

CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

SUMMER 2021

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



Several CHEPA members are involved with **[The Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats](#)**, which launched last fall to help Canada and the world better manage the human and economic devastation of COVID-19 and avert future pandemics. McMaster researchers across diverse fields of expertise were awarded more than \$20 million in COVID-19 Rapid Research funding and are involved in more

than 100 COVID-19 related research projects. **John Lavis** is a director of GlobalNexus, while **Andrew Costa**, with **Arthur Sweetman**, oversee the Long-term Care Impact Area, and **Michael Wilson** tracks evidence related to Managing COVID-19 Outbreaks and Supporting Long-term Care Renewal. **Jean-Éric Tarride** is part of the Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) task force as it relates to antibiotic access and barriers to AMR mitigation.

[Read more](#)

Grants

CHEPA members received two significant catalyst funding grants through the **Future of Canada Project**, which is supported by a \$5-million gift from McMaster Chancellor Emeritus L.R. “Red” Wilson, and McMaster University:

- **Julia Abelson** leads an interdisciplinary team of McMaster scholars, students and research groups awarded funds for an initiative entitled “*Strengthening health policy in Canada through leadership in public engagement*”. The **Public Engagement in Health Policy** project establishes a platform for interdisciplinary scholarship, education and leadership to support critical examination of past and current approaches to engaging citizens and communities in Canadian health policy, with a view towards developing modernized approaches that meet current needs and realities. Abelson’s interdisciplinary team, which spans four McMaster faculties, includes CHEPA members **Katherine Boothe**, **Gillian Mulvale** and **Mike Wilson**.

[Learn more](#)



- **Jeremiah Hurley** leads “*Canadian capitals hub: Public and social investment for a flourishing Canada,*” which draws together interdisciplinary teams of McMaster scholars, students and research groups to undertake research and engagement to support policy development by deepening understanding of Canada’s various capitals: people’s health, knowledge, and abilities (human capital); infrastructure supporting social relationships and organizational networks (social capital); the health and diversity of the natural world (natural capital); and digital capital. The initiative includes CHEPA members **David Feeny**, **Michel Grignon**, **Emmanuel Guindon**, **Arthur Sweetman**, and **Jean-Éric Tarride** and others from across the university.

[Learn more](#)



Two CHEPA members lead projects that received Social Sciences and Humanities Research (SSHRC) Insight grants:



- **Ellen Amster** received \$94,000 for *“The Other is Me: Transvestism, Hybridity and Cosmopolitan Identities in Colonial and Postcolonial North Africa.”* This project, rooted in Amster’s Humanities research, takes a multidisciplinary approach to the first study of drag and transvestism in colonial history. She notes that colonialism is unfinished business in Canada, and the research resonates given current extremist nationalisms and race politics.



- **Katherine Boothe** is co-Principal Investigator on *“Evidence and legitimacy in policymaking: lessons from crisis,”* which was granted \$88,000. Collaborators are **Julia Abelson** and **Elizabeth Alvarez**.

As part of a **McMaster Autism Research Team** (MacART) collaboration with the **Empowered Kids Ontario** (EKO), **Jean-Éric Tarride** has joined the provincial advisory committee evaluating the provision of virtual care services and foundational services offered to children across Ontario.

Tarride is also a member of the provincial committee evaluating Ontario's virtual urgent care pilot program implemented in 16 sites across Ontario, including [St Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton](#).

[More about the Virtual Urgent Care program](#)



Appointments



[Learn more](#)

Gillian Mulvale has been appointed Associate Dean, Graduate Studies and Research, at McMaster's [DeGroot School of Business](#).



[Learn more](#)

Lisa Schwartz was named Associate Chair, Faculty Affairs and Equity, Diversity and Inclusion, of McMaster's [Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence & Impact \(HEI\)](#).



