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.
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...
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.
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.

**In The News**
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.
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.

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
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](#).

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](#).

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

In case you missed them...


Publications

Reports


Journal Publications


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.


1:S0885-3924(20)30904-0.


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