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# CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

*Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems*

**Spring 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.

## CHEPA Research



## Grants

CHEPA members are principal investigators on several research grants awarded recently. These include:



**Laura Anderson**

**Laura Anderson**, and Lawrence Mbuagbaw are co-Principal Investigators (PIs) leading a study entitled "*Motivational interviewing to promote healthy behaviours for obesity prevention in young adults: a pilot randomized controlled trial.*" The year-long project received a \$195,789 Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) / Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Proof of Concept Intervention Grant in Primary Prevention of Cancer (Action Grant).

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**Emmanuel Guindon** was awarded a \$100,000 one-year Catalyst Grant by CIHR for "*The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of population-level policies to reduce alcohol use: a systematic review.*" Colleagues are Principal Knowledge User Michelle Halligan, Director of Prevention at the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer, co-applicants **Michael Wilson** and **Jean-Éric Tarride**, and collaborator Evan Blecher of the World Bank.

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**Emmanuel Guindon**



**John Lavis**

The [COVID-19 Evidence Network to Support Decision-Making](#) (COVID-END), led by [John Lavis](#), received \$1.1M from CIHR to [extend its activities](#) for another year. COVID-END is a time-limited network involving more than 50 of the world's leading evidence-synthesis, technology-assessment and guideline-development groups to support those who are making decisions about managing COVID-19 find and use the best available evidence (i.e., to support the evidence-demand side of the pandemic response).

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[Meredith Vanstone](#) is co-PI with Deborah Cook on a research study entitled "*Creating a novel critical care outcome: Patient important GI bleeding*," which received \$52,000 from the Hamilton Academic Health Sciences Organization (HAHSO).

**Meredith Vanstone**

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**Mike Wilson**

**Mike Wilson**, with co-PI **John Lavis**, leads “*Building a coordinated evidence-support system in Canada to inform policymaking about health and social systems*,” which received a \$225,000 CIHR Project Grant and earned Wilson the inaugural **Robyn Tamblyn Mid-Career HSPR Innovator Award**.

**[Read more](#)**

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CHEPA members are also co-investigators on a number of new research projects, including:



## **Andrew Costa**

**Andrew Costa** and CHEPA director **Jean-Éric Tarride** are among a large group of researchers involved in a CIHR-funded study seeking to find ways to prevent fractures among residents of long-term care facilities. The project, entitled "*The PREVENT trial: a pragmatic cluster randomized controlled trial of a multicomponent fracture prevention model for long-term care,*" received \$570,000 and runs until 2024.

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**Tarride** and **Vanstone** are also co-investigators on the study "*Describing low benefit burdensome interventions in patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and heart failure at the end of life: Trajectories, correlates and costs.*" The project, led by Nominated PI Michelle Howard and PI Dee Mangin, received a 360,000 CIHR Project Grant and runs until 2024.

Tarride is also among a large group of researchers who are "*Examining the Impacts of the COVID\_19 Pandemic Response on Health and Functioning of Canadian Children and Youth,*" led by PIs Katholiki and Stelios Georgiades. The study, which received \$3.1 million from CIHR, runs until 2026.

Additionally, Tarride is a co-investigator on a study called "*Getting Fit for Hip or Knee Replacement: The Fit Joints Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial of a Multimodal Intervention in Frail Patients with Osteoarthritis.*" It received \$704,564 from CIHR and runs until 2025.



**Jean-Éric Tarride**

**Vanstone** is also one of several McMaster co-investigators participating in the study *"The South Asian Birth Cohort during the COVID-19 Pandemic: understanding the impact on children and families,"* which received \$150,000 from CIHR.

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## Awards and Honours



**Mike Wilson**

**Mike Wilson** is the recipient of CIHR's inaugural [Robyn Tamblyn Mid-Career HSPR Innovator Award](#), which recognizes and supports excellence of research and innovation in health services and policy research (HSPR) of Canadian mid-career investigators.

The new annual award is given to the highest ranked mid-career investigator in the CIHR's Project Grant competition. Wilson achieved this distinction in 2021 as the

nominated PI of the research project "[Building a coordinated evidence-support system in Canada to inform policymaking about health and social systems.](#)"



## Media

CHEPA members were interviewed by a number of media outlets on topics ranging from COVID-19 booster shots and vaccine hesitancy to Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD) and palliative care:

- **Andrew Costa** was interviewed by CBC Radio's *The World at Six* on March 29, 2022 for a news story about fourth booster shots of COVID vaccines being authorized in the U.S. for people over age 50. Costa is a lead scientist on McMaster's [COVID in long-term care study](#). Costa was also quoted in a February 23, 2022 *Dundas Star* article headlined "*OUR CHANGED WORLD: How the COVID-19 pandemic may change seniors housing*", saying the challenges faced by small retirement home operators, including staffing and occupancy, were worsened by COVID-19.
- **John Lavis** and Julia Belluz, both members of the [Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges](#), co-wrote a guest essay for the Feb 8, 2022 issue of the *New York Times* entitled "[Getting rid of Joe Rogan won't solve the health misinformation problem.](#)" Lavis also wrote an article for the Feb 6 edition of *The Conversation*, entitled "[5 ways to tackle ignorance about evidence during and after the COVID-19 pandemic](#)".
- A [research paper](#) on vaccine hesitancy by **Christopher Longo** and PhD candidates Ahmed von Schlegell and Tuhin Maity was cited in articles by the *Hamilton Spectator* and the *Toronto Star* on Feb 28, 2022, by Hamilton Radio on March 1, and in the article "[Evaluating The Risk: Looking At Vaccine Risk Tolerance Through The Lens Of Commonly Used Medications](#)," on the [DeGroot School of Business](#) website.

- **Hsien Seow** and Samantha Winemaker co-wrote an Op Ed piece entitled “[MAID and Palliative Care](#)”, published in *The Hamilton Spectator* and other TorStar newspapers.



## Webinar

The [Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative](#) held a webinar on February 3, 2022 to introduce Ontario Health Teams (OHT) to the Collaborative’s new [Engage with Impact Toolkit](#), which supports the evaluation of patient, family and caregiver engagement within OHTs.

[Watch the Recording](#)



## Reports

### Global Commission on Evidence



**John Lavis**

[Read the report](#)

**John Lavis**, Director of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), is co-lead of the secretariat of the [Global Commission on Evidence to Address Societal Challenges](#). COVID-19 triggered a once-in-a-generation interest in research evidence among governments, businesses and non-governmental organizations, many types of professionals, and citizens. The commission released a **report** containing 24 recommendations [calling for decisive action by multiple stakeholders to ensure evidence is consistently used to address societal challenges](#).

[Read an article](#)





## COVID-19 Policies Working Group

The [COVID-19 Policies and Epidemiology International Working Group](#) led by [Elizabeth Alvarez](#) has added in-depth case reports on Pakistan, Brazil, Iran and New Zealand's COVID-19 policy responses during the first wave of the pandemic.

**Elizabeth Alvarez**



## Top cited article

A publication by [Gillian Mulvale](#) entitled "[Finding harmony within dissonance: Engaging patients, family/caregivers and service providers in research to fundamentally restructure relationships through integrative dynamics](#)," was a top-cited article in the journal *Health Expectations* in 2021. Co-authors were Jenn Green, Ashleigh Miatello, Anne E. Cassidy and Terry Martens.

## Journal Articles

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