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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Photo: Dr. Ruth Lavergne is shown presenting the 27th annual Labelle Lecture on October 3. Dr. Lavergne, an Assistant Professor at Simon Fraser University’s Faculty of Health Sciences, spoke on the topic “Primary care, secondary data: Learning from policy change in British Columbia.” To view the video of her lecture, click here.

New Publications

Reports

Anderson L, Alvarez E, Apatu E, Bayat S, Bourque C, de Rubeis V, Winsor E. Measurement of
health technology management; contributing to the body of scholarship in the field through teaching or research; and participating in the education programs of the school of medicine. For more information, click here.

Honours

Congratulations to CHEPA’s David Feeny and Emeritus faculty member George Torrance who were awarded Honorary Member status at the 25th Annual Conference of the International Society for Quality of Life Research (ISOQOL) in Dublin on Oct. 24.

Appointments

John Lavis has been appointed the sole Director at the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Evidence-Informed Policy, after having served as co-director for the past eight years. His new responsibilities extend until November, 2022.

As well, he was appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor at the University of Johannesburg, where he will collaborate with colleagues at the Africa Centre for Evidence. Additionally, this fall he became a member of the Advisory Board of the newly-established Caribbean Centre for Health Systems Research and Development, and is also now Chair of the Board of Directors of the Ontario HIV Treatment Network.

Grants

John Lavis, who is director of the McMaster Health Forum and the Canada Research Chair in Evidence-Informed Health Systems, is the principal investigator on “Partners for evidence-driven rapid learning in social systems,” which received $1,990,859 from the International Development Research Centre and Hewlett Foundation and extends through 2021.

Meredith Vanstone is co-principal investigator on a $100,000 one-year study funded by the Canadian College of Family Physicians to help understand the impact of CFPC Certificates of Added Competence. She is also among a group of researchers involved in a two-year study entitled “Optimizing feedback from direct observation of clinical performance: Learner feedback-seeking and avoidance behaviour in four clinical settings,” which received a $47,500 Medical Research Grant from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Post-Doctoral Fellows

Two 2018 Health System Impact (HIS) post-doctoral grants 575,000 from the Ontario Vanstone World was the primary-care sector, and the elderly population.

Journal articles


fellowships were awarded this fall by the Canadian Institutes of Health Information (CIHR) to researchers supervised by CHEPA members:

- **Iwona Bielska**, supervised by Kelly Cimek of the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN) and **Jean-Éric Tarride**, received $155,000, including a contribution from the LHIN, over two years for her project entitled “*Evidence-based strategic directions to reduce emergency department patient wait times within the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (HNHB LHIN).*”

- **Matt Leyenaar**, who is supervised by Dr. William Krizmanich and **Andrew Costa**, was awarded $35,000 over one year for his research project “*Common assessments for repeated paramedic encounters: Evaluating care planning in community paramedicine.*”

As well, **Irene Mussio** began a two-year post-doctoral fellowship under the supervision of **Jeremiah Hurley** in September at McMaster’s Department of Economics and the McMaster Institute for Research on Aging (MIRA). Mussio is an experimentalist whose research focuses on behaviour economics with applications to health contexts. She holds a PhD from the University of Massachusetts - Amherst.

**Presentations**

**Elizabeth Alvarez** had several poster presentations this fall. “*How medical contracts are used in chronic condition management: A scoping review*” and “*Feasibility and implementation of a healthy lifestyles program: a six-month interim assessment*” were shown at the Family Medicine Forum in Toronto Nov. 14, while “*Comparative analysis of cannabis sale and distribution policies in select Canadian provinces*” was displayed the same day at the Ontario Public Health Association conference.

Post-doctoral fellow **Sonya de Laat** travelled to a conference on Ethics and Palliative Care in Humanitarian Crisis Contexts held in Kigali, Rwanda, to present the results on Dec. 14 of the **Humanitarian Health Ethics research group**’s study of palliative care in humanitarian settings.

**John Lavis**, and **Kaelan Moat**, (the director and assistant director, respectively, of the **McMaster Health Forum**) attended Evidence 2018, put on by the **Africa Evidence Network**, on September 28 in Pretoria, South Africa. The two co-led a workshop at the conference addressing how


Feeny D, Furlong W, Torrance GW. **What were they thinking when providing preference measurements for generic health states? The evidence for HUI3. Health Quality of Life Outcomes.** 2018. Aug 15;1 6(1):166.

