

# CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

Spring 2023

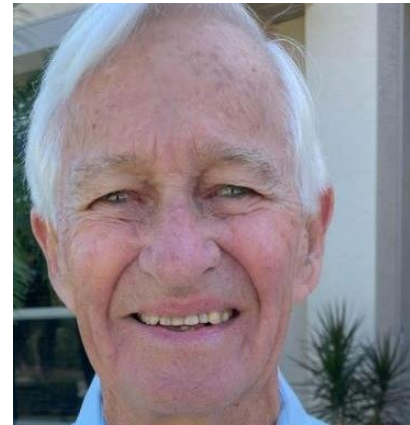
Founded in 1987, **CHEPA** is a world-renowned interdisciplinary health research centre at McMaster University that fosters excellence in policy-relevant research, education and service to inform fair and sustainable health and social systems.



## New CHEPA doctoral research scholarship looks to future



*"I hope the CHEPA Doctoral Research Scholarship will help to nurture successive generations of investigators."*



**David Feeny**

*David Feeny*

**George Torrance**

CHEPA founding members **David Feeny** and **George Torrance** have contributed a generous foundational leadership gift of \$50,000 toward the establishment of a new **CHEPA Doctoral Research Scholarship** to support PhD students, whose work and research drive innovative, policy-relevant solutions to the pressing issues facing health and social systems.

Feeny and Torrance have been central to the work of CHEPA over the past three decades and have contributed world-renowned and award-winning research, including the development of the **Health Utilities Index**. Together, they spearheaded this award as a demonstration of their commitment to the transformative research and ongoing success of CHEPA.

Augumented support for this scholarship is being sought so that it can be expanded to increase the level of student support, and, most importantly, fund critical research and academic activities that advance the Centre's mission and vision — furthering fair and sustainable health and social systems that benefit us all.

[More information](#)

[Donate to the scholarship fund](#)



## Featured Research



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## Physician human resources

Issues related to Canada's physician workforce – particularly family doctors – are the subject of several research grants and new publications by [Boris Kralj](#), [Arthur Sweetman](#), [Meredith Vanstone](#) and colleagues.

A new study entitled "[Pay Gaps in Canadian Medicine](#)," led by [Sweetman](#) and [Vanstone](#), will assess how gender, race/ethnicity, foreign training, and immigration status affect physician practice patterns and disparity in pay in Canadian medicine. The two-year study, funded by the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), also includes co-investigators [Danielle O'Toole](#) and **Ahmad von Schlegell**.

That study will build on findings they published previously with lead author [Kralj](#) documenting a clear gender gap in pay for family doctors in Canada. That paper can be accessed [HERE](#).

As well, the question of why Canadians have problems accessing physicians despite historic highs in physician numbers is addressed in a new analysis that [Sweetman](#), [Kralj](#) and **Rabiul Islam** published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal (CMAJ) That study notes that factoring in changing demographics and physician work trends can help with physician workforce planning. Read it [HERE](#).

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## Excess deaths in LTC homes

A report for the [Institute on Research on Public](#)

[Policy](#) (IRPP) by [Michel Grignon](#) and [Harnet Hothi](#) which assessed excess mortality in long-term care homes during the pandemic (measuring the change in differential mortality between 2018, a non-pandemic year, and the first wave of the pandemic in 2020) concluded that one third of the excess deaths were linked to the way institutions are organized and funded, such as crowding, and a lack of adequate staffing and prevention and control practices. The remainder are attributed to factors outside institutional control, including the higher COVID-related mortality risk among residents with certain underlying illnesses.

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**Michel Grignon**

[Read the report](#)



**Refugee camp in Haiti**

[Read the paper](#)

[More about the studies](#)

## Palliative care in humanitarian crises

The culmination of nearly six years of [research about experiences of palliative care and palliative care needs in humanitarian crises](#), conducted by a multi-disciplinary, multi-national team led by [Lisa Schwartz](#), is summarized in a new article. It presents a synthesis of findings from five qualitative [sub-studies](#) within a [research program on palliative care provision in humanitarian crises](#) that sought to better understand the ethical and practical dimensions of humanitarian organizations integrating palliative care into emergency responses. Researchers held 98 in-depth semi-structured interviews with people with experiences in natural disasters, refugee camps in Rwanda and Jordan, and in Ebola Treatment Centers in Guinea. PhD candidate [Rachel Yantzi](#) will continue to build on the research done so far as part of her doctoral studies.

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**Jean-Éric Tarride**

[Read an article](#)

## Crafting Long-COVID guidelines

[CHEPA](#) Director **Jean-Éric Tarride** is among of group of researchers led by McMaster clinician-researcher **Holger Schünemann** who will develop official guidelines to cover identification, prevention, assessment, management, follow-up and monitoring of people with [Post COVID-19 Condition](#) (PCC) - also known as Long-COVID.

Schünemann is receiving \$9 million in federal funding for the project, entitled [McMaster Development and Dissemination of Post COVID-19 Condition \(PCC\) Guidelines and Knowledge Translation Products](#), which is being developed by McMaster in collaboration with the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#) (PHAC) and involves a large national team of researchers with links to global health organizations.

