

# CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Winter 2020



## In this issue

- Honours for CHEPA members
- Vanstone-led research will help inform decisions about cannabis use in pregnancy
- Five PhD graduates convocate
- CHEPA presentations and publications

**Photo:** Jennifer Walker, Associate Professor, School of Rural and Northern Health at Laurentian University and Tier II Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Health, is shown presenting the 2019 Labelle Lecture on Nov. 14. To watch a video of her lecture, entitled *Indigenous Data and Research*, [click here](#).

## E-News

CHEPA researchers have been helping to shape Canada's health system since 1988. Located at McMaster University, CHEPA ([chepa.org](http://chepa.org)) is a multidisciplinary centre providing timely and relevant evidence to inform policy-making at all levels of the health-care system.

CHEPA news is an electronic newsletter available by email or on the CHEPA website ([chepa.org](http://chepa.org)). If you would like to subscribe, send an email to [ramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ramsay@mcmaster.ca). If your email address is changing, please let us know.

## Honours

**Arthur Sweetman** was a recipient of the 2019 President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision, given to an educator who has demonstrated excellent supervisory and mentoring skills for graduate students. Sweetman is a Professor in the Department of Economics and is the

## New Publications

### Journal Articles

Alvarez E, Qutob M, Mbuagbaw L, Lavis J, Lokker C, Walli-Attai M, Samaan Z, Sutton A, Singh J, Feeny D, Fortuna J. *Feasibility and implementation of a healthy lifestyles program in a community setting in Ontario, Canada: protocol for a pragmatic mixed methods pilot study*. *BMJ Open*. 2019. Oct. 6;9(10):e031298.

Anderson LN, Ball GDC. *Diet, physical activity, and behavioural*

Ontario Research Chair in Health Human Resources.

As well, **Terry Martens** received the Graduate Student Award for Contributions by Non-Academic Staff. She is the administrative assistant to several CHEPA faculty members and to the Health Policy PhD program.

**Meredith Vanstone** is a recipient of the 2020 Canadian Association of Medical Educators (AME/ACÉM) Certificate of Merit Award, which recognizes commitment to medical education. It will be presented at the association's annual meeting in April.

**Feng Xie** was honoured for the **Best General Podium Research Presentation**, entitled "*Discrepancy in health state utility values between cost-utility analysis and referenced original health utility studies in cardiovascular disease: a registry-based analysis*," at the International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Europe Congress, held Nov. 2-Nov. 6 2019, in Copenhagen.

## Grants

**Meredith Vanstone** is the Principal Investigator on a new study entitled "*Encouraging informed decisions about cannabis use in pregnancy: Educational needs of women and prenatal care providers*." The \$243,000 research initiative is being funded by the **Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR)**, with matched funds from **McMaster's Department of Family Medicine** and the **McMaster Education Research, Innovation and Theory (MERIT)** Program.

The **McMaster Health Forum**, headed by **John Lavis**, is part of the **Partners for Evidence-driven Rapid Learning in Social Systems (PERLSS)** network, which has members from 14 countries and is supported by the **Hewlett Foundation** and Canada's **International Development Research Centre**. PERLSS marked its one-year anniversary with a meeting in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from Dec. 16-17 to review achievements and strategize for the future. **The Hewlett Foundation** is providing an **additional research grant of US \$300,000** for the foundation, with a portion of the funding used for convening the PERLSS one-year anniversary meeting and the remainder allocated to the existing Opportunity Fund.

## CHEPA retreat

More than 20 CHEPA members attended a one-day retreat on Oct. 30, 2019, to develop a sustainable roadmap for the 33-year old Centre's future. The retreat's key outcomes included revising CHEPA's focus to emphasize health and social systems research and identifying strategies to foster collaboration and funding

overweight or obesity in children and adolescents. *Paediatric Child Health*. 2019. Sept;24(6):377-382.

**Barr NG, Randall GE.** Protection of digital health information: Examining guidance from the physician regulatory colleges in Canada. *Health Information Management Journal*. 2019. Sept. 11: 1833358319873968.

