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CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems

Summer 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.



Feng Xie addresses the 2023 Junling Pharmacoeconomics Forum in Najing, China on June 21.

Grants

Meredith Vanstone is Co-Principal Investigator, with **Lawrence Grierson**, on a project entitled *Training for Transformation: Team Primary Care*, funded by the College of Family Physicians of Canada.

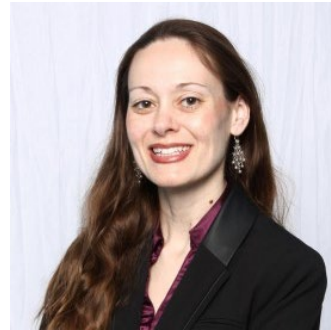


[Learn more](#)

Meredith Vanstone

She is also a co-investigator on two other research studies, both funded by the [Canadian Institutes of Health Research](#) (CIHR), entitled: *[Beyond public payment, private delivery: Understanding how private financing and for-profit delivery operate within Canadian healthcare](#)*, and *[Exercise therapy for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome/Myalgic Encephalomyelitis: A clinical practice guideline](#)*.

Elizabeth Alvarez received funds through the Robert Alan Kennedy Research Experience Award from McMaster's [Global Nexus School for Pandemic Prevention and Response](#) to support research entitled *COVID-19 Policies and Epidemiology Research Project*.



Elizabeth Alvarez

Emma Apatu is a co-investigator on the CIHR-funded study *[Enhancing Public Health System Governance through Leadership Competencies](#)*.



Emma Apatu

Andrew Costa is one of the researchers involved in *Integrated Services and Better Health Outcomes for People in Residential Care*, funded by the late philanthropists Margaret and Charles Juravinski.



[Read an article about the study](#)

Andrew Costa

Several CHEPA members are part of a multi-disciplinary team led by [Stelios Georgiades](#), Director of the [Offord Centre for Child Studies](#), that will help create a Learning Health System aimed at addressing and eliminating health care gaps for children with neurodevelopmental disorders, such as autism and ADHD. The project was facilitated by a gift of \$1.8 million from the [Azrieli Foundation](#) to McMaster University. The research team includes CHEPA Director [Jean-Éric Tarride](#) and members of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), who will provide support through the development and delivery of capacity-building workshops for professional leaders, and for system and organizational leaders involved in the pilot project. The Forum will also convene a stakeholder dialogue to help advance the conversation about national efforts to build a learning health system for neurodevelopmental disorders in Canada.

[Read an article about the project](#)



[Jean-Éric Tarride](#) is also part of a group led by [Michelle Kho](#), Canada Research Chair in Critical Care Rehabilitation and Knowledge Translation, which received a CIHR-IMHA Inclusive Research Excellence Prize – Team Science competition, for the CYCLE research program entitled *Teamwork excellence to inform an international randomized clinical trial of early rehabilitation using cycle ergometry in mechanically ventilated patients*.



Appointments

Michel Grignon was named Chair of McMaster's [Department of Health, Aging & Society](#).

Michel Grignon



Presentations and Webinars

There was a significant CHEPA/McMaster presence at the [Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research](#) (CAHSPR) annual conference, held May 29-31, 2023 at the Centre Mont Royal in Montreal.

- **Julia Abelson** and Mary Ann Levasseur, a patient partner working with the [Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative](#), presented *Understanding patient partnership in health systems: Lessons from the Canadian Patient Partner Survey*.
- **Elizabeth Alvarez** was involved in several presentations at the conference including:
 - *COVID-19 strategies*
 - *A novel integrated care, community-based health intervention to improve physical and community mobility in older adults: Feasibility and implementation of EMBOLDEN pilot study*
 - *Canadian Veterans' experiences of living with chronic pain and access to services*.

Several posters associated with CHEPA research were also presented at the conference

Alvarez also presented the *Pilot randomized controlled trial of EMBOLDEN: a novel co-designed community-based intervention to enhance mobility*

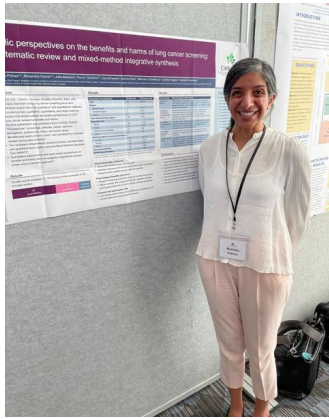
in older adults at the 23rd [International Conference on Integrated Care](#) held in Antwerp, Flanders, May 22-24, 2023, as well as research on *Public Health Burnout Results from a 2023 Canadian Public Health Workforce Survey* at the Annual General Meeting, Dalla Lana School of Public Health, in Toronto, on June 13, 2023.

Gillian Mulvale presented *Advancing Equity-based Approaches to Collaborative Mental Health and Substance Use Care*, at the [Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference](#) in Vancouver, June 9, while doctoral candidate **Ashleigh Miatello**, presented their research on *Lessons for Collaborative Care from Community-based Coproduction Models Aimed at Advancing Recovery and Wellbeing in the United Kingdom and Canada*.

