

CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Spring 2018



E-News

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.



New grants

CHEPA members were awarded a number of grants this winter, collectively and as individual researchers.

A multidisciplinary CHEPA-led team was awarded a one-year \$265,000 Operating Grant for economic forecasting by the [Canadian Institutes for Health Research \(CIHR\)](#) and the [J.W. McConnell Family Foundation](#). The research project, entitled *Investing in primary and secondary prevention: Economic forecasting to inform policies regarding amortization of program costs*, is co-led by [Jeremiah Hurley](#), Dean of McMaster University's [Faculty of Social Sciences](#) and a member of CHEPA, and CHEPA Director [Jean-Éric Tarride](#), and involves eight other

In this issue

- CHEPA members awarded several grants
- Faculty changes -- Stephen Birch retires; Laura N. Anderson and Mitchell Levine join CHEPA
- Congratulations to three recent Health Policy PhD grads!
- CHEPA upcoming workshops
- More than 20 new publications

Photo: Jason Busse, co-director of the [Michael G. DeGroote Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research \(CMCR\)](#), presented a CHEPA seminar on November 15, 2017, about the implications of legalizing cannabis and preliminary findings from a review of using cannabis to manage chronic pain. For information about CHEPA seminars, click [here](#).

Workshops

Personalizing patient care under uncertainty: Techniques to inform development of clinical guidelines and treatment choice is a two-day conference beginning April 11 featuring **Prof. Charles Manski**, who pioneered advances in partial identification across many policy applications. His recent work addresses opportunities to build further robustness and rigour into clinical decision-making in relation to patient care under uncertainty, with applications to clinical guideline development, prognosis and treatments. For more information, click [here](#).

As part of the 2018 [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health](#)

CHEPA members - [Laura N. Anderson](#), [David Feeny](#), [Michel Grignon](#), [Emmanuel Guindon](#), [Christopher Longo](#), [Gillian Mulvale](#), [Daria O'Reilly](#) and [Arthur Sweetman](#), as well as experts from other faculties and universities, as well as government.

Following a national peer-reviewed competition, CHEPA - represented by [Michel Grignon](#), [Christopher Longo](#), [Daria O'Reilly](#), [Hsien Seow](#) and [Jean-Éric Tarride](#) - was selected as one of the few prequalified vendors to provide Health Economics expertise to the [Canadian Partnership Against Cancer \(CPAC\)](#), until March 31, 2019. In this role, CHEPA will provide CPAC content-specific expertise to advancing cancer-related pan-Canadian initiatives in economic evaluations, health system sustainability, and efficiency.

As well, the [McMaster Health Forum](#) and researchers in [CHEPA](#) will continue co-hosting a program, *Harnessing Evidence and Values for Health System Excellence*, that has been newly awarded more than \$2-million in funding by Ontario's Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC) through its Health System Research Fund (HSRF) Program Awards. The program will be co-led by [John Lavis](#), the Forum's director (and a member of CHEPA), and CHEPA's [Julia Abelson](#), who is also an adjunct faculty member of the Forum.

Individual CHEPA members were also awarded grants this winter:

[Ellen Amster](#) is principal investigator on a project entitled *The Morocco-Canada Network for Maternal and Infant Health: Determining research priorities and a framework for action*, which received a \$20,000 [Canadian Institutes for Health Research \(CIHR\) Population Health](#) Global Health Planning Grant for the 2018 calendar year. CHEPA member [Lydia Kapiriri](#) is among the co-investigators.

[Andrew Costa](#) is principal investigator on *ACTivation on Unstable Chronic Disease Program: Educating and Training Caregivers in the General Management of Unstable Chronic Diseases*, which was awarded an Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care, Caregiver Education and Training Program, Education - New Project grant of \$445,567 over five years.