Baskwill A, **Vanstone M**, Harnish D, Dore K. "I am a healthcare practitioner": A qualitative exploration of massage therapists' professional identity. *Journal of complementary & integrative medicine*. 2019.10.1515/jcim-2019-0067.

**Boothe K.**"Getting to the Table": Changing Ideas about Public and Patient Involvement in Canadian Drug Assessment. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*. 2019. 44(4):631-663.

Bozzo A, **Seow H**, Pond G, Ghert M. Changes in soft-tissue sarcoma treatment patterns over time: A population-based study in a country with universal and centralized healthcare. *Sarcoma*. 2019. Sept. 16;2019:8409406.

**Cavanagh A.** "When i say gender..." *Medical Education*. 2019. Dec. 53(12):1176-1177.

Darling E, Grenier L, Nussey L, Murray-Davis B, Hutton E, **Vanstone M.** Access to midwifery care for people of low socio-economic status: a qualitative descriptive study. *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 2019. 416.

Driezen P, **Guindon GE**, Hammond D, Thompson ME, Quah ACK, Fong GT. Contraband cigarette purchasing from First Nation reserves in Ontario and Quebec: Findings from the 2002-2014 ITC Canada Survey. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. Vol.75. January 2020.102612.

**Grignon M, Longo CJ, Marchildon GP, Officer S.** The 2018 decision to establish an Advisory Council on adding pharmaceuticals to universal

opportunities.

Going forward, the Centre will boost its internal and external collaborative efforts to increase research and funding opportunities, and review and revise its branding and marketing efforts to increase the Centre's visibility. Additional meetings and consultations will be held this winter and spring with CHEPA members and external stakeholders to further refine efforts to enhance CHEPA's impact.

## Presentations

**David Feeny** travelled to Tokyo, Japan to present "Quality of Life/Patient Reported Outcomes Research and the Development of the Health Utilities Index" on Dec.14 at the 7th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Quality of Life and Patient-Reported Outcomes Research.

As part of their Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) and McConnell Foundation [grant](#), **Jeremiah Hurley**, Dean of McMaster's Faculty of Social Sciences and a Professor of Economics, and CHEPA Director **Jean-Éric Tarride**, the McMaster Chair for Health Technology Management, presented the study findings regarding the assets created by investments in health and social programs, their treatment under current public-sector accounting standards, and their analysis of the social returns to investment in four health or social programs. They spoke about their research at a CHEPA seminar on Sept.18 and then travelled to Ottawa on Oct.16 to share their findings with policy-makers and discuss potential approaches to deploying health economic evidence as part of the government budgeting process.

**Hsien Seow** shared his "[Top 12 Lessons Learned with the Palliative Care Community of Practice](#)" with officials at Health Quality Ontario and the Ontario Palliative Care Network (OPCN) on Dec. 4.

**Meredith Vanstone** travelled to California to give a guest lecture at Stanford Medical Center on Nov. 25 on "Introduction to Qualitative Approaches to Medical Education Research Methods," and spoke the next day at the University of California, San Francisco's Department of Anesthesia Medical Education rounds about "Mistreatment, abuse, unprofessionalism & erosive behaviours in the clinical workplace". As well, she gave a presentation entitled "Making sense of negative interpersonal interactions in the clinical learning environment: What counts as mistreatment and what must we simply tolerate?" at Western University's Centre for Education Research and Innovation, Schulich School of

*Policy*. 2019. Nov 4. pii: S0168-8510(19)30251-9.

**Guindon GE**, Paraje GR, Chaloupka FJ. [Could tobacco control policies be a smokescreen? - Reply](#). *JAMA Pediatrics*. 2019. Nov. 25.

**Guo EX**, **Sweetman A**, **Guindon GE**. [Socioeconomic differences in prescription drug supplemental coverage in Canada: a repeated cross-sectional study](#). *Health Policy*. 2019. doi:10.1016/j.healthpol.2019.12.007

**Hamadi H**, **Tafili A**, **Apatu E**, **Park S**, **Spaulding A**. [Medicare' Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program and Community Diversity in the United States: The Need to Account for Racial and Ethnic Segregation](#). *Hospital Topics*. 2019. Aug 29:1-8.

