

CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Summer 2019



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Photo: Marcela Velez, centre, is the Health Policy PhD program's 26th graduate. Velez, a medical doctor from Colombia, successfully defended her PhD dissertation on March 18. In this photo she is flanked by her thesis advisor Michael Wilson, right, and John Lavis.

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.

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Appointment

Feng Xie has been elected to the Executive Committee of the international research consortium [EuroQol Group](#), developer of the EQ-5D - a standardized instrument which is widely used to measure health utilities for health economic evaluation worldwide.

New Publications

Emma Apatu joins CHEPA

CHEPA welcomed [Emma Apatu](#) this spring as its newest member. She is the Director of McMaster's [Master of Public Health Program](#) and an Associate Professor in the [Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact \(HEI\)](#).

Ellen Amster honoured for outstanding service

CHEPA member [Ellen Amster](#) is the 2019 recipient of the [McMaster University Faculty Association \(MUFA\) Award for Outstanding Service](#). The committee cited Amster's "innovative" work in establishing a History of Medicine and Medical Humanities web portal, bringing together libraries, archives, museum collections, digital exhibits, digitized documents, medical blogs, and grant information from Canada and the world as being among the achievements that led to the award.

Grants

Several CHEPA members are involved in a new research centre called the [MIRA | Collaborative for Health & Aging](#), which aims to address the diverse needs of Ontario's older adults by supporting and advancing patient and caregiver-partnered research in aging in Ontario. The centre received a \$300,000 grant from the Ontario Strategy for Patient-Oriented Research (SPOR) Support Unit to establish its activities over the course of one year. Parminder Raina and Maureen Markle-Reid, who are scientific directors of the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA) and the Aging, Community and Health Research Unit (ACHRU) respectively, will co-lead the centre. CHEPA members involved are [Julia Abelson](#), [Andrew Costa](#), [Emmanuel Guindon](#), [John Lavis](#), [Hsien Seow](#), [Jean-Éric Tarride](#) and [Michael Wilson](#). Abelson is the co-lead for the Patient Engagement component of the development process.

[John Lavis](#) and [Mike Wilson](#) are leading one of 24 newly funded Catalyst Projects from [AGE-WELL](#). [Andrew Costa](#) is also a co-investigator. Their project, "[Building technology-enabled, aging-focused rapid learning health systems in Canada](#)" is designed to trigger development of rapid-learning health systems (RLHS) that are supported by technology for the country's aging population. It will pursue two specific goals:

- identify in-depth insights about current community 'best practices' in aging for RLHS; and
- spark collective action based on citizens' values and preferences and stakeholders' insights for building a technology-enabled RLHS in the aging space.

Journal Articles

Anderson LN, Carsley S, Smith BT. [Lifecourse trajectories of body mass index and adult cardiometabolic risk: Is childhood a sensitive period?](#) *European Heart Journal*. 2019 May 18. pii: ehy737.

Barr RD, Feeny DA. [Health-related quality of life in adolescents and young adults with cancer - Including a focus on economic evaluation](#). *Pediatric Blood & Cancer*. 2019 May 13:e27808.

Bogach J, Pond G, Eस्कicioglu C, Seow H. [Age-related survival differences in patients with inflammatory bowel disease-associated colorectal cancer: A population-based cohort Study](#). *Inflammatory Bowel Diseases*. 2019 May 8. pii: izz088.

Boothe, Katherine. ['Getting to the Table': Changing ideas about public and patient involvement in Canadian drug assessment](#). *Journal of Health Policy, Politics & Law*. 2019. 44 (4).

Brouwers M, Lavis J, Spithoff K, Vukmirovic M, Florez I, Velez M, Kibria M, Sekercioglu N, Kamler E, Halladay J, Sandhu J, Ali A, Jaffer A, Kiflen R, Pemberton J. [Assessment of health systems guidance using the Appraisal of Guidelines for Research and Evaluation - Health Systems \(AGREE-HS\) instrument](#). *Health Policy*. May 2019.

Burgess R, Vanstone M, Mountjoy M, Grierson L. [Key differences between the severity of disciplinary issues and medical student insights](#). *Medical Education*. 2019. May 28.

Carsley S, Pope EI, Anderson LN, Tremblay MS, Tu K, Birken CS; Team to Address Bariatric Care in Canadian Children. [Temporal trends in severe obesity prevalence in children and youth from primary care electronic medical records in Ontario: a repeated cross-sectional](#)

[Lisa Schwartz](#) and the [Humanitarian Health Ethics \(HHE\)](#) Research team received £ 49,200 GBP (\$83,000) for one year from [elrha's Humanitarian Innovation Fund](#) (HIF) to develop a [toolkit](#) that responders to humanitarian healthcare crises can turn to for guidance when their intervention intentions bump up against ethical conflicts or social justice concerns. [Health Policy PhD](#) student [Gautham Krishnaraj](#), who is supervised by Schwartz in collaboration with Dr. Matthew Hunt of McGill University, is focusing on the development of the toolkit for his dissertation.