Meredith Vanstone presented *Making decisions about cannabis use during pregnancy and lactation: Patient and clinician perspectives* at the Cannabis & Women's Health half-day conference, Michael G. DeGroot Centre for Medicinal Cannabis Research in Hamilton on May 16, 2023.

Vanstone also made a virtual presentation about *Cannabis use during pregnancy: Ethical implications relevant to clinical practice and policy* to the Cedars-Sinai Healthcare Ethics Rounds. Los Angeles, CA, USA. March 15, 2023.

Feng Xie gave a plenary presentation at the 2023 Junling Pharmacoeconomics Forum, held in Najing China June 20-21, where he described the legal and implementational challenges in modernizing Canadian health insurance systems. He also met with colleagues to discuss real world data used in health technology assessment in China.



**Health Policy PhD students
Manisha Pahwa (top) and Alex
Cernat with poster presentations
at CAHSPR.**



The **McMaster Co-Design VP Hub** hosted a series of webinars this spring on these topics:

- Equity-based Co-Creation Charter Workshop
- ExperiLab Seminar
- Visualizing Equity-Based Co-Creation
- Building Community Among Emerging Leaders in Equity-based Co-creation

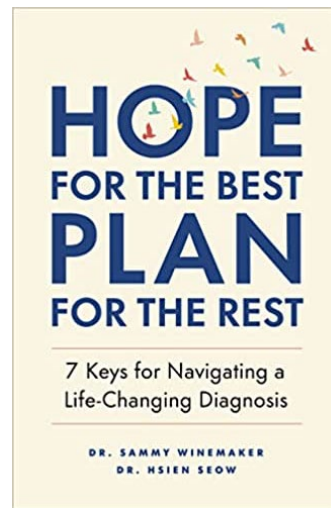
Pre-order new book 'Hope for the best, plan for the rest'

The popular **Waiting Room Revolution** podcast recently completed its sixth season. Co-hosts **Hsien Seow** and **Samantha Winemaker** compiled their insights about navigating palliative care and serious illness into a

new book entitled *Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest: 7 Keys for Navigating a Life-Changing Diagnosis*, which can be pre-ordered now. It will be available to purchase in September from major retailers.

[Learn how to pre-order the book](#)

[Watch the Waiting Room Revolution podcasts](#)



Students

Awards

Out of 1800 people in 72 countries, recent **Health Policy PhD** graduate **Sophiya Garasia** received the top Patient and Care Giver award at the International Conference on Integrated Care (ICIC23) on May 24 in Antwerp Belgium for: *Experience of Utilizing a human-centred design approach to create a patient navigation program in Ontario, Canada.*

Garasia, now an OHT Impact Fellow with the Ontario West Central Health Team, specialized in Health Economics for her PhD, under the supervision of **Emmanuel Guindon**.



Sophiya Garasia with award

Two **Health Policy PhD** students were awarded [Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council \(SSHRC\) Doctoral Fellowships](#) to support their research:



Roma Dhamanaskar received the award to support *Identifying and addressing epistemic injustice in deliberative public and patient engagement for Canadian health policy*. Her supervisor is **Julia Abelson**.



Rita Jezrawi, supervised by Magdalena Janus at the [Offord Centre for Child Studies](#), received the scholarship for *Multi-method investigation of regional differences in developmental and service use pathways for young children with neurodevelopmental disorders*.

Post-doctoral Fellow

Gillian Mulvale welcomed Poonam Bansal as a new postdoctoral fellow. Poonam has a background in institutional partnership and community engagement in research, with experience working with diverse communities.

She has a PhD in Geography from University of Illinois, an MSc in Development and the Environment from the University of London, and a BA in Geography from the University of Delhi.

Poonam has extensive experience in qualitative methods, including conducting field work with communities in rural and urban Senegal, and a strong understanding of the complexities of equity-based co-creation and the importance of anti-colonial/anti-oppressive practices in promoting socio-economic justice. She also volunteers as a lived experience expert in a patient advisor role at a local hospital.

Poonam will be working with Gillian and her team from McMaster's [Co-Design Hub team](#) as it transitions toward becoming an [Equity-based Co-Creation Research Centre](#) at McMaster.



CHEPA doctoral research scholarship



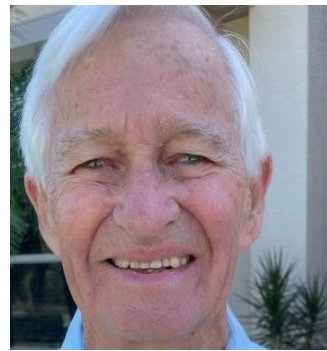
David Feeny

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

David Feeny

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.



George Torrance

Augumented support for the scholarship is sought to increase the level of student support and fund critical research and academic activities that advance CHEPA's mission and vision — furthering fair and sustainable health and social systems that benefit us all.

[Read more about the scholarship](#)

[Donate to the scholarship fund](#)



Publications

Journal Articles

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