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# CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

## Winter 2021

Founded in 1987, **CHEPA** is a world-renowned interdisciplinary health research centre at McMaster University that fosters excellence in policy-relevant research, education and service to inform fair and sustainable health and social systems.

## New CHEPA Members

CHEPA welcomes two new members, both health economists. **Asif R. Khowaja** recently joined Brock University in St. Catharines as an Assistant Professor (Health Economics). **Jonathan Zhang** will join McMaster's Department of Economics in July 2021 as an Assistant Professor. Zhang is on leave for the 2020-21 academic year as a postdoctoral scholar at Princeton University.



**Asif R. Khowaja**

Bio



**Jonathan Zhang**

Bio



## Grants



The [COVID-19 Evidence Network to support Decision-makers \(COVID-END\)](#), led by **John Lavis**, director of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), has received \$1M from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) to work with Canadian and international partners to better develop and coordinate groundbreaking

research on COVID-19, while reducing the duplication of efforts so that experts can focus on the latest research and developments to keep Canadians safe.

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[Read more](#)

**Jeremiah Hurley** is Principal Investigator on a project to develop a measurement and evaluation roadmap to support social impact investing in Canada. The initiative, which received a SSHRC Partnership Engage Grant in partnership with the Community Foundations of Canada, includes CHEPA members **David Feeny**, **Emmanuel Guindon**, **Arthur Sweetman**, **Jean-Éric Tarride** and collaborator James Hughes of the **McConnell Foundation**. The research is part of broader efforts to improve the use of evidence in decision-making in public health, social and community investments.

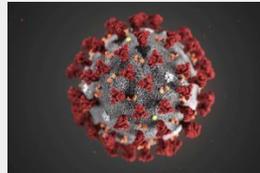
**Meredith Vanstone** is part of a group that received pilot funds from McMaster's **Department of Family Medicine** for: *"Exploring patients' and physicians' values and preferences regarding prostate cancer screening: A pilot and feasibility study"* and also *"Identifying key recommendations for future public health emergencies in the long term care sector based on the initial Covid-19 Pandemic experience."* She is also involved with a two-year study entitled *"Overflowing Inbox: Resident and educator perceptions on the educational importance of indirect patient care activities,"* funded by Family Medicine Associates.



**John Lavis, Jean-Éric Tarride, Meredith Vanstone** and **Feng Xie** are part of a large group of McMaster researchers involved with the VISION 2 Team which, with the European Commission Sub-Team, was awarded a Horizon 2020 Team Grant for Canada-EU Smart Living Environments - Transitions in Care, related to the SMILE (an acronym for smart mobility) project: *"Optimising Smarter Inclusive Living Environments for ageing people within their circles of care."* The McMaster team will evaluate the SMILE package to assess replicability and scalability in enhancing living spaces supporting independent, active and socially inclusive living for older people, and build Europe-Canada cooperation in replicating, scaling and extending the results of SMILE to benefit heterogeneous populations of older people. The \$9M project, which extends until October 2024, includes funding received from CIHR and additional in-kind, industry and partner contributions.



## In The News



Research by CHEPA members related to the spread of COVID-19 in long-term care facilities, retirement residences as well as in the broader community attracted considerable media attention.



A study led by **Andrew Costa** into COVID-19 risk factors for retirement homes was cited in a number of articles, including "[Study finds pandemic impacts retirement homes differently](#)" and by the Globe and Mail: "[Alarm raised over outside care workers and coronavirus surge in retirement homes.](#)"

He was also interviewed on Dec. 14, 2020 by Global News for "[Study suggests size determines how COVID-19 affects Ontario retirement homes](#)" and by CBC radio's Afternoon Drive show on Dec. 16 about the same topic.

[Read the research](#)



**Hsien Seow** had an Opinion piece published on Jan. 8, 2021 in the *Toronto Star*, "[How to get to zero community COVID-19 cases](#)", which was also carried by many other newspapers in the Torstar chain. He also spoke to CHML radio's Bill Kelly on January 12 on the same topic.

[Listen](#)



## Remembering Cathy Fooks



CHEPA was saddened to learn of the untimely death of Cathy Fooks, who helped the centre become an official entity in 1987. She served as one of its inaugural research coordinators before moving on to an exemplary 30-year career in health policy, inside and outside government. In the last few years, she has been one of Canada's most influential advocates for the rights of patients and their family caregivers. At the time of her death on Wednesday, December 30, 2020, she was the Patient Ombudsman for Ontario, after serving for 13 years as the President and CEO of The Change Foundation.

[Read more](#)



## CHEPA Seminars

**January 20, 2021, at 12:30 pm: Jonathan Zhang** will present *"Can a single opioid prescription make a difference? Evidence from physician prescribing variation in*



emergency." Access the webinar [here](#).

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**February 10, 2021, at 12:30 pm: Asif Khowaja** will present "*Economic Evaluation of Mobile Health (m-Health) Interventions for Improving Maternal and Newborn Health in the low-and-middle-income countries: Lessons learned and implications for health technology assessment in Canada.*" Access the webinar [here](#).

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**March 17, 2021, at 12:30 pm: Gillian Mulvale** will present "*Engaging Patients, Family/Caregivers and Service Providers in Co-Design Research to Transform Relations through Integrative Dynamics.*" Access the webinar [here](#).

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**April 21, 2021, at 12:30 pm: Lydia Kapiri** will present on a topic to be determined. Access the webinar [here](#).

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In case you missed them...



"*Economic Issues in Long-term Care*," presented by **Arthur Sweetman** on Sept. 16, 2020.

Recording

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"*Public Health Education & Workforce Needs*", presented by **Emma Apatu** on Oct. 20, 2020.