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## Grants



**Lydia Kapiriri**

**Lydia Kapiriri** is involved in three recent grants, each funded for two years. She is Principal Investigator (PI) on the research project "*Interventions to address loneliness and social isolation among older black adults in Hamilton,*" funded over two years by a [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council](#) (SSHRC) Insight development grant, and is Co-PI on "*The experience of black Canadians living with dementia in the Greater Toronto and Hamilton area and their care partners in providing care.*"

She is also the Canadian PI on "*Economic and health impact and the resilience of last-mile populations in artisanal/small-scale mining and unplanned settlements in Sub-Saharan Africa before, during and after COVID: The case of Ghana and Uganda*," funded by the [International Development Research Centre \(IDRC\)](#).

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**Meredith Vanstone** is a co-investigator on two grants funded by [CIHR](#):

- [Exercise therapy for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: A clinical practice guideline.](#)
- *Beyond public payment, private delivery: Understanding how private financing and for-profit delivery operate within Canadian healthcare.*



**Meredith Vanstone**

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## FORUM funding renewed



**John Lavis**

Recognizing the valuable contributions made over the last 12 years by the [McMaster Health Forum](#), led by [John Lavis](#), the [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) has renewed the Forum's designation as a WHO Collaborating Centre for Evidence-Informed Policy for a fourth four-year term, to December 2026.

[Read more](#)

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# Presentations and Podcasts

[The Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative](#), led by **Julia Abelson**, is hosting a Spring webinar series featuring topics and trends in the public and patient engagement field that will be of interest to engagement practitioners, patient, family and caregiver partners, and researchers. Registration is now open for the first two webinars:



- [Supporting your engagement work through evaluation](#) – Wednesday April 5, 12:30 pm
- [Understanding patient partnership in Canadian health systems: Lessons from the Canadian Patient Partner Survey](#) – Wednesday April 19, 12:30 pm

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Season Six of the **Waiting Room Revolution** podcast began on March 28 and continues for 12 weeks. Scheduled guests include Theresa Brown of the New York Times; best-selling authors Sunita Puri and Ira Byock; the [Gritty Nurse](#) podcasters Aime Archibald-Varley and Sara Fung, and experts from the UK and Australia. The podcast, co-hosted by **Hsien Seow** and **Samantha Winemaker**, is rated in the top 2% of podcasts globally.



[Watch the podcasts](#)

# Awards



**Meredith Vanstone** received the McMaster President's Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Supervision, which recognizes those who have demonstrated excellent supervisory and mentoring skills for graduate students.

[Read more](#)



## Post-Doctoral Fellow

CHEPA welcomed a new post-doctoral fellow, **Rui Zheng**, supervised by **Mitchell Levine**.

She is doing a two year post doctoral fellowship in the development and application of health research methodologies to evaluate drug effects that are reported in the literature.

Rui holds a PhD from the Beijing University of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Her doctoral studies involved the identification of the clinical characteristics and mechanisms behind drug-herbal medicine interactions.

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## Post-doctoral opportunity

The Co-Design Hub team is recruiting for a post-doctoral fellow (PDF) to work with members of McMaster's Co-Design for Vulnerable Populations Hub research team from across the university, including the School of Rehabilitation Sciences, the faculties of Social Science and the Indigenous Studies program, Engineering, and others as it transitions to becoming the McMaster Centre for Equity-based Co-Creation (the MEC Centre). The PDF will play a key role in advancing equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) scholarship and EDI capacity building within McMaster University, led



by **Gillian Mulvale**. The application deadline is April 13, 2023.

[More information](#)



## New PhD graduate

**Vanessa De Rubeis** (right) successfully defended her PhD dissertation on January 13, 2023, in Health Research Methodology on the topic of *The Epidemiology of Obesity and Stress Across the Life Course*. Her supervisor was **Laura Anderson**, at left.

## Media

- A study led by **Laura Anderson** which found that adults over 50 living with obesity were more likely to experience stressors during the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic was profiled **HERE**.
- **Elizabeth Alvarez** published an Opinion piece in the Hamilton Spectator on January 25 entitled "[\*New pharmacist rules raises questions and concerns\*](#)"
- Several media outlets covered research by **CHEPA** members on the reasons for the shortage of family doctors. Read one of the stories **HERE**.



# Research Participant Pool

[CHEPA](#) is supporting the creation of a Participant Pool to facilitate research studies. It uses an online participant management software called Sona Systems, administered and overseen by [CHEPA](#) member **Emmanuel Guindon**.

Researchers of all topics of study can use this system to recruit study participants, and anyone over age 16 can register to be a participant by clicking [HERE](#).

For more information, please email [sona.cheпа@mcmaster.ca](mailto:sona.cheпа@mcmaster.ca)

[Read more](#)



# Publications

## Journal Articles

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2023. Jan 14.

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**CHEPA**

CRL Building, 2nd Floor  
McMaster University  
1280 Main Street West  
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada  
L8S 4K1

E: ramsay@mcmaster.ca  
W: chepa.mcmaster.ca

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