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# CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

Fall 2022

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.



## Honours and Appointments

**David Feeny**, a **CHEPA** member and Professor Emeritus in McMaster's Department of Economics, is rated

9<sup>th</sup> among the top researchers in Canada in the fields of Social Sciences and Humanities by [Research.com](#).

Two other [CHEPA](#) members — **John Lavis** and **Julia Abelson** — are also ranked in the top 100 researchers in Canada, at 13<sup>th</sup> and 76<sup>th</sup> respectively.

Professor Emeritus **Stephen Birch**, now Director of the [University of Queensland Centre for the Business and Economics of Health](#), was named a top researcher in Australia.

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**David Feeny**

[CHEPA](#) welcomed new member **Boris Kralj** this fall. Kralj is a specialist in health economics, — medical (physician) economics in particular — and is a noted expert on physician compensation models and physician pay equity or “relativity”.

[Learn more](#)



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## Featured Research



[Read the article](#)

[Read the research paper](#)

**Boris Kralj** wrote an article for the Medical Post about the significant gender earnings gap in Canadian medicine. The article was based on research done with **CHEPA** colleagues **Meredith Vanstone**, **Arthur Sweetman**, and with **Danielle O'Toole** from McMaster's **Department of Family Medicine**. They found that female physicians in Canada on average earn about 9% less than their male colleagues. Kralj's commentary concludes that the gender pay gap in Canada's publicly funded and privately delivered medical system is real; pervasive, and is significant from both a statistical and policy perspective nationally and across provinces.

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**Feng Xie's** **research** concluding that industry-sponsored studies are more likely to suggest a new drug, treatment, or medical device is more cost-effective than do independent studies was profiled by the online medical publication Medscape and elsewhere.

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Read the Medscape article



## Labelle Lectureship



**Laura Schummers**, ScD, a reproductive and perinatal epidemiologist and post-doctoral Fellow at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, will present the 31<sup>st</sup> annual **Labelle Lecture** on Wednesday, November 9 at 3 pm. Her lecture, entitled "*Improving reproductive population health through health policy and outcomes research*," will be held at McMaster University's main campus in room MDCL 3020, and simultaneously streamed online. To register to receive a link to participate virtually, email [ramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ramsay@mcmaster.ca).

Schummers holds a BC Ministry of Health-CIHR Health System Impact Fellowship and a Research Trainee award from the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research. Her research uses large population-based administrative health databases to examine health services, policy, and clinical research questions related to women's reproductive and perinatal health.

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## Presentations and Podcasts

**Elizabeth Alvarez** presented *Challenges and associated mental stress during COVID-19 work adaptation among employees in Ireland* at the 13th International Conference on Applied Human Factors and Ergonomics, in Manhattan, NY in July.

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**Andrew Costa**, co-lead of the [COVID Immunity Study](#) with McMaster Professor of Medicine [Dawn Bowdish](#), shared study insights and discussed the goals for the [COVID in Long-Term Care study](#) at a town hall event. Two additional town hall events will be held on Oct. 19 and 20, 2022.



[Watch the Recording](#)

[Register to participate in future town halls](#)

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# COPRO 2022

A series of video recordings from [Co-Pro2022](#) workshops led by [Gillian Mulvale](#) on equity-based co-design and co-production are now available.

[View recordings](#)

[CHEPA](#) member [Hsien Seow](#) is a cohost of the podcast, [The Waiting Room Revolution](#), which began its fifth season on Sept 20, 2022 with an episode featuring palliative care physicians Dr. Amit Arya and Dr. Naheed Dosani. Other guests this season include Canadian singer Bif Naked, TikTok influencer NursePenny, and others.

[Watch the podcasts](#)



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

[Watch the video](#)





# Media

[Health Policy PhD](#) student Roma Dhamanaskar and **Julia Abelson** blogged about the need for public engagement during policy crises; Canada's approach compared to other countries, and future opportunities for Canada



[Read](#)

Moderna vaccines are better than Pfizer in protecting residents of long-term care homes from COVID-19 Omicron infections, research by **Andrew Costa**, co-lead of the of the [COVID in Long-Term Care study](#) and McMaster Professor of Medicine [Dawn Bowdish](#) found.



[Read more](#)



**Michel Grignon** provided insight for the online publication Medscape about an Angus Reid Institute analysis suggesting that Canadians have more trouble accessing healthcare than Americans.

[Read the article](#)

A summary of research led by **Jeremiah Hurley** as part of the [Future of Canada](#)

**Project** explains how Canada's future prosperity depends on broad-based investment across multiple types of capitals, which include **human capital** (people's health, skills, knowledge, abilities), **social capital** (infrastructure that supports organizational networks and social relationships), **natural capital** (the health and diversity of the natural world), and **digital capital** (institutions and technological infrastructure for a digital society).



