

CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

Winter 2023

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.



The **Canadian Conference on Global Health** in Toronto on November 23, 2022 featured a keynote closing panel of: (seated from left) Valerie Percival, University of Ottawa, CHEPA member **Lisa Schwartz**, and Brianne England of the Canadian Red Cross. On screen are Wahid Majrooh, Afghanistan's former Minister of Public Health and Felagot Tadessa, an obstetrician in Tigray, Ethiopia.

CHEPA Research

The significant gender pay gap in Canadian medicine, and the need to boost the number of personal support workers (PSWs) to care for the increasing numbers of elderly Canadians are highlighted in two recent studies of healthcare human resources:

Women doctors in Canada earn less than their male counterparts at all points of the earnings distribution, confirms research by **Boris Kralj** with Danielle O'Toole and CHEPA colleagues **Meredith Vanstone** and **Arthur Sweetman**.

[Read the research](#)

[Read the commentary](#)



Boris Kralj

Kralj and Sweetman also published research on the need for increases in the labour force supply of PSWs to deal with Canada's rapidly-aging population and fallout from the pandemic. The publication also addressed accompanying issues such as the number of care hours that should be provided.

[Read the research](#)

Grants

Meredith Vanstone is co-investigator on three research projects that were awarded funding this

fall:

- The *Stress Ulcer Prophylaxis in the Critically Ill: REVISE Renewal Grant*, is a two-year \$1.87M extension by the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR) of an extensive multi-centre research project led by McMaster's [Deborah Cook](#) and others. CHEPA's [Feng Xie](#) is also a co-investigator with the project.
- Vanstone is also a co-investigator on the year-long study "*Virtual primary care policy for pandemic preparedness and the new normal: Co-designing resilience, sustainability, quality, equity,*" which received \$100,000 from CIHR.
- McMaster's [MacPherson Institute](#) gave \$25,000 for the one-year project "*Creating community and belonging in inquiry-based educational settings,*" which includes Vanstone among its researchers.



Meredith Vanstone

Appointments



[Arthur Sweetman](#) has been appointed acting Director of the [Health Policy PhD program](#) (HP PhD), for six months beginning January 1, 2023. Sweetman takes on the role from [Julia Abelson](#), whose term ended in July. A search for a long-term director will begin in January.

Arthur Sweetman

CHEPA director **Jean-Éric Tarride** is among an interdisciplinary team of McMaster researchers studying the impact on children and youth of the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Read more](#)

He was also appointed to the [Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health \(CADTH\) Post Marketing Drug Evaluation \(PMDE\)](#) advisory committee. The CADTH PMDE program was launched on September 1, 2022, to provide “evidence-based responses to questions and concerns raised by federal, provincial, and territorial decision-makers about drugs approved for use in Canada.” Prior to joining the CADTH PMDE program, Tarride was a core member (health economist) of CADTH's Health Technology Expert Review Panel (HTERP) from 2017-2022.



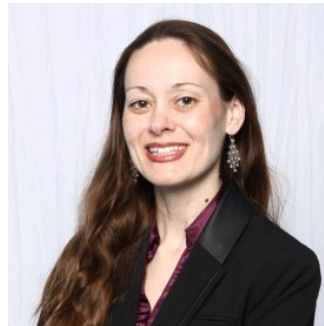
Jean-Éric Tarride

CHEPA External Review

An external review of **CHEPA** was conducted in mid-November 2022 to gather information and feedback to help guide the centre going forward.

The review was conducted by [Kim McGrail](#), UBC Centre for Health Services and Policy Research; [Bruce Newbold](#), Director of McMaster's School of Earth, Environment & Society (EES), and [Mark Stabile](#), Stone Chaired Professor of Wealth Inequality and Professor of Economics at INSEAD, and involved interviews with staff and faculty. The review report will be circulated to CHEPA members and staff as soon as it is available for distribution.

Presentations and podcasts



Elizabeth Alvarez, a co-lead of the [EMBOLDEN study](#) team, and nursing post-doctoral fellow Maggie McNeil presented "*EMBOLDEN – partnering with older adults and communities to develop and test a community-based program to enhance physical and community mobility in older adults,*" at the MIRA/Dixon Hall Centre Research and Community Symposium at Dixon Hall in Toronto on September 27, 2022.

[McMaster Health Forum](#) Director **John Lavis** was one of the featured presenters in the annual seminars series organized by the [Gilbrea Centre for Studies in Aging](#). He described how the [McMaster Optimal Aging Portal](#), and the Forum's [stakeholder dialogues](#) and [citizen panels](#) programs engage citizens and civil society representatives in informing decisions about health systems.



John Lavis

A new podcast entitled "*Enabling Evidence Support Systems*" explains the work of the [Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges](#), and discusses the future of science advice in the context of today's societal challenges. Lavis is co-lead of the Evidence Commission.

[View the podcast](#)



Gillian Mulvale

Fellow, University of Bristol, produced podcasts in October entitled "*Coachtalk - A podcast about coaching for improvement in health and social care.*" The podcasts are related to the [CoPro2022](#) initiative for people interested in co-design.

[Watch the Coachtalk podcast](#)

[Watch the podcast on soundcloud](#)

There was a significant CHEPA/McMaster presence at the [Canadian Conference on Global Health](#) in Toronto on November 23, 2022.

Lydia Kapiriri spoke on "*Was there alignment between integrating priority setting and use of the WHO disease pandemic planning framework in the National COVID-19 plans?*" as part of a presentation on "*The Impact of Priority Setting on Pandemic Preparedness and Response: A Global Comparative Analysis of the role of priority setting and equity during COVID-19*" with [Health Policy PhD](#) alumnus Donya Razavi, a postdoctoral fellow with the Canadian Red Cross, and [Beverley Essue](#).