Nominate a 'rising star' to give the 30th anniversary Labelle Lecture

Center for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Seeking nominations to present the 30th annual
Labelle Lecture

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 2021-22 Labelle Lecture — its 30th anniversary. Nominations close August 20, 2021. More details at: <https://cheqa.mcmaster.ca/news-events/labelle-lectureship>

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BRIGHTER WORLD

The Labelle Lectureship Committee is seeking nominations for a promising junior health services researcher — a rising star in the field who can be from any country — to give the 2021-22 **Labelle Lecture** — its 30th anniversary. The deadline for nominations is August 20, 2021.

[Learn more](#)



Events

Discussion on long-term care homes



On April 15, **Andrew Costa**, McMaster professor of medicine Dawn Bowdish, and Globe and Mail health columnist André Picard participated in a virtual MacTalks discussion on long-term care homes and the pandemic.

[More, and to view video](#)



The Waiting Room Revolution



[The Waiting Room Revolution](#), co-hosted by **Hsien Seow**, is a health care podcast about facing serious illness. It will continue until mid-July, take a short summer break, and return in September with weekly episodes. It is rated in the top 2.5% of global podcasts and has reached 15,000 listeners since launching in March 2021.

[Listen to The Waiting Room Revolution](#)

On July 27, Seow will lead a webinar entitled “*The View on Wellness Part Three: The Waiting Room Revolution – Unlocking the Secrets to a Better Illness.*” He will share insights for anyone living with chronic disease or a frightening new diagnosis.

[Info and registration](#)



In The News

- Research led by **Andrew Costa** that found the size, location and ownership of retirement homes are among the risk factors for COVID outbreaks received considerable media coverage in newspapers, radio and television. - The findings are explained in an article [HERE](#).
- Read the CMAJ research paper [HERE](#).
- **Lisa Schwartz** co-authored a *Healthy Debate* article: "[Public conversation on the ethics of intensive care triage during pandemic is overdue.](#)"
- A study co-authored by **Jonathan Zhang** found prescription treatments for opioid addiction fell even as overdose deaths rose during the pandemic. News articles about the research were published by [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#) and [U.S. News and World Report](#).

Sharing knowledge

On May 19, **John Lavis**, Director of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), and other members of COVID-END shared insights with approximately 60 attendees from various

government departments on how to find the 'best evidence' about COVID-19 as part of a virtual knowledge mobilization meeting hosted by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

[learn more](#)



Christopher Longo led a panel at the Canadian Centre for Cancer Control Annual meeting on May 18th about financial costs to patients. It was entitled "*The missing piece to cost impacts: Financial burden faced by people living with cancer in Canada.*"



Arthur Sweetman gave the keynote address at the annual Canadian Health Economics Study Group meetings entitled "*Long-term Care: An Introduction to the Economic Issues.*"



Many CHEPA members and their students presented research at the [Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research \(CAHSPR\)](#) conference, held virtually May 19-21. The presentations included:

- **Belal A**, Hopkins, SE, **Alvarez E**. *"Physical distancing policies and implications on the epidemiology of COVID-19: An international perspective."* [Poster presentation].
- Biondo P, Sinnarajah A... **Longo C**, Sharon Watanabe S, Simon J. *"Characterizing the financial burden of advanced cancer: interim analysis of financial effects data from people living with advanced colorectal cancer."*
- **Manis D**, **Rahim A**, Poss J, Bronskill S, **Tarride J-É**, **Abelson J**, **Costa A**, Bielska I. *"Examining the association between a dementia care program in retirement homes and transitions to a long-term care home in Ontario, Canada: A population-based cohort study."*
- **Manis D**, **Rahim A**, Poss J W, Bielska I, Bronskill A, **Tarride J-É**, **Abelson J**, **Costa AP**. *Investigating the characteristics of retirement homes associated with the provision of a dementia care program in Ontario, Canada: A population-based cross-sectional study* [On-Demand oral presentation].
- **Miregwa BN**, Holbrook A, Law M, **Lavis J**, Thabane L, Dolovich L, **Wilson M**. *"The impact of OHIP+ universal pharmacare on prescription drug use and costs among children and youth under 25 years in Ontario: a time series analysis."*

- **Seow H**, et al. "Development and validation of a cancer model to predict risk of poor performance status and severe symptoms over time: The PROVIEW+ tool."
- **Xie F**, et al. "Mobile integrated healthcare delivered by emergency medical services: An economic analysis of real-world data."



