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CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

Summer 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

John Lavis, Director of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), received a renewal of his position as Tier



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1 [Canada Research Chair in in Evidence-Support Systems.](#)

Tier 1 Chairs, which are held for seven years and renewable once, are for outstanding researchers who are considered world leaders in their fields. The chair is worth \$200,000 a year for seven years.

Christopher Longo has been promoted to Professor, Health Policy and Management, [DeGroote School of Business](#), as of July 1, 2022.



CHEPA Director **Jean-Éric Tarride** has been appointed a member of an expert panel on [Pull Incentives for High-Value Antimicrobials](#) by the [Canadian Council of Academies](#) (CCA).

The work seeks to examine economic incentives for encouraging market entry and sustained market availability of high-value antimicrobials in Canada.

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Feng Xie received the 2022 IHSPR-CAHSPR Article of The Year Award for [Economic analysis of mobile](#)

[integrated health care delivered by emergency medical services paramedic teams](#), published in *JAMA Network Open* in February 2021. The \$10,000 award recognizes an article's significant impact on health services and policy research, and for the extent to it showed a clear impact (or potential impact) on policy, practice, or health outcomes.



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Grants

COVID's impact on health decisions in pregnancy

Meredith Vanstone is Principal Investigator, with **Devon Greyson** of the University of British Columbia, on a new study looking at how COVID-19 affected health decisions made during pregnancy. The research proposal for [How do perceptions of COVID-19 risk influence health-decisions in pregnancy?](#) was ranked first in its



committee group by the Canadian Institutes for Health Research (CIHR).

Vanstone is also a co-investigator on two other studies that received funding from CIHR in the same competition: [*Impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the primary care of chronic conditions*](#) (Principal Investigators Michelle Howard and Dee Mangin) and [*Moral distress in critical care and family medicine during the COVID-19 pandemic*](#), co-led by Lawrence Grierson and Monica Molinaro, a Banting Postdoctoral research fellow who is supervised by Vanstone.

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Research

Industry-sponsored studies more likely to find new treatments cost-effective



[Research](#) led by [Feng Xie](#) shows that industry-funded studies are more likely to find new treatments to be cost effective than does independent research. The findings apply across a range of diseases, medical devices and treatments.

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Labelle Lectureship



The **Labelle Lectureship** Committee of McMaster University is seeking nominations for a promising junior health services researcher — a rising star in the field — to give the 2022-23 Labelle Lecture.

Please submit nominations to **Emmanuel Guindon**, at emmanuel.guindon@mcmaster.ca. The selection committee will begin reviewing nominations on July 6, 2022.

[More information](#)

Presentations



- **Ellen Amster** gave two invited presentations in April in the U.S.:
 - "*The Living and the Dead: Healing the Two Worlds through Islamic Bodies and Sufi Sainthood*," at the Center for Historical Analysis at Rutgers University on April 5, 2022, and
 - "*The Politics of Birth in Morocco: A History of Muslim Midwives, French Colonial Obstetrics, and Postcolonial Public Health*," at the Hillary Clinton Center for Women's Empowerment on April 21.
-

Elizabeth Alvarez attended the June 17-18 Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Conference in Quebec City, where she spoke about “*Evaluating a group-based primary care mindfulness program,*” and “*Feasibility and implementation of a year-long healthy lifestyles program: Final evaluation and 6-month follow-up.*”



John Lavis was among the speakers at a virtual event May 24 about using evidence to address health challenges, which was held alongside the 75th World Health Assembly.

[Watch the Recording](#)

Lavis also spoke at the [Nordic Conference on mental health and the early years](#), on June 27 in Reykjavik, Iceland about how to bridge the gap between evidence and policy.



Gillian Mulvale is leading a series of eight [CoPro2022](#) knowledge exchange events, whose aim is to advance a new era of equity-based co-design and coproduction of public services that is fully inclusive of equity-deserving groups. The series is sponsored by the [Social Sciences Research Council](#) (SSHRC), McMaster's [Co-Design VP Hub](#) and the [DeGroot School of Business](#).

The events are a combination of online and in-person activities. The online events seek to engage international audiences; the in-person instructional workshops are aimed at interested

community organizations, and an immersive symposium August 24 - 26 at the Gathering Place by the Grand River will culminate in a five-year research agenda. For more information email copro22@mcmaster.ca

Hsien Seow participated in several conferences related to palliative care including [The European Association for Palliative Care's](#) 12th annual research conference, held from May 18 – 20. He was also part of a virtual panel discuss at [Imagine "Ordinary Dying": A Frank Conversation](#), hosted by the Palliative Care Society of the Bow Valley on June 1.



As well, the popular [Waiting Room Revolution](#) podcast series, produced and hosted by Seow and **Dr. Samantha Winemaker**, a palliative care clinician and professor at McMaster, completed its fourth season on June 28. The acclaimed podcast is geared to patients and families facing serious illness.

[Watch the podcast](#)

Media

Research into anxiety in young children, which involved [Laura Anderson](#) and other McMaster co-investigators, was covered by CTV news and other media outlets.



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Andrew Costa, the Schlegel Research Chair in Clinical Epidemiology & Aging, whose research includes identifying prevention and improved management of COVID-19 in nursing home residents, wrote an article in advance of the June 2 Ontario provincial election for *The Conversation* entitled [More long-term care beds in Ontario won't help without well-paid, well-trained staff](#). The article was cited and/or reprinted by multiple media outlets, including papers in the TorStar and Metroland Media chains.



[Read article](#)

As well, findings by Costa and colleagues that older people who live in retirement residences have more than double the rate of hospital visits compared to those who live in long-term care residences was also highly covered by news outlets.

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Students

Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Doctoral Research Awards,

valued at \$105,000 for three years, were granted to several students supervised by CHEPA members, including:

- [Health Policy PhD](#) (HPPhD) candidate **Alexandra Cernat**, supervised by **Meredith Vanstone**, to support her study *Stakeholder perspectives and preferences for implementation of pharmacogenomic (PGx) testing in primary care in Ontario, Canada*.
- **Rebecca Correia**, a PhD candidate in Health Research Methodology, supervised by **Andrew Costa**, for *The Association between 'Care of the Elderly' Certificates of Added Competence among Family Physicians, Practice Patterns, and Health Services Outcomes in Primary Care Settings*.
- **Darly Dash**, also a PhD candidate in HRM supervised by Costa, for *Developing and measuring practice-based quality indicators of physicians in nursing homes*.

HPPhD candidate **Manisha Pahwa** was honoured as the McMaster Health Science Education TA of the Year, based on faculty nominations & student evaluations. Her research interests are policies related to the prevention of health outcomes associated with environmental and occupational exposures. She is supervised by **Meredith Vanstone**.

The [McMaster Health Forum](#) named [Mahnoor Malik](#), [Jaclyn Holdsworth](#) and [Miray Maher](#) as the first people to receive awards under its [Developing Skilled Future Leaders in Strengthening Health and Social Systems](#) project. Read more about the project [HERE](#).



Publications

Journal Articles

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