[Christopher Longo](#) is principal investigator on *Pan-Canadian examination of cancer patients out-of-pocket costs (Ontario sub-study)*, which received a \$36,000 [Cancer Care Ontario](#) Planning and Regional Programs Grant for 2017-2018. He was also awarded \$9,000 from the University Research Excellence Fund for *Interdisciplinary Research for Economic Analysis of Cancer Outcomes*, also for this year.

(CADTH) Symposium (Halifax, April 15-17), CHEPA members [Daria O'Reilly](#), [Mitchell Levine](#) and [Jean-Éric Tarride](#), in collaboration with other representatives from CADTH, are organizing a pre-conference workshop entitled *An Introduction to Health Technology Assessment*, being held on April 15 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

CHEPA in the media

[Katherine Boothe](#)'s opinion piece *Canadian pharmacare closer to becoming a reality* was featured on theconversation.com website on March 2.

New Publications

Journal articles

Abelson J. Patient engagement in health technology assessment: what constitutes 'meaningful' and how we might get there. *Journal of Health Services Research and Policy*. 2018. 0(0) 1-3.

Alvarez E, Lavis JN, Brouwers M, Schwartz L. Developing a workbook to support the contextualisation of global health systems guidance: A case study identifying steps and critical factors for success in this process at the World Health Organization. *Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2018. 16:19.

Ball GE, Xie F, Tarride J-E. Economic evaluation of Bevacizumab for treatment of platinum-resistant recurrent ovarian cancer in Canada. *Pharmacoeconomics - Open*. March 2018. 2(1) 19-20.

Barbera L, Sutradhar R, Chu A, Seow H, Howell D, Earle CC, O'Brien MA, Dudgeon D, Atzema C, Husain A, Liu Y, D Angelis C. Comparison of opioid prescribing among cancer and non-cancer patients aged 18-64:

Michael Wilson was a co-recipient of a \$40,000 [CIHR Patient-Oriented Research Collaboration Grant](#) in collaboration with Claire Kendall (nominated principal applicant from the [Bruyère Research Institute](#)) and Ron Rosenes (a leader and activist in the HIV sector). In partnership with the [Living with HIV \(LHIV\) Innovation Team](#) and the [Ontario HIV Treatment Network](#), the grant will contribute to funding a series of three citizen panels and a stakeholder dialogue at the [McMaster Health Forum](#) in 2018 to address pervasive system-level challenges in the design and delivery of comprehensive care for people living with HIV in Canada.

Prof Stephen Birch retires

Stephen Birch, one of CHEPA's longest-serving members, has retired from McMaster University and is now the [Taylor Chair and Centre Director of the University of Queensland, Australia, Centre for the Business and Economics of Health](#). He received many awards and accolades over his career at CHEPA and has hundreds of publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. In the 2011 World Bank rankings of health economics researchers, he was ranked equal 1st in Canada and equal 35th in the world, based on the volume and impact of his publications

New faculty and appointments

[CHEPA](#) welcomed two new faculty members this winter: [Laura N. Anderson](#), PhD, and [Dr. Mitchell A. H. Levine](#), MD, MSc, FRCPC, FISPE, FACP. Anderson is an Assistant Professor in the [Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact \(HEI\)](#) at McMaster University and an Adjunct Scientist in the division of [Child Health Evaluative Sciences at the SickKids Research Institute](#). Levine was recently appointed [Chair of Canada's Patented Medicine Prices Review Board \(PMPRB\)](#) after serving as a member and Vice-Chair of the Board since 2011. He is a Professor at McMaster in both the Departments of HEI and the [Department of Medicine, Division of Clinical Pharmacology](#).

[Ellen Amster](#) was appointed a Senior Fellow, Center for the Material and Visual Cultures of Religion, at Yale University, for Cycle II, "Material Economies of Religion in the Americas: Arts, Objects, Spaces, Mediations." Her project title is "A Spiritual Trans-National Self—The North African Body and Identity, Religion, Healing, and Place," The appointment runs until 2020.