Presentations

Iwona Bielska, CHEPA's [CIHR Health System Impact Post Doctoral Fellow](#), presented "An analysis of patient and visit characteristics affecting length of stay in the emergency department" at the [Canadian Public Health Association's](#) 2019 Public Health Conference in Ottawa, held April 30- May 3, where she also had a poster entitled "New directions for an interactive multimedia resource website dedicated to communicating about public health in Canada."

She presented two other posters at the 2019 [Canadian Society for Epidemiology and Biostatistics](#) Conference, also held in Ottawa May 13-15. These were: "A systematic review of the efficiency of coordinated care planning for patients with chronic conditions," and "The effect of health status and sociodemographic factors on change in health care utilization among Health Links patients."

[Katherine Boothe](#) gave a presentation on June 4 in Vancouver to the Canadian Political Science Association during the [Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences](#) that was drawn from her recent research on changing ideas about public and patient involvement in Canadian drug assessment.

[Gillian Mulvale](#) travelled extensively this spring, giving presentations and meeting with colleagues in locations including Italy, Scotland, Sweden, Norway and Australia. At the 14th Workshop on Costs and Assessments in Psychiatry in Italy, she presented papers on "Applying design approaches to advance recovery-oriented mental health policy;" "Using experience-based co-design to improve transitions from child to adult mental health services," and "Factors influencing integration of mental health peer support into clinical settings." She also gave an invited presentation to a consortium in Lombardy region charged with transforming services toward a recovery orientation entitled "Informing policy for recovery-oriented and co-produced mental healthcare in Canada."

19;7(2):E351-E359.

De Freitas C, Grierson L, Vanstone M. [When I say Merit](#). *Medical Education*. 2019. May 10.

Griffith LE, Gruneir A, Fisher K, Panjwani D, Gafni A, Patterson C, Markle-Reid M, Ploeg J. [Insights on multimorbidity and associated health service use and costs from three population-based studies of older adults in Ontario with diabetes, dementia and stroke](#). *BMC Health Services Research*. 2019. May 16;19(1):31.

Guindon GE, Paraje GR, Chaloupka FJ, [Association of tobacco control policies with youth smoking onset in Chile](#). *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2019. June. The article was accompanied in the journal by an editorial: Soneji S, and Wills TA, [Challenges and opportunities for tobacco control policies in the 21st century](#).

Guthrie DM, Harman LE, Barbera L, Burge F, Lawson B, McGrail K, Sutradhar R, Seow H. [Quality indicator rates for seriously ill home care clients: Analysis of resident assessment instrument for home care data in six Canadian provinces](#). *Journal of Palliative Medicine*. 2019. May 16.

Hébert PC, Morinville A, Costa A, Heckman G, Hirdes J. [Regional variations of care in home care and long-term care: a retrospective cohort study](#). *CMAJ Open*. 2019. May 19;7(2):E341-E350.

Hoffman SJ, Poirier MJ, Rogers Van Katwyk S, Baral P, Sritharan L. [Impact of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control on global cigarette consumption: quasi-experimental evaluations using interrupted time series analysis and in-sample forecast event modelling](#). *BMJ*. 2019. 365:l2287 .

Johnston S, Abelson J, Wong ST, Langton J, Hogel M, Burge F, Hogg W. [Citizen perspectives on the use of publicly reported primary care](#)

At the European Academy of Design Conference - Running with Scissors: 13th EAD Conference on April 12 at the University of Dundee, she presented “*Designing in highly contentious areas: Perspectives on a way forward for mental healthcare transformation.*” On April 8th and 9th at the Scottish Community Development Centre in Glasgow and on April 25, at Sweden’s Jonkoping Academy for the Improvement of Health and Welfare, she discussed a three-year comparative study exploring fidelity of co-produced interventions involving vulnerable service users as (i) implemented locally & (ii) diffused to other services/jurisdictional contexts, with case studies in Canada, Scotland & Sweden, and also gave a guest lecture to students studying quality improvements in health care.

And, at the Qualitative Methods Conference in Brisbane, Australia on May 1, she gave three presentations: 1) “*Co-Designing Services for Youth with Mental Health Issues: Novel Elicitation Approaches;*” 2) “*Developing a blueprint for eliciting and embedding values in experience based co-design and co-production processes to enhance mutual understanding during ideation processes with vulnerable populations*”, and 3) “*Strategies and tactics to prepare vulnerable populations to participate in co-design and co-production processes.*”

CHEPA director [Jean-Éric Tarride](#) was a panelist in workshops at two conferences this spring. On April 14 at the [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technology in Health \(CADTH\)](#) Symposium in Edmonton, he was part of a health technology assessment (HTA) mentorship panel entitled “*Finding Your Dumbledore and Setting Yourself Up for Life After Hogwarts – A Rapid Mentorship Session on How to Succeed in HTA.*” He was also a panelist at the 2019 Market Access Conference of the [Canadian Association for Healthcare Reimbursement](#) in Toronto on May 30 in a session entitled “*Paying for Highly Effective Tissue-Agnostic Oncology Therapies*”.

