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CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

Winter 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



Why do pregnant women use cannabis?

Research led by [Meredith Vanstone](#) investigating why pregnant and breastfeeding women use cannabis suggests they do so to manage pregnancy-related symptoms and

pre-existing conditions, including nausea and vomiting, mental health and insomnia. The study results were published in the [Canadian Medical Association Journal](#).

[Read more](#)



Fourth jab will protect the elderly

A fourth booster of COVID-19 vaccine will soon be offered to long-term care, retirement home and assisted living residents in Ontario, an action informed by research conducted by McMaster's [COVID in Long-term Care Study](#). [Andrew Costa](#) is a lead scientist on the study.

The research shows a fourth dose, given three months after the third jab, provides better protection from COVID-19's Omicron wave to vulnerable elderly people.

The study, in partnership with Schlegel Villages, St. Joseph's Health System, and Health Sciences North Research Institute, involves more than 1,000 residents, staff, and visitors of long-term care homes in Ontario.

The work is part of [Canada's Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats](#), an international network based at McMaster, with scientists, clinicians, engineers, social scientists and other experts working collaboratively to prevent future pandemics and mitigate global health threats.

[Read the recommendations](#)



Grants



Laura Anderson leads a group of researchers who will seek to identify cancer risk factors stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures imposed to contain the spread of the virus, such as social distancing.

The two-year study, entitled "*Identifying changes in cancer risk factors during the COVID-19 pandemic and predicting population risk,*" is funded by a CIHR - ICR / Cancer Research Society Partnership - Research Grant.

Feng Xie is part of an international team of researchers which secured more than \$1M in funding from the European Joint Program for Rare Diseases for a project titled "Patient-reported, health economic, and psychosocial outcomes in Friedreich Ataxia (PROFA)," a rare inherited disease that causes progressive nervous system damage and movement problems.

[Learn more](#)



Social Impact Investing Roadmap

With limited public dollars available to support community-based social and environmental programs, community organizations are seeking new and innovative ways to engage with private investors. Research led by [Jeremiah Hurley](#), Dean of McMaster's Faculty of Social Sciences, and involving additional CHEPA members [Arthur Sweetman](#), [David Feeny](#), [Emmanuel Guindon](#), and [Jean-Éric Tarride](#), is summarized in a new publication entitled "[A Measurement and Evaluation Roadmap to Support Social Impact Investment in Canada](#)." The Roadmap identifies critical components of evaluation and outcome measurement; key issues associated with each component, and options to consider in the context of an outcomes-based payment model such as the [Community Foundations of Canada's](#) Outcomes Canada model.

[Learn more](#)



Podcasts



[Katherine Boothe](#) spoke about why Canada doesn't have universal pharmacare in a podcast for the [McGill Institute for the Study of Canada](#) on October 5, 2021.

[Listen](#)

[John Lavis](#), Director of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), shared his most important lessons learned on how to bridge the gap between evidence and policy in a **WHO Global Evidence-to-Policy (E2P) Summit Podcast** on November 10, 2021.

[Listen](#)





[The Waiting Room Revolution](#), co-hosted by [Hsien Seow](#) and Samantha Winemaker, aired its [30th episode](#) on December 30, 2021. The popular health care podcast is geared to empowering patients, caregivers and families facing serious illness.

[Listen](#)



CHEPA seminars

CHEPA holds a regular series of seminars by invited speakers on selected health research topics. These take place at 12:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month during the academic year.

The first seminar of 2022 takes place on Wednesday, January 17, when Ilja Ormel, a Post- Doctoral Fellow supervised by [Lisa Schwartz](#), will discuss her experience using Experience-Based Co-Design (EBCD) in a hygiene promotion response to a cholera outbreak in Haiti. This seminar will be held virtually.

For more information, or to obtain a link to join, please email ramsay@mcmaster.ca

For a list of future seminars, click [here](#).



Post-Doctoral Fellows

Post-Doctoral Fellows supervised by CHEPA members who began their fellowships this fall include:

- **Ilja Ormel**, a post-doctoral fellow in McMaster's Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence and Impact (HEI), is working with the [Humanitarian Health Ethics](#) research group under the supervision of [Lisa Schwartz](#). In her PhD, Ilja piloted a participatory research approach in the humanitarian response to the cholera outbreak in Haiti. Her post-doctoral fellowship is focused on participatory practices in clinical COVID-19 vaccine trials, as well as conducting an evaluation of an online humanitarian ethics toolkit.
- **Chi-Ling Joanna Sinn**, supervised by [Andrew Costa](#), is doing a [McMaster Institute for Research on Aging](#) (MIRA) Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Aging Research for "Developing a real-world framework for remote patient monitoring technologies that promote optimal aging." She holds a PhD in Aging, Health, and Well-Being from the University of Waterloo and recently joined Hamilton's [St. Joseph's Centre for Integrated Care](#) as a [Research Fellow and Evaluation Coach](#).

Publications

Reports

Hurley J, Milinkovic D, Feeny D, Guindon GE, Sweetman A, Tarride JÉ. [A Measurement and Evaluation Roadmap to Support Social Impact Investment in Canada](#). 2021. Nov. 26.

Journal Publications

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[Indigenous ways of knowing into a systematic review and meta-synthesis of qualitative research](#). *Global Public Health*. 2021. November 28.

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