Hackett CL, Mulvale G, Miatello A. **Co-designing for quality: Creating a user-driven tool to improve quality in youth mental health services.** Health Expectations. 2018. Apr 29.

research organizations can more effectively disseminate their research to, and support the use of research evidence by, policymakers. Lavis also spoke at a plenary discussion about "The next five-year agenda for supporting evidence-informed policymaking? Building bridges, adapting innovations and learning across issues and contexts."

On November 22, Lavis spoke to the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland about “How EVIPNet can contribute to the GPW13.”

Post-doctoral fellow Irene Mussio travelled to the BEHNET Workshop on Behavioral and Experimental Health Economics in Oslo, Norway to present “Reconciling health and wealth background risks: an analysis of risky behavior when higher-order preferences are considered” on December 15.

Lisa Schwartz, who holds the Arnold L. Johnson Chair in Health Care Ethics, flew to Amsterdam in November to meet face-to-face with directors of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) to talk about the evolution of health research ethics. Schwartz is a member of the MSF International Ethics Review Board.

In early December, Schwarz was in Bangalore, India to make presentations at two separate conferences. At the World Congress of the International Network on Feminist Approaches to Bioethics, held Dec. 3-5, she presented a talk called “Coerced Contexts”, as part of a panel on vulnerability in migrant research. The same week, at the World Congress of Bioethics held Dec. 5-7, she gave two talks: “You just want to talk less and start the treatment: Perceptions of research during the 2014-2016 Ebola crisis”, and “Ethics and treatment options in end of life care: the view from refugees during complex humanitarian crises”, and also chaired a plenary panel on “Rethinking bioethics in the context of health for all.”

Meredith Vanstone attended a conference in Chicago, IL on November 10 put on by the North American Primary Care Research Group, where she participated in a forum about Medical Education Research in the Context of Family Medicine, and presented the papers “Barriers & Facilitators of Physician Assistant Integration: Lessons from Family Medicine Settings in Ontario, Canada” and “They belittle you, embarrass you, and humiliate you about something you did”: Medical learner and educator perceptions of mistreatment and abuse in the clinical workplace.”

Health Policy PhD program

Faculty, students and alumni of the Health Policy PhD program held a formal celebration on Dec. 6, 2018, to


Khuong Truong NT, Sweetman A. Basic information and communication technology skills among Canadian immigrants and non-immigrants. Canadian Public Policy - U of T Press. 2018. Nov 15.


Longo CJ, Harrold J, Dunn S, Smith G. Elective repeat caesarian section in low-risk women: Economic evaluation comparing births before vs. after 39 weeks

mark the program’s 10th anniversary.

Among the program’s highlights this fall was the convocation on Nov. 22 of five students - Francesca Brundisini, Sarah Newell, Melodie (Yun-Ju) Song, Val Ulep and Marjan Walli-Attaei, which is the largest group to graduate together in the program’s history. To date, 24 students have completed the program and successfully defended their dissertations.

The program has also launched a revamped website: https://healthsci.mcmaster.ca/hpphd.

Sophiya Garasia, who is supervised by Emmanuel Guindon, was awarded first prize in the “Health and Disadvantaged Populations” section within the “Health, Well-being and Inequality” poster session at the Canadian Research Data Centre Network’s conference “Building an Inclusive, Prosperous and Healthy Canada: What Can We Learn from the Data?,” which was held in Hamilton Oct. 18 & 19.

Ahmad Firas Khalid’s visit to a Syrian refugee camp in Lebanon, made as part of his internship with the Knowledge to Policy Centre (K2P), was profiled in a Nov. 26 Hamilton Spectator article.

Many PhD students shared their work at conferences in the fall:

Fanor Balderrama presented “When are pharmaceuticals priced fairly?: A framework for an ethical pricing of pharmaceuticals” at the Queen’s University Health and Human Rights Conference on Nov 17.

Gautham Krishnaraj presented a workshop on Nov. 18 entitled “Awkward Moments with No Right Answer: Three Ethical Cases from An Early Career Professional” at the 2018 Global Health Students and Young Professionals Summit hosted at the Dala Lana School of Public Health at the University of Toronto.

Derek Manis presented his paper “News media portrayal of supervised injection facilities in Ontario, Canada” on Nov. 16 at Queen's University's 18th Annual Health and Human Rights Conference, in article.

Donya Razavi went to Sweden in September to present “Analysis of stakeholder participation in priority setting in three districts in Uganda: Who is in and who is out?” along with “Participation of vulnerable women in priority setting processes in Tororo district, Uganda” at the 12th biannual International Conference of the International Society on Priorities in Health Priorities in Linkoping. She presented the later paper again on November 14 at the 24th Canadian Conference on Global Health.


Shearer J, Lavis JN, Abelson J, Walt G, Dion M. Evidence-informed


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