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# CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

*Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems*

FALL 2020

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.

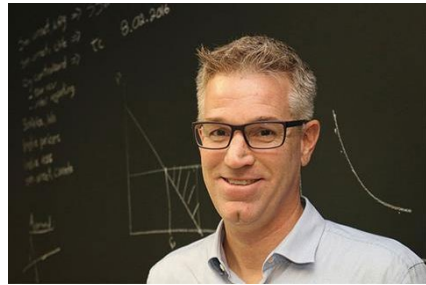


## New CHEPA member

CHEPA recently welcomed **Katherine Cuff** as a new member. Dr. Cuff, a Professor in McMaster's Department of Economics, holds the Canada Research Chair in Public Economic Theory. She is also the Managing Editor, **Canadian Journal of Economics**, and a recipient of the honorific title, University Scholar, which honours more junior McMaster faculty who have "already distinguished themselves as international scholars."



## Grants



**Emmanuel Guindon** is co-Principal Investigator on two research projects related to tobacco and smoking funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (\$420,752) and by CIHR and the Canadian Cancer Society (\$100,000).

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**Arthur Sweetman**, who led a 10-person expert panel studying staffing in Ontario Long-Term Care Homes, received several grants related to research on long-term care staffing and on labour market dynamics affected by COVID-19, including a grant from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (\$44,898) and funding from McMaster University.

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The **McMaster Health Forum** was awarded over \$550,000 through an AGE-WELL grant for its project on building technology-enabled, aging-focused rapid learning health systems in Canada. Over the next three years, the Forum aims to spark the actions needed to build technology-enabled, aging-focused rapid-learning health systems (RLHS) in provincial and territorial health systems in Canada. Principal Investigator **Michael Wilson**, Assistant Director of the Forum, says the grant is “particularly relevant now given the renewed attention and focus on long-term care and the implications of COVID-19 on the system.”



Four CHEPA members: [John Lavis](#), [Jean-Éric Tarride](#), [Meredith Vanstone](#) and [Feng Xie](#), were part of a large group of McMaster researchers awarded a CIHR Project grant for "[Vascular events In noncardiac Surgery patients cOhort evaluationN study-2 \(VISION-2\) igators](#)". The research will build on a previous VISION study and involve 20,000 patients across multiple centres. It received \$673,000 from CIHR and additional funds of \$2,178,000 from in-kind, industry and partner contributions.



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## Awards



[Lisa Schwartz](#) is the recipient of the HEI Teaching Excellence Award (FT/Joint Faculty) for 2019/2020. The award was announced during the department's Welcome Back event in September.



## Labelle Lecture

The 2020 [Labelle Lecture](#), on the topic "[Saving Black Women and Babies: Leveraging Data and Community Engagement to Achieve Health Equity](#)", will be presented virtually on Nov. 11, 2020 by [Dr. Tiffany Green](#), an

economist and population health scientist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a nationally recognized expert in racial/ethnic and nativity disparities in reproductive health. The discussant is **Dr. Andrew Pinto**, Founder and Director of Upstream Lab and a Public Health and Preventative Medicine Specialist at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto. The lecture will take place from 3 to 5 pm. **Registration** is required. Click [here](#) for more information.



## Initiatives



**Dr. Tiffany Green,**  
**Assistant Professor of Population Health**  
**Sciences in Obstetrics and Gynecology,**  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison.**

**Julia Abelson** and other members of the [Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative](#) have launched the Canadian Patient Partner study to learn more about who Canadian patient partners are; the challenges



they face and how best to support them. To complete the survey go to: [http://bit.ly/CPSS\\_ECPP](http://bit.ly/CPSS_ECPP) (English), or [http://bit.ly/ECPP\\_CPSS](http://bit.ly/ECPP_CPSS) (French).

**Andrew Costa**, and the **Big Data & Geriatric Models of Care Research Group** launched **yourCARE+**, an online education platform to help informal caregivers care for themselves and their loved ones. It includes free videos, resources and a caregiver **toolkit** to support caregivers and families, including a **COVID Caregiver Backup Plan**.



**Hsien Seow**, the Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care and Health System Innovation and lead of the **Caregivers4Change Network**, helped draft a Declaration of Family Caregiver Rights and Responsibilities. The organization is gathering names on a **petition** asking government officials to respect the rights set out in the Declaration to ensure that caregivers won't be locked out of health institutions due to a second wave of COVID.



## Reports

**Arthur Sweetman**, the Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources, led a 10-person expert panel studying staffing in Ontario's Long-Term Care

Homes. The report, released on July 30, says the LTC sector urgently needs more funding and permanent staff. The findings received considerable media attention, including this [article](#) in *The Globe and Mail*.

[Read the panel's report](#)

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## Media

Research conducted by CHEPA members into the design, staffing and financing of long-term care facilities, as well as the impact on residents and their families of the lengthy lockdowns imposed during the first wave of COVID-19 received a great deal of media attention. Some of the coverage includes:

- [Andrew Costa](#), who holds the Schlegel Research Chair in Clinical Epidemiology & Aging, was quoted extensively over the summer by *Kitchener Record*, *Hamilton Spectator* and [CBC radio](#) reporters about research showing that older nursing homes with outdated designs leave residents more vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Health Policy PhD candidate [Amina Jabbar](#), who is a physician and geriatrician, co-authored an opinion article in the *Toronto Star*: "[Preparing nursing homes for a second wave starts with staffing.](#)"
- [Hsien Seow](#) was quoted in a *Macleans* article: "[The pandemic has disrupted death and mourning in ways we don't yet understand](#)".
  - The *Hamilton Spectator* also reported on a study Seow is involved in that is studying the effects of the [#CareMongering](#) initiative to reduce isolation among seniors during the pandemic.
  - As well, several outlets including the *Lethbridge Herald* quoted Seow in articles about the [Declaration of Family Caregiver Rights and Responsibilities](#), and the accompanying petition.



# Students



## New Frontiers in Health Policy Conference

The [Health Policy PhD Program](#) is holding its annual graduate student conference virtually on November 23-25. This year's theme is "**Health Policy in a Time of Transformation.**" Registration is free.

[Learn more](#)

## Awards:

2020 Faculty of Health Sciences & Graduate Student Awards were given to **Valentina Antonipillai** (Leadership); **Gautham Krishnaraj** (Impact) **Manisha Pahwa** (publication) and **Sophiya Garasia** (outstanding achievement).

## PhD Dissertations:

- **Valentina Antonipillai**, Health Policy. "**Migration Health Policy: Examining the effects of inequitable access to healthcare and prescription drug insurance.**" Her supervisor was [Lisa Schwartz](#).
- **Fanor Balderrama**, Health Policy. "**Three Essays on the Ethics and Effects of Public Policy on the Price-Accessibility of Pharmaceuticals.**" His supervisor was [Christopher Longo](#).
- **Aaron Jones**, supervised by [Andrew Costa](#) in Health Research Methodology. "**Quality in primary care and use of the emergency department among home care patients.**"
- **Mohammad Kibria**, Health Policy. "**Harnessing evidence and values in health policy implementation.**" His supervisor was [John Lavis](#).
- **Sultana Al Sabahi**, Health Policy PhD. "**Examining and Contextualizing Approaches to Establish Policy Support Organizations.**" Her supervisor was [Mike Wilson](#).



## Publications

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- Dewitt B, **Torrance GW**. [Incorporating Mortality in Health Utility Measures](#). *Medical Decision Making*. 2020. 40(7) 862-872.
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