[Read article](#)

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**Meredith Vanstone's** work helping doctors and patients work through complex health care decisions was profiled by McMaster's [Department of Family](#) medicine.



[Read more](#)

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## Post-Doctoral Fellows

**CHEPA** welcomed two new post-doctoral fellows:

- **Monica Molinaro** is a [Banting Postdoctoral Fellow](#) in McMaster's [Department of Family Medicine](#) under the supervision of **Meredith Vanstone**. Molinaro has a PhD in Health and Rehabilitation Sciences from Western University. Her postdoctoral research critically analyzes primary care providers' stories of moral distress in caring for patients experiencing health needs related to social inequities, and elucidates patients' narratives of experiencing social inequities and seeking primary care. Her research interests lie in using qualitative methodologies



to explore patient, health care provider, and caregiver experiences of providing and receiving care.

- **Shitong Xie** is a Postdoctoral Fellow in McMaster's [Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact \(HEI\)](#), under the supervision of **Feng Xie**. He has a PhD in health economics from Tianjin University, China, where he conducted a valuation study of the SF-6Dv2 quality of life evaluation instrument, and also contributed to evaluations and comparisons among utility elicitation approaches. Shitong is building on his past research assessing health-related quality of life and health utility measurement to include valuing the health of children and adolescents in Canada. He is also conducting systematic reviews of the epidemiologic, economic, and humanistic burden and the health utility values of cancers.



## Students

PhD candidates who successfully defended their theses recently included:

- **Amilcar Azamar-Alonso** on August 5. His thesis 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.*" His supervisor was **Jean-Éric Tarride**.
- **Kevin Kennedy**, defended PhD on August 17, in person, on the topic *Measuring and valuing glaucoma health states*. His supervisor was **Feng Xie**.



## CHEPA Seminars

**CHEPA** holds a regular [series of seminars](#) on the third Wednesday of each month in the academic year. These are presented by invited speakers on selected health research topics, and all are welcome to attend. In 2022/23 they are being held in person on McMaster's main campus in Room CRL-B119 (unless otherwise indicated), with an option to attend virtually. Scheduled upcoming seminars are:

- McMaster economics professor **Katherine Cuff**, the Canada Research Chair in Public Economic Theory, will present "*Tax Policy for Health Care in Canada*," on Wednesday, Oct. 19, 2022, at 12:30 pm.
- **Laura Schummers**, ScD, a reproductive and perinatal epidemiologist and post-doctoral Fellow at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of British Columbia, will present the 31<sup>st</sup> annual **Labelle Lecture** on Wednesday, November 9 at 3 pm. Her lecture, entitled "*Improving reproductive population health through health policy and outcomes research*," will be held at McMaster University's main campus in room MDCL 3020, and simultaneously streamed online.
- **Derek Manis**, a Postdoctoral Fellow at **CHEPA** & McMaster's **Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HEI)** and ICES, will present "*Models of congregate care for older adults: findings from the retirement home and assisted living sector*" on Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 12:30 pm.
- **Meredith Vanstone**, associate professor in McMaster's **Department of Family Medicine**, will speak about her research on pregnancy health decision-making during COVID on Wednesday January 18, 2023 at 12:30 pm.
- **Sandra Milicic**, Senior Analyst, Canadian Institute for Health Information, will present the results of the Commonwealth Fund project, (<https://www.commonwealthfund.org/international-surveys>) on Wednesday February 15, 2023, at 12:30 pm.
- **Gaëlle Simard-Duplain**, an assistant professor at Carleton University's Department of Economics, will present a joint CHEPA/HEAM (Health Economics at McMaster) seminar on Wednesday March 22 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in room KTH 334 (NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION). Seminar topic TBD.

For more information and to obtain a link to attend virtually, email [lramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:lramsay@mcmaster.ca)



An external review of **CHEPA** will be conducted in mid-November 2022 to help guide the centre going forward. We urge the participation of all **CHEPA** members, staff, students and colleagues.



## Research Participant Pool

**CHEPA** is supporting the creation of a Participant Pool to facilitate research studies. It uses an online participant management software called Sona Systems, administered and overseen by **CHEPA** member **Emmanuel Guindon**.

Researchers of all topics of study can use this system to recruit study participants, and anyone over age 16 can register to be a participant by clicking **HERE**.

For more information, please email [sona.chepa@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sona.chepa@mcmaster.ca)

[Read more](#)



## Publications

### Journal Articles

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**CHEPA**

CRL Building, 2nd Floor  
McMaster University  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
L8S 4K1

E: [ramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ramsay@mcmaster.ca)

W: [chepa.mcmaster.ca](http://chepa.mcmaster.ca)

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