Students

Daniel Tingskou, a PhD candidate in economics supervised by **Michel Grignon**, won the 2021 the [Jack Boan Student Essay Competition](#), sponsored by the [Justice Emmett Hall Foundation](#), with his Doctoral Essay "Income Splitting, Interprovincial Physician Migration in Canada, and Health Care Accessibility".

Several students successfully defended their PhD dissertations recently, including:

- **Chungah Kim**, supervised by Jim Dunn, who defended "Socioeconomic Inequality of Suicide and Roles of Social Policy."
- **Gautham Krishnaraj**, supervised by **Lisa Schwartz**, who defended "Supporting the Development of Ethics Tools for Innovation in Humanitarian Contexts."



Publications

Reports

- [McMaster Health Forum Biennial Report](#)

Journal Publications

- **Amster E.** [George Floyd and the 'American Spring:' Secular Martyrs, Democratic Uprisings, and the Radical Religion of Trumpist Fascism.](#) *Journal of Interreligious Studies*. 2021. Vol 32(2021): 63-75.
- Ball G, **Levine M**, Thabane L, **Tarride JÉ.** [Onwards and upwards: A systematic survey of economic evaluation methods in oncology.](#) *Pharmacoeconomics Open*. 2021. April 24.

- Brown CRL, Webber C, **Seow HY**, et al. [Impact of physician-based palliative care delivery models on health care utilization outcomes: A population-based retrospective cohort study](#). *Palliative Medicine*. 2021. April 22. 2692163211009440.
- Chu A, Barbera L, Sutradhar R, Oz UE, O'Leary E, **Seow H**. [Association between end-of-life cancer care and immigrant status: a retrospective cohort study in Ontario, Canada](#). *BMJ Open*. 2021. June 1;11(6):e042978.
- **Costa AP, Manis DR**, Jones A, Stall NM, Brown KA, et al. [Risk factors for outbreaks of SARS-CoV-2 infection at retirement homes in Ontario, Canada: a population-level cohort study](#). *Canadian Medical Association Journal*. 2021. May 10;193(19):E672-E680.
- Currie JM, Schnell MK, Schwandt H, **Zhang J**. [Prescribing of Opioid Analgesics and Buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#). *JAMA Network Open*. 2021. 4(4):e216147.
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- Dash D, Schumacher C, Jones A, **Costa AP**. [Lessons learned implementing and managing the DIVERT-CARE trial: practice recommendations for a community-based chronic disease self-management model](#). *BMC Geriatrics*. 2021. May 11;21(1):303.
- De Rubeis V, Lee J, Anwer MS, ... **Alvarez E, Apatu E, Anderson LN**. [Impact of disasters, including pandemics, on cardiometabolic outcomes across the life-course: a systematic review](#). *BMJ Open*. 2021.11: e047152.
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- Hamadi HY, Zakari NMA, Tafili A, **Apatu E**, Spaulding A. [A cross-sectional study of trauma certification and hospital referral region diversity: A system theory approach](#). *Injury*. 2021. March. 52(3):460-466.
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- Oberoi DV, **Longo CJ**, et al. [Cost-utility of group versus individual acupuncture for cancer-related pain using quality-adjusted life years in a noninferiority trial](#). *Journal of Alternative and Complementary Medicine*. 2021. April 27.

- Parackal A, Ramamoorthi K, **Tarride JÉ**. [Economic Evaluation of Palliative Care Interventions: A Review of the Evolution of Methods From 2011 to 2019](#). *American Journal of Hospice and Palliative Medicine*. 2021. May 24:10499091211011138.
- Rowland P, Fancott C, **Abelson J**. [Metaphors of organizations in patient involvement programs: connections and contradictions](#). *Journal of Health Organization and Management*. 2021. March 31.
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