Tarride also had a poster presentation at the 2019 Annual Conference of the [International Society of Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research](#), held May 18-22 in New Orleans, entitled “*Real-world outcomes and cost of management of osteoporotic fractures in Ontario, Canada.*”

Research co-ordinator [Laura Tripp](#) gave two presentations at the [Canadian Centre for Applied Research in Cancer Control \(ARCC\)](#) conference, held in Halifax, Nova Scotia May 27-28: “*Supporting decision-making when there is no ‘right’ answer: Ontarians’ perspectives on mammography screening educational materials*” and “*Mammography screening policy decision making in the face of uncertainty: A qualitative study of*

[from citizen-patient dialogues in three Canadian provinces.](#) *Health Expectations.* 2019. May 10.

Kennedy K, Podbielski D, Nanji K, Muratov S, Ahmed I, Xie F. [Disease-specific preference-based measure of glaucoma health states: HUG-5 Psychometric Validation.](#) *Journal of Glaucoma.* 2019. May.

Mattison C, [Wilson MG](#), Wang RH, Waddell K. [Enhancing equitable access to assistive technologies in Canada: Insights from citizens and stakeholders.](#) *Canadian Journal on Aging/La Revue canadienne du vieillissement.* 2019. April 10.

Plamondon K, Pemberton J. [Blending integrated knowledge translation with global health governance: a novel approach for advancing action on a wicked problem.](#) *Health Research Policy and Systems.* 2019.17:24.

Poirier MJ, Hoffman SJ, Song MY, et al. [Cigarette consumption estimates for 71 countries from 1970 to 2015: systematic collection of comparable data to facilitate quasi-experimental evaluations of national and global tobacco control interventions.](#) 2019. *BMJ.* 36;12231.

Razavi SD, Kapiriri L, Abelson J, Wilson M. [Who is in and who is out? A qualitative analysis of stakeholder participation in priority setting for health in three districts in Uganda.](#) *Health Policy & Planning.* 2019. June 10.

Sandor C, Murray-Davis B, [Vanstone M](#), Bryant C. [The transition to clinical practice for new registrant midwives in Ontario, Canada. Starting Life as a Midwife: An international review of transition from student to practitioner.](#) *Gray, M., Kitson-Reynolds, E., Cummins, A. (Ed). Switzerland: Springer.* 2019. Pp. 73-94.

[Vanstone M](#), Monteiro S, Colvin E, Norman G, Sherbino J, Sibbald M,

policy elite perspectives”.

Feng Xie has been invited to give a plenary talk entitled “*Challenges and Opportunities in Pricing Drugs in the Era of Gene Therapy*” at the upcoming 11th National Huaxia Pharmacoeconomics and HTA conference on June 29-30 in Nanjing, China, and also to give a keynote speech, “*Overview of Global Pharmacoeconomics Guidelines: Making Policy Better?*” during a media event and conference for the July 6 launch of 2019 China Pharmacoeconomics Guidelines at Peking University, China. He has been a member of the guideline expert advisory panel since 2009.

CAHSPR

CHEPA also had representation at the [Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research Conference \(CAHSPR\)](#) conference, held May 28-31 in Halifax:

Iwona Bielska presented “*An analysis of high emergency department use in the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network*” and also had a poster: “*Factors associated with emergency department length of stay times greater than 8 hours among complex patients in the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network.*”

John Lavis was a panelist at a plenary session entitled “*Where Research Meets Policy @ The Federal Level*”.

Mike Wilson gave two presentations: “*Evolution of an approach to rapidly synthesizing evidence about pressing health-system issues,*” and “*Citizen and stakeholder insights on preventing and managing infectious disease among people who inject drugs in Ontario*” and also spoke on the topic “*Networks matter: Building innovation communities to drive health system change,*” as a member of a panel discussion by [AGE-WELL](#).

Health Policy PhD student **Derek Manis** presented “*Achieving the enriched HSPR core competencies in a Canadian doctoral program: results from an online survey,*” based on a study that involved **Julia Abelson** and **Laura Tripp**. He also had two posters, entitled “*Classifying retirement home residents in Ontario, Canada: creating the first population-level retirement home cohort*” and “*To pay or not to pay for performance in Canadian primary care: a rapid review of evidence from high-income countries*”.

[physician descriptions of intuition in clinical reasoning: A typology](#). *Diagnosis*. 2019.03.16.

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Health Policy PhD program

Two more [Health Policy PhD](#) students convocated this spring, with **Mathieu Poirier** and **Claudia Marcella Velez** receiving their doctoral diplomas on May 23.

Poirier, who was supervised by [Michel Grignon](#), successfully defended his thesis on January 15. It was entitled “*Measuring international health inequalities using household survey data.*” He is now working as a Research Associate at the York University Global Strategy Lab.

Velez, a medical doctor from Colombia, successfully defended her thesis on March 18. Her dissertation’s title was “*Understanding the role of values in Latin American health systems.*” Her supervisor was [Michael Wilson](#). Velez is a faculty member of the Institute of Medical Research at the Universidad de Antioquia in Medellin, Colombia.

To date, 26 students have completed the program and successfully defended their dissertations.

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