Recording

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"*Saving Black Women and Babies: Leveraging Data and Community Engagement to Achieve Health Equity*," **Labelle Lecture** presented by **Tiffany Green** on Nov. 11, 2020.

Recording

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"*Long-term care, COVID-19 and the case for public insurance for home & residential care*," presented by **Michel Grignon** on Nov. 18, 2020.

Recording

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# Publications

## Reports

- Tobin S, **Sweetman A**. [COVID-19 and the labour market – Crisis Response Monitoring](#). IZA Institute of Labor Economics. December 2020 | Publié décembre 2020.

## Journal Publications

- **Abelson J**, Ganaan R, Heald-Taylor, Gail, Markel-Reid M, Petrie P, Raina P. [Partnering principles and strategies: A guidance document for researchers, patients and caregivers](#). *MIRA Collaborative for Health & Aging*.
- Andreacchi AT, Griffith LE, **Guindon GE** ... **Anderson LN** et al. [Body mass index, waist circumference, waist-to-hip ratio, and body fat in relation to health care use in the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging](#). *International Journal of Obesity*. 2021. January 11.
- Brown KA, Jones A, Daneman N, Chan AK, Schwartz KL, Garber GE, **Costa AP**, Stall NM. [Association between nursing home crowding and COVID-19 infection and mortality in Ontario, Canada](#). *JAMA Internal Medicine*. 2020. Nov 9: e206466.
- Burrows KE, **Abelson J**, Miller PA, **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. Apr 29;20(1):365.
- Cook DJ, Takaoka A, Hoad N, .... **Vanstone M**. [Clinician perspectives on caring for dying patients during the pandemic](#). *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2020. Dec. 8.
- **Costa AP**, **Manis D**, Jones A, Stall N, Brown KA, et al. [Risk factors for retirement home COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario, Canada: A population-level cohort study](#). (pre-print). *medRxiv*. 2020. 12.08.20246124.
- Denburg A, **Giacomini M**, Ungar W, **Abelson J**. [Ethical and social values for paediatric health technology assessment and drug policy](#). *International Journal of Health Policy & Management*, 2020. August 11.
- Embrett M, **Randall GE**. [Understanding government decisions to de-fund medical services analyzing the impact of problem frames on resource allocation policies](#). *Health Care Analysis*. 2021. January 2.
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- Jones A, Watts AG, Khanc SU, Forsyth J , Brown KE, **Costa AP**, Bogoch I, Stall N. [Impact of a public policy restricting staff mobility between long-term care homes in Ontario, Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic](#). *Medrxiv* (pre-print) 2020. Nov. 18.
- Just D, **Boothe K**. [Looking at what was done in past pandemics won't guarantee success. But ignoring their lessons is not a good way to engage in policy learning](#). *IRPP/Policy Options*. 2020. December 29.
- Lee J, Muratov S, **Tarride J-E**, et al. [Medication use and its impact on high-cost health care users among older adults: protocol for the population-based matched cohort HiCOSTT study](#). *CMAJ Open*. 2021. January 11. (9) 1: E44-E52.
- Margier J, **Gafni A**, Moumjid N. [Cancer care at home or in local health centres versus in hospital: Public policy goals and patients' preferences in the Rhône-Alps region in France](#). *Health Policy*. 2020. Nov 21;S0168-8510(20)30293-1.
- **Milinkovic D, Hurley J, Sweetman A, Feeny D, Tarride J-É, Longo CJ, McCracken S**. [Unrecognized assets created by public-sector investments in health and social services](#). *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*. 2020. Oct. 13.
- Moll S, Wyndham-West M, **Mulvale G**, et al. [Are you really doing 'codesign'? Critical reflections when working with vulnerable populations](#). *BMJ Open*. 2020. Vol.10: 11.
- Mowbray FI, Aryal K, Mercier E, Heckman G, **Costa AP**. [Older emergency department patients: Does baseline care status matter?](#) *Canadian Geriatrics Journal*. 2020. Dec 1;23(4):289-296.
- Partridge ACR, **Mansilla C**, Randhawa H, **Lavis JN**, El-Jardali F, Sewankambo NK. [Lessons learned from descriptions and evaluations of knowledge translation platforms supporting evidence-informed policy-making in low- and middle-income countries: A systematic review](#) *Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2020.18: 127.
- **Razavi D, Kapiriri L, Abelson J, Wilson M**. [Barriers to equitable public participation in health-system priority setting within the context of decentralization: The case of vulnerable women in a Ugandan district](#). *International Journal of Health Policy & Management*. 2020. December.
- **Seow H**, Dutta P, Johnson MJ, McMillan K, Guthrie DM, **Costa AP**, Currow D. [Prevalence and risk factors of breathlessness across Canada: A national retrospective cohort study in home care and nursing home populations](#). *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2020. Dec

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- Stall NM, Jones A, Brown KA, Rochon PA, **Costa AP**. [For-profit long-term care homes and the risk of COVID-19 outbreaks and resident deaths](#). *CMAJ*. 2020. August 17, 2020. 192 (33) E946-E955.
- Stall NM, Jones A, Brown KA, Rochon PA, **Costa AP**. [Risque d'éclosions de COVID-19 et de décès de résidents dans les foyers de soins de longue durée à but lucrative](#). *CMAJ*. 2020. Nov 30;192(48):E1662-E1672.



**CHEPA**

CRL Building, 2nd Floor  
McMaster University  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
L8S 4K1

E: [ramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ramsay@mcmaster.ca)  
W: [chepa.mcmaster.ca](http://chepa.mcmaster.ca)

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