, will do an external evaluation of the **Ontario Autism Program (OAP) service navigation program**. Through this program, Autism Ontario offers orientation and system navigation supports to families who are accessing or interested in accessing the new OAP.

As well, Tarride is a co-investigator in a project entitled **The Role of Robotics in Knee Replacement Surgery (RoboKnees): A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial**, which...
received a one-year CIHR Catalyst Grant - Addressing Musculoskeletal Conditions and Arthritis in Canadians, with additional funding from the Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization (HAHSO).

Additionally, Tarride is among a team of McMaster/St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton faculty who have been awarded a two-year grant by HAHSO for “Sputum-guided Treatment with Comprehensive Care Management for Respiratory Improvement to Provide Value and Escalate Care (STRIVE) - A Randomized-controlled trial”, which will assess the effectiveness of treatments for people with Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD).

**Hurley’s term as Social Sciences Dean extended**

Jeremiah Hurley has been reappointed Dean of McMaster's Faculty of Social Sciences for a second five-year term, beginning July 1, 2020. Hurley, a former chair of the Department of Economics, is a former co-director of CHEPA.

**Appointments**

Elizabeth Alvarez was selected to join the Canadian Public Health Association (CPHA) Public Policy Committee and the Ontario Medical Association's Burnout Advisory Group.

Lisa Schwartz, McMaster’s Arnold L. Johnson Chair in Health Care Ethics, has been appointed to advisory committees by both the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Ontario government that will provide guidance related to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is a member of the WHO's Covid-19 Research Roadmap Social Science Working Group, which provides social science evidence and synthesis to support public health and research interventions. As well, she is a member of Ontario's COVID Bioethics Table which assists in providing ethical guidance and representation at both provincial and regional tables to support decision-making related to the provincial COVID-19 response.

Arthur Sweetman, the Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources, has been appointed to an external advisory group to provide strategic advice to the Ontario government on staffing in the long-term care sector across the province. The establishment of an advisory group is among the recommendations of a Public Inquiry held to address systemic issues in Ontario's long-term care system.

Meredith Vanstone is a new editor of the journal Perspectives on Medical Education, which offers an


international platform for innovation and research in health professions education.

Presentations

Jeremiah Hurley presented “The Impact of parallel public and private finance on equity and access: What does the evidence say?” on March 3 at the CHSPR annual Health Policy Conference at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Christopher Longo gave a presentation in Melbourne, Australia, on March 12 at the 3rd Victorian Cancer Survivorship Conference that drew from the results of a national study he led into the financial burden that cancer treatment puts on Canadian patients and families. The study evaluated the financial burden experienced by 901 patients from BC (131), Alberta (113), Manitoba (134), Ontario (472), and “rest of Canada” (51), including 344 breast, 183 colorectal, 158 lung and 216 prostate patients, with an average treatment duration of 318 days. The research found that the financial cost of a cancer diagnosis nationally averages $2723 per month.

CHEPA’s new Mission/ Vision and Website

As part of the development of a five-year Strategic Plan and the outcome of the Fall 2019 retreat — which led to CHEPA’s new innovative focus on “health and social systems”, CHEPA members in February 2020 finalized the Centre’s new Mission and Vision statements:

CHEPA’s new Mission: ‘To cultivate a collegial interdisciplinary environment that fosters excellence in policy-relevant research, education and service and informs fair and sustainable health and social systems.’

CHEPA’s new Vision: ‘Health and social policies locally and internationally are informed by policy-relevant research, well-trained scholars and independent (expert) advice.’

The CHEPA website is also being upgraded to conform with McMaster University’s branding requirements and to reflect the new focus of CHEPA. Migration to the new website is expected to take place later this spring.

Graduate Students

Fourth year Health Policy PhD student Ahmednur Ali, who is also a Wilson Leader, was awarded McMaster’s Keith Leppmann Teaching Assistant Excellence Award, which is awarded by the university’s Graduate Students’ Association.


Razavi SD, Kapiriri L, Wilson M, Abelson J. Applying priority-setting frameworks: A review of public and vulnerable populations’ participation in health-system
Congratulations to new HP PhD graduate Kassu Gurmu who on Jan. 16 successfully defended his PhD dissertation on “Strategies to facilitate evidence-informed and participatory health policymaking in Ethiopia.” Gurmu, who was supervised by John Lavis, also holds a Master’s degree in Public Health and a Medical Degree from Gondar University (Ethiopia).


Vanstone M., Grierson L. Power as a facilitator and constraint of motivation in the clinical learning environment. Medical Education. 2020.54(3) 181-183.

Zoratti MJ, Xie F, Thorlund K, Allen N, Levine M. An exploratory analysis of predictors of