

# CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Spring 2020



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**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.

## E-News

CHEPA researchers have been helping to shape Canada's health system since 1988. Located at McMaster University, CHEPA ([chepa.org](http://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](http://chepa.org)). If you would like to subscribe, send an email to [ramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ramsay@mcmaster.ca). If your email address is changing, please let us know.

## 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](#)

## 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 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

[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 \(IPOP\): 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

[Anderson LN, van den Heuvel M, Omand JA, Wong PD. Practical tips for paediatricians: Baby-led weaning. Paediatric & Child Health. 2020. March;25\(2\):77-78.](#)

[Akhtar-Danesh N, Akhtar-Danesh GG, Seow H, Shakeel S, Finley C. Treatment modality and trends in survival for gallbladder cancer: A population-based study. Journal of Gastrointestinal Cancer. 2020. March 18.](#)

[Antonipillai V, Abelson J, Wahoush O, Baumann A, Schwartz L. Policy agenda-setting and causal stories: Examining how organized interests redefined the problem of refugee health policy in Canada. Healthcare Policy. 2020. Feb;15\(3\):116-131.](#)

[Balderrama F, Schwartz LJ, Longo CJ. When are pharmaceuticals priced fairly? An alternative risk-sharing model for pharmaceutical pricing. Health Care Analysis. 2020. March 30.](#)

[Boscart V, Crutchlow LE, Sheiban Taucar L, Johnson K, Heyer M, Davey M, Costa AP, Heckman G. Chronic disease management models in nursing homes: a scoping review. BMJ Open. 2020. Feb 5;10\(2\):e032316.](#)

[Burrows K, Abelson J, Miller P, Levine M, Vanstone M. Professional, practical and political opportunities: Optimizing the role of Ontario physician assistants in Family Medicine. Journal of Canada's Physician Assistants. 2020. 1\(4\), 17-33.](#)

[Burrows K, Abelson J, Miller P, Levine M, Vanstone M. Understanding health professional role integration in complex adaptive systems: A multiple-case study of Physician Assistants in Ontario, Canada. BMC Health Services Research. 2020.](#)

[Costa A, Schumacher C, et al. DIVERT-Collaboration Action Research and Evaluation \(CARE\)](#)

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

[Trial Protocol: a multiprovincial pragmatic cluster randomised trial of cardiorespiratory management in home care](#). *BMJ Open*. 2019. 9 (12).

Denburg A, Giacomini M, Ungar W, Abelson J. ['The problem is small enough, the problem is big enough': Health technology assessment and public policy on drug funding decisions for children](#). *International Journal for Equity in Health*. 2020. 19(1):45.

Driezen P, Guindon GE, Hammond D, et al. [Contraband cigarette purchasing from First Nation reserves in Ontario and Quebec: Findings from the 2002-2014 ITC Canada Survey](#). *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 2020. January. Vol. 75. 102612.

Foroutan N, Tarride JE, Xie F, Jameel B, Mills F, Levine M. [Stakeholders' feedback on the proposed recommendations for updating the patented medicine prices review board \(pmprb\) budget impact analysis guidelines](#). *Journal of Population Therapeutics and Clinical Pharmacology*. 2020. Jan 3;27(1): e1-e24.

Haidar H, Vanstone M, Laberge AM, et al. [Implementation considerations for an ethical introduction of non-invasive prenatal testing: A qualitative study of healthcare professionals' views from Lebanon and Quebec](#). *BMC Medical Ethics*. 2020. 21,15.

Howell D, Li M, Sutradhar R, Gu S, Iqbal J, O'Brien MA, Seow H, et al. [Integration of patient-reported outcomes \(PROs\) for personalized symptom management in "real-world" oncology practices: a population-based cohort comparison study of impact on healthcare utilization](#). *Supportive Care in Cancer*. 2020. Feb 4.

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.

**Hurley J, Mentzakis E, Walli-Attaei M.** [Inequality aversion in income, health, and income-related health.](#) *Journal of Health Economics.* 2020. Jan 16:102276.

**Iqbal J, Sutradhar R, Zhao H, Howell D, O’Brien MA, Seow H, et al.** [Operationalizing outpatient palliative care referral criteria in lung cancer patients: A population-based cohort study using health administrative data.](#) *Journal of Palliative Medicine.* 2020. Jan 16.

**Manis DR, McArthur C, Costa, AP.** [Associations with rates of falls among home care clients in Ontario, Canada: a population-based, cross-sectional study.](#) *BMC Geriatrics.* 2020. 20, 80.

**Mbuagbaw L, Anderson LN, Lokker C, Thabane L.** [Advice for junior faculty regarding academic promotion: What not to worry about, and what to worry about.](#) *Journal of Multidisciplinary Healthcare.* 2020. Jan 31;13:117-122.

**Michalowsky B, Hoffmann W, Kennedy K, Xie F.** [Is the whole larger than the sum of its parts? Impact of missing data imputation in economic evaluation conducted alongside randomized controlled trials.](#) *The European Journal of Health Economics.* 2020. Feb 27.

**Mercier É, Nadeau A, Brousseau AA, Émond M, Lowthian J, Berthelot S, Costa AP, Mowbray F, et al.** [Elder abuse in the out-of-hospital and emergency department settings: A scoping review.](#) *Annals of Emergency Medicine.* 2020. Feb;75(2):181-191.

**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).

[priority setting](#). *Health Policy*. 2019. Dec 19. pii: S0168-8510(19)30299-4.

Seow H, et al. [Development and validation of a prognostic survival model with patient-reported outcomes for patients with cancer](#). *JAMA Network Open*. 2020. Apr 1;3(4):e201768.

Seow H, Qureshi D, Isenberg SR, Tanuseputro P. [Access to palliative care during a terminal hospitalization](#). *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2020. Feb 5.

Shakeel S, Finley C, Akhtar-Danesh G, Seow HY, Akhtar-Danesh N. [Trends in survival based on treatment modality in patients with pancreatic cancer: a population-based study](#). *Current Oncology*. 2020. Feb. 27(1):e1-e8.

Szabo SM, Audhya IF, Malone DC, Feeny D, Gooch KL. [Characterizing health state utilities associated with Duchenne muscular dystrophy: A systematic review](#). *Quality of Life Research*. 2019. Dec 6. pp 1- 13.

Takaoka A, Vanstone M, Honarmand K, et al. [Organ donation at the end of life: Experiences from the 3 Wishes Project](#). *Critical Care Medicine*. 2020. January. 48 (1) pp 387.

Vanstone M., et al. [Compassionate End-of-Life Care: Mixed-Methods Multisite Evaluation of the 3 Wishes Project](#). *Annals of Internal Medicine*.2020.172(1) 1-11.

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](#)

[concordance between Canadian common drug review reimbursement recommendations and the subsequent decisions by Ontario, British Columbia and Alberta.](#) *Healthcare Policy.* 2020. 15(3):90-101.



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