Other HP PhD alumni who gave presentations at the conference included [Marcela Vélez](#) and [Ahmad Firas Khalid](#).



From left: Lydia Kapiriri, Beverley Essue and Donya Razavi, speaking.

Razavi also presented her postdoctoral work entitled "**Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Gender Transformative Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Program Implementation in fragile and conflict-affected contexts**" that she is conducting in collaboration with the Red Cross, with Kapiriri as her academic supervisor. Razavi also helped organize the closing Keynote Panel Presentation about *Global Health in Times of Crisis*, which included [Lisa Schwartz](#).



Jean-Éric Tarride

[Jean-Éric Tarride](#) presented four posters at the [International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research \(ISPOR\) Europe 2022](#) conference, held in Vienna, November 6-9. His presentation on the "*Ten-Year Epidemiology, Economic Burden and All-Cause Mortality Among Generalized Pustular Psoriasis Patients: A Canadian Prevalence Study of Inpatient Care, Emergency Departments, and Hospital-* or

Community-Based Outpatient Clinics was one of the Top 5% Research Presentation Award Finalists.

A resource video from [Meredith Vanstone](#)'s lab with the McMaster [Department of Family Medicine](#) provides insights into what can be done to best prepare resident physicians for the realities of clinical practice and indirect patient care activities.

[Watch the video](#)

Vanstone spoke on the subject of indirect patient care activities at several conferences, including to the Association of Medical Educators of Europe in Lyon, France. August 30 2022. (*"Burden or strengthening for future practice: How can we help residents prepare to carry the weight of indirect patient care activities over the course of their careers?"*) and at the International Conference on Residency Education in Montreal on October 28, 2022 (*"Burden or strengthening for future practice: What do residents learn from indirect patient care activities?"*).



Meredith Vanstone is shown above, right, making a presentation entitled "Policies and Power in Medical Education" at Radboud University, Nijmegen, Netherlands on November 29, 2022.

Additionally, findings from Vanstone's research into how women and clinicians made decisions about cannabis use in pregnancy was the topic of a presentation she made to the [North American Primary Care Research Group](#) in Phoenix, Arizona on November 19, 2022.



Seminars

CHEPA seminars resume on Wednesday January 18, 2023, when **Meredith Vanstone** presents "*Cannabis use in pregnancy and lactation after legalization in 2018: Patient and Clinician decision-making processes.*"

[Read more](#)

- On February 15, 2023, **Sandra Milicic**, Senior Analyst, [Canadian Institute for Health Information](#) (CIHI), will speak about the results of the [Commonwealth Fund Project](#), which produced a chartbook and data tables comparing health policy in Canada with 10 other Commonwealth fund countries (Australia, New Zealand, US, UK, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, France, and Germany) to summarize how Canada compares.
- **Gaëlle Simard-Duplain**, Assistant Professor in Carleton University's Department of Economics, will present a joint CHEPA/HEAM (Health Economics at McMaster) seminar on Wednesday March 22, 2023 in room KTH 334 (NOTE THE LOCATION).

Seminars take place from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm in McMaster's CRL-B119 and simultaneously online. All are welcome. For a link to attend any of these seminars virtually, please email ramsay@mcmaster.ca



Students



[HP PhD](#) candidate **Alexandra Cernat** was awarded a Vanier Scholarship to explore stakeholder perspectives of pharmacogenomic testing in primary care. She will be "spending my time as a Vanier Scholar trying to understand what patients, providers and policy makers think about introducing genetic testing to guide the prescription of antidepressants in primary care." Her PhD supervisor is **Meredith Vanstone**. Vanier Scholars are selected based on academic excellence, research potential and leadership. Each Scholar receives \$50,000 a year, for up to three years.

[Read more](#)

Several PhD candidates supervised by CHEPA members successfully defended their dissertations, including:

- **Ahmednur Ali**, supervised by **John Lavis**, defended his HP PhD thesis entitled "*How does policy support guideline implementation? The role of policy, political, and health systems considerations in clinical practice guideline implementation.*"
- **Amilcar Azamar-Alonzo**, supervised by **Jean-Éric Tarride**. Azamar-Alonzo's HP PhD dissertation was entitled: "*HIV in Mexico: A 10-year Population-Based Analysis to Evaluate Policy Changes in Diagnosis, Treatment and Early Mortality on PLWH 2008-2017.*"
- HP PhD/MD candidate **Alice Cavanagh**, supervised by **Meredith Vanstone**, defended "*Physician roles in addressing intimate partner violence: Stakeholder perspectives to inform medical education and policy.*"
- **Cara Evans**, HP PhD, defended: "*What mental health care experiences and outcomes matter for clients with complex health and social needs?*" Her supervisor was **John Lavis**.
- **Sophiya Garasia**, HP PhD, defended: "*Health, health care and economic experiences of immigrants in Canada.*" Her supervisor was **Emmanuel Guindon**.
- **Fabrice Mowbray**, supervised by **Andrew Costa**, successfully defended his PhD in Health Research Methodology (HRM) on the topic: "*Prognosis of cardiac arrest in patients receiving home care.*"



Publications

Best Paper Award

A publication co-authored by **Meredith Vanstone**, entitled [Clinician responses to cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation: A systematic review and integrative mixed-methods](#)

[research synthesis](#) received the Best Paper Award from the journal *Family Practice*. The award was presented at the [North American Primary Care Research Group \(NAPCRG\)](#) annual meeting in November, 2022.



Journal Articles

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