**Hyett S**, **Gabel C**, **Marjerri S**, **Schwartz L**. [Deficit-based Indigenous health research the stereotyping of Indigenous people](#). *Canadian Journal of Bioethics*. 2(2):102-109.

**Khalid AF**, **Lavis J**, **El-Jardali F**, **Vanstone M**. [The governmental health policy-development process for Syrian refugees: An embedded qualitative case study of Lebanon and Ontario](#). *Conflict and Health*. 2019. October 21.13 (48).

**Khalid AF**, **Lavis J**, **El-Jardali F**, **Vanstone M**. [Stakeholders' experiences with the Evidence Aid website to support 'real-time' use of research evidence to inform decision-making in crisis zones: A user testing study](#). *Health Research Policy and Systems*. 2019. 17:106.

**Kizaki K**, **Schwartz LJ**, **Ayeni OR**. [Evidence first, practice second in arthroscopic surgery: use of placebo surgery in randomised controlled trial](#). *BMJ Journal of Medical Ethics*. 2019. Nov. 2.

**Lau VI**, **Rochweg B**, **Xie F** et al. [Probiotics in hospitalized adult patients: a systematic review of economic evaluations](#). *Canadian Journal of Anesthesia/ Journal*

Medicine and Dentistry, on Dec. 3.

**Feng Xie** gave a plenary talk entitled “*The Strategic Importance of Measuring Patient-Reported Outcomes for China’s Drug Coverage Policy*” at the 2nd China Health Technology Assessment (HTA) Conference held in Beijing, China, Oct. 26-27.

## Media

**Katherine Boothe**, **Michel Grignon** and **Arthur Sweetman** were interviewed by the Hamilton Spectator about [why candidates avoided talking about health care](#) before the October federal election.

**Hsien Seow**’s research on [palliative care](#) and work to develop [community access to palliative care via interprofessional primary care teams’ intervention](#), (known by the acronym CAPACITI), was profiled by the McMaster Daily News on Nov. 21. He is also co-creator of [Faces of Caring](#), an online community for stories, advice and resources for those facing serious illness.

He was also quoted in a CTV News Northern Ontario article reporting on a [palliative care conference in Sault Ste. Marie](#).

**Meredith Vanstone** was interviewed by multiple media outlets about the expansion of the [“Three Wishes project”](#) on which she was a co-investigator. The initiative involves a researcher or patient’s clinician sensitively eliciting three wishes to best honour the dying person, and then finding a way to honour them. It started in Hamilton and has expanded to ICUs across North America.

Recent [Health Policy PhD](#) graduate **Ahmad Firas Khalid** drew from his dissertation research to talk to the Hamilton Spectator about why he feels [academic research needs to be more accessible](#).

## Graduate Students

Five Health Policy PhD graduates received their diplomas at the Faculty of Health Sciences Convocation on November 21. They were: **Heather Bullock** (supervised by [John Lavis](#)); **Young Jung** (supervised by [Chris Longo](#)), **Ahmad Firas Khalid** (supervised by [John Lavis](#)); **Jennifer Reddock** (supervised by [Michel Grignon](#)) and **Donya Razavi** (supervised by [Lydia Kapiriri](#)).

Khalid gave the [valedictory address](#) at the ceremony. He urged graduates to “remember your young fearless spirit, to always show up and allow yourself to be seen and heard by others.”

As well, HP PhD student **Ellie Yu**, who was supervised by **Jim Dunn**, successfully defended her dissertation on

Nov 12. pp 1-15.

**Leyenaar MS**, Strum RP, Batt AM, Sinha S, Nolan M, Agarwal G, Tavares W, **Costa AP**. [Examining consensus for a standardised patient assessment in community paramedicine home visits: a RAND/UCLA-modified Delphi Study](#). *BMJ Open*. 2019. Oct 7;9(10):e031956.

Mowbray F, Brousseau AA, Mercier E, Melady D, Émond M, **Costa AP**. [Examining the relationship between triage acuity and frailty to inform the care of older emergency department patients: Findings from a large Canadian multisite cohort study](#). *Canadian Journal of Emergency Medicine*. 2019. Nov 13:1-8.