She was also appointed a senior consultant for "The Human Story of Illness: Health Humanities Portraits for Physicians in Training, led by Principal Investigator Sandy Sufian of the University of Illinois-Chicago which received

data. *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management*. 2018. 03.10. S0885-3924(18)30135-0.

Barr NG, Longo CJ, Embrett MG, Mulvale GM, Nguyen T, Randall GE. *The transition from youth to adult mental health services and the economic impact on youth and their families. Healthcare Management Forum*. 2017. 30(6), 283-288.

Boothe K. *Pharmaceutical policy reform in Canada: Lessons from history. Health economics, Policy and Law*. 2018. February 1.

Costa A. *Charting age-associated cognitive decline. CMAJ*. 2017 Dec 4;189(48):E1470-E1471.

Essue BM, Kapiriri L. *The unfunded priorities: an evaluation of priority setting for noncommunicable disease control in Uganda. Globalization and Health*. 2018. 14:22.

Hoffman SJ, Mansoor Y, Natt N, Sritharan L, Belluz J, Caulfield T, Freedhoff Y, Lavis JN, Sharma AM. *Celebrities' impact on health-related knowledge, attitudes, behaviours, and status outcomes: Protocol for a systematic review, meta-analysis, and meta-regression analysis. Systematic Reviews*. 2018. 6(1):13.

Jung YL, Tompa E, Longo C, Kalcevich C, Kim J, Song C, Demers P. *The economic burden of bladder cancer due to occupational exposure. Journal of Occupational and Environmental Medicine*. 2017. December.

Kapiriri L, Chanda-Kapata P. *The quest for a framework for sustainable and institutionalised priority-setting for health research in a low-resource setting: the case of Zambia. Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2018. 16:11.

Laisaar-Powell R, Buttow P, Charles C, Gafni A, Entwistle V, Epstein R, Juraskova I. *The TRIO framework: Conceptual insights into family caregiver involvement*

a grant of \$100,000 US over two years from the the National Endowment for the Humanities Initiatives for Hispanic-Serving Institutions.

Faculty presentations

[Julia Abelson](#) was part of a panel on exploring models of patient engagement at the Clinical Trials Ontario Conference, held in Toronto on March 28.

[Michel Grignon](#) was the keynote speaker at the [Mapping the Global Dimensions of Policy 7 conference](#) at McMaster University on February 6, where he spoke on *An Economist's Perspective on Aging*, and also held a seminar in January at Dalhousie University's Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine about the *social gradients of health*.

Health Policy PhD program

Three [Health Policy PhD](#) candidates successfully defended their doctoral theses this winter:

[Neil Barr](#) defended his PhD thesis, *Physician Communication via Information and Communication Technology: Understanding its Role in Health System Performance* on January 26. His supervisor was [Glen Randall](#). Barr is continuing to teach and conduct research at McMaster.

[Avram Denburg](#), a 2015 Trudeau Scholar and CIHR Fellow who was supervised by [Julia Abelson](#), successfully defended his thesis entitled *The politics of child health technologies: Social values and public policy on drug funding for children in Canada*, on February 22. A graduate of McMaster's medical school, Denburg is a staff oncologist at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, specializing in hematology/oncology.

[Christina Hackett](#) successfully defended her thesis, *The health and mental health of Indigenous peoples living in Canada: Understanding distal, intermediate and proximal determinants of health*, on March 23. Her supervisor was [Gillian Mulvale](#). Hackett is working as a Senior Research Associate with the not-for-profit [Social Research and Demonstration Corporation \(SRDC\)](#) in Ottawa.

Other student news:

[Valentina Antonipillai](#) helped to organize the [Mapping the Dimensions of Global Policy 7](#) graduate student conference, held Feb 5-6 at McMaster, and also chaired its Health Policy session in which she presented *Policy agenda-setting and causal stories: How organized interests redefined the problem of refugee health policy*

treatment decision-making. Patient Education and Counseling. 2017.100:235-246.