Muratov S, Lee J, Holbrook A, Guertin JR, Mbuagbaw L, Paterson JM, Gomes T, Pequeno P, **Tarride JE**. [Incremental healthcare utilisation and costs among new senior high-cost users in Ontario, Canada: a retrospective matched cohort study](#). *BMJ Open*. 2019 Oct 28;9(10):e028637.

Murray-Davis B, Grenier L, Atkinson SA, Mottola MF, Wahoush O, Thabane L, Xie F, et al. [Experiences regarding nutrition and exercise among women during early postpartum: a qualitative grounded theory study](#). *BMC Pregnancy and Childbirth*. 2019. Oct 21;19(1):368.

Park S, Hamadi H, **Apatu E**, Spaulding AC. [Hospital partnerships in population health initiatives](#). *Population Health Management*. 2019. Sept 12.

Pitre LD, Linford G, Pond GR, McWhirter E, **Seow H**. [Is access to care associated with stage at presentation and survival for melanoma patients? Journal of Cutaneous Medicine and Surgery](#). 2019. Aug 28:1203475419870177.

Rae C, Shah N, De Pauw S, **Costa A**, Barr RD. [System performance indicators for adolescent and young adult cancer care and control: A scoping review](#). *Journal of*

Oct 2. She will convocate in the spring.

Fourth year HP PhD student **Ahmednur Ali**, who is also a [Wilson Leader](#), was chosen to represent Canada at the [Commonwealth Futures](#) event held Dec.1-3 at Cumberland Lodge, south of Windsor Castle in England. The 60 delegates selected from Commonwealth countries discussed “*Youth Perspectives’: Discussions feeding into the 2020 Commonwealth Youth Forum.*”

HP PhD candidate **Ahmed A. Belal**, who is licensed in Egypt as a physician, was a guest speaker at the Health Policy Night organized by "McMaster Medicine & You," where he described his experiences volunteering in field clinics during the Egypt Uprising.

Khalid also gave several oral presentations, including two at the Canadian Conference on Global Health, held in Ottawa Oct. 17-18. He gave the Plenary address on *Peace, Conflict, and Governance with a focus on the Syrian refugee crisis*, and also spoke about “*Supporting the use of research evidence in decision-making in crisis zones in low- and middle-income countries: A critical interpretive synthesis.*”

HP PhD candidate **Sophiya Garasia** received a Canadian Research Data Centre Network (CRDCN) Emerging Scholar award to support her thesis research using CRDCN data and research-related activities such as conferences.

*Oncology*. 2019. Nov 11.

**Randall GE**, Wakefield PA, **Barr NG**, van Dreumel LA. **Barriers to implementing patient-centred care: An exploration of guidance provided by Ontario's health regulatory colleges.** *Health Care Analysis*. 2019. Oct 19. doi: 10.1007/s10728-019-00386-6.

Stallings-Smith S, Hamadi HY, Peterson BN, **Apatu E**, Spaulding AC. **Smoke-free policies and 30-day readmission rates for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.** *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. 2019. Nov;57(5):621-628.

**Tripp L**, **Abelson J**. **Supporting women at average risk to make informed decisions about mammography when there is no “right” answer: a qualitative citizen deliberation study.** *CMAJ Open*. 2019. 7(2); E730-E737.

**Vanstone M**, Grierson L. **Medical student strategies for actively negotiating hierarchy in the clinical environment.** *Medical Education*. 2019. Oct;53(10):1013-1024.

**Vanstone M**, Monteiro S, Colvin E, et al. **Experienced physician descriptions of intuition in clinical reasoning: a typology.** *Diagnosis (Berl)*. 2019. Aug 27;6(3):259-268.

**Vanstone M**, Neville T, Clarke F, et al. **Compassionate end-of-life care: Mixed-methods multisite evaluation of the 3 Wishes Project.** *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2019. November 12.

Wallace LJ, **Kapiriri L**. **Priority setting for maternal, newborn and child health in Uganda: a qualitative study evaluating actual practice.** *BMC Health Services Research*. 2019. July 8. 19(1).465.



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