Lee JY, Muratov S, Tarride J-E, Holbrook AM. [Managing high-cost healthcare users: The international search for effective evidence-supported strategies.](#) *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society.* 2018. February 10.

Muratov S, Lee J, Holbrook A, Paterson JM, Guertin JR, Mbuagbaw L, Gomes T, Khuu W, Pequeno P, Costa AP, Tarride J-E. [Senior high-cost healthcare users' resource utilization and outcomes: A protocol of a retrospective matched cohort study in Canada.](#) *BMJ Open.* 2018. 7(12):e:018488.

O'Malley L, Worthington HV, Donaldson M, O'Neil C, Birch S, Noble S, Killough S, Murphy L, Greer M, Brodison J, Verghis R, Tickle M. [Oral health behaviours of patients and young children in a practice-based caries prevention trial in Northern Ireland.](#) *Community Dentistry and Oral Epidemiology.* 2017. 00:1-7.

O'Neill L, Samaan Z, McCabe K, Tabak TA, Key B, Litke K, Whattam J, Garrick L, Chalmers S, Xie F, Thabane L, Patel Y, Shahid H, Zielinsk L, Vanstone M. [Patient experiences and opinions of an enhanced Behavioural Activation group intervention for depression.](#) *Research on Social Work Practice.* 2018. January 12. 1-9.

O'Reilly DJ, Burke N, Tarride J-E, Hahn J, Nurkanovic L. [Direct healthcare costs and productivity costs associated with hypoglycemia in the Canadian Hypoglycemia Assessment Tool Program.](#) *Canadian Journal of Diabetes.* 2018. February 04.

Seow H, Arora A, Barbera L, McGrail K, Lawson B, Burge F, Sutradhar R. [Does access to end-of-life homecare nursing differ by province and community size?: A population-based cohort study of](#)

in Canada Expanding the Scope of Policy Analysis. Donya Razavi was the discussant in that session.

Antonipillai also presented *A comparative analysis of asylum health policy changes in Canada and England* at [McMaster's Department of Health Research, Methods, Evidence and Impact \(HEI\)](#) Research Day on March 29. Graham Dobbs presented *Socioeconomic determinants of overburdening out-of-pocket drug spending in Canada from 2010-2014* at the same session.

Ahmad Firas Khalid completed two research consultancies this winter with the World Health Organization and with Doctors Without Borders/ Médecins Sans Frontières. Khalid was also an Expert Panelist for the 6th University Internationalization Seminar New Frontiers for Intra-American Cooperation on *The Role of Universities in Building the Knowledge and Human Capital for Better Preparedness and Response to Natural Disasters*, held by the WHO/ Pan American Health Organization.

The [Health Policy PhD program](#) will be hosting a student "Meet & Eats" event on May 29th at the [Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research \(CAHSPR\)](#) conference in Montreal to provide information for students interested in learning about health policy, health economics and health services research training opportunities at McMaster.

Health Policy. 2017.11.014.

Seow H, Bainbridge D. **A review of the essential components of quality palliative care in the home.** *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2018. 21(S1):S37-S44.

Smith RW, Costa AP, Sinha SK, Glazier RH, Forster A, Jeffs L. **Investigating the effect of sociodemographic factors on 30-day hospital readmission among medical patients in Toronto, Canada: a prospective cohort study.** *BMJ Open*. 2017. December 12;7(12):e017956.

Tarride J-E, Hopkins RB, Burke N, Guertin JR, O'Reilly D, Fell CD, Dion G, Kolb M. **Clinical and economic burden of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis in Quebec, Canada.** *ClinicoEconomics and Outcomes Research*. 2018.10:127-137.

Wilson DM, Birch S. **Moving from place to place in the last year of life: A qualitative study identifying care setting transition issues and solutions in Ontario.** *Health and Social Care in the Community*. 2017.

In addition to these publications, several CHEPA members and students presented their research at scientific conferences.



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