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# CHEPA news

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

*Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social Systems*

*Winter 2024*

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 director [Jean-Eric Tarride](#) and [Lehana Thabane](#) of McMaster's Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HEI), joined colleagues in Brazil in October, 2023 to teach at a three-day international workshop entitled *"Hot topics related to Hospital-based HTA: Research and Health Technology Assessment"* organized by Brazil's Hospital das Clinicas of

Medical School of São Paulo State University – UNESP, and McMaster University. Above, some of participants pose for a photo.

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# Appointments



**Elizabeth Alvarez**

**Elizabeth Alvarez** is the new Director of [McMaster's Master of Public Health Graduate Program](#), succeeding **Emma Apatu**, who led the program for the past five years. As well, **Laura Anderson** has been named Director of the [Graduate Diploma in Community and Public Health Program](#).

Alvarez, a physician, has been an instructor in MPH since the program began. She is actively involved in public health research as the leader of an international, multidisciplinary research team focused on COVID-19 Policies and Epidemiology. She is also a licenced physician, and worked as the Associate Medical Officer of Health and Acting Medical Officer of Health for the Thunder Bay District Health Unit before her career at McMaster.



**Laura Anderson**

Anderson contributed to the development of the GDCPH program including developing a course and co-chairing the inaugural admissions committee. She is an epidemiologist by training and runs a research program in chronic disease prevention at McMaster. She recently spent a year of research leave working as a Visiting Scientist for Public Health Ontario and will leverage her networks to support the new program.

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# PPHE Community Fellows



The [Public Engagement in Health Policy \(PEHP\)](#) program, led by [Julia Abelson](#), is supporting 11 Community Fellowships to build capacity for innovative engagement-related activities. The recipients will help organizations carry out short-term engagement-related activities to advance the goals of more inclusive health system and policy decision making. For more information about the Fellowships, click [HERE](#).



**Julia Abelson**

In October, the Fellows came together for a full-day, in-person event to share their progress and learnings, and support community building.

[More about the event](#)

## Equity-based Co-Creation Events



The McMaster [Equity-Based Co-Creation Centre](#) fosters networking to build capacity and training opportunities related to Equity-Based Co-Creation. The Centre is hosting a virtual discussion on January 19, 2024, from 9:00 - 10:30 am, with **Dr. Javeed Sukhera**, Chair/Chief of Psychiatry at the Institute of Living and Hartford Hospital, on the topic of *Navigating the Emotional and Cognitive Labour Associated with Disruptive Change*. For more information and registration, click [HERE](#).

It also hosted two webinars in the fall:

- *"Beyond Co-Design as a Tool: Mindsets for Co-Design in Organizational Contexts,"* led by the Project Heart team at Health Canada. Participants explored building mindsets that support co-design as a form of engagement when designing policies or programs in bureaucratic and government contexts, detailed in the [\*Health Canada Project Heart: Future of Engagement Report\*](#).
- *"Inspiring Social Movement Change in Palliative Care,"* featured CHEPA's [\*\*Hsien Seow\*\*](#) and [\*\*Joanna Vautour\*\*](#), Regional Indigenous Cancer Lead in Toronto with Cancer Care Ontario. Participants explored the process of inspiring and creating social movement in Palliative Care through case study examples from the *'Supporting the Journey Home'* project led by the Palliative Care Innovation Care team in Indigenous communities.

View the recorded webinars



## Waiting Room Revolution

The [\*\*Waiting Room Revolution podcast\*\*](#), for people and families facing serious illness, recently completed its seventh season, accompanied by an acclaimed new book entitled [\*\*Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest\*\*](#), which was published this fall. Both the book, the podcast and other education tools were developed by palliative care physician [\*\*Samantha Winemaker\*\*](#) and CHEPA member [\*\*Hsien Seow\*\*](#), the Canada Research Chair in Palliative Care and Health System Innovation.



Read an article where Seow discusses measures for improving the quality of end-of-life care:

[Read article](#)

## Presentations

[Julia Abelson](#) and [Roma Dhamanaskar](#) gave a presentation on November 2, 2023 entitled “*Strengthening health policy in Canada through leadership in public engagement: Looking to 2025 and beyond,*” at the [Future of Canada Project](#) Symposium about the work they’ve done with the [Public Engagement in Health Policy Project](#) (which was funded by the Future of Canada Project).

[Elizabeth Alvarez](#) spoke and had research presented at several conferences this fall about studies conducted by the [EMBOLDEN](#) study team:

- “*EMBOLDEN: Strategic partnerships to enhance physical and community mobility in older adults.*” Presented at the annual MIRA & Labarge Knowledge Exchange at McMaster University, on Nov 1, 2023.
- “*EMBOLDEN: Catalyzing research for older adults through co-designed mobility-promoting intervention.*” Presented at the Gerontological Society of America (GSA) 2023 Annual Scientific Meeting in Tampa, Florida. November 8 to 12, 2023.
- “*EMBOLDEN: Implementing a co-designed integrated model to improve health, mobility, and connections among older adults.*” Presented at the 51st North American Primary Care Research Group (NAPCRG) annual meeting in San Francisco, California, USA. Oct 30-Nov 3, 2023.

As well, she spoke about the results of “*Public Health Workforce Burnout: A Canadian Cross-Sectional Study*” conducted by the Burnout in Public Health research team, to attendees at the Ontario Public Health Emergency Management Network (OPHEMN) Fall Meeting on November 3, 2023, and also about “*Canadian Veterans’ experiences*

of living with chronic pain and access to service," at the Canadian Institute for Military and Veteran Health Research (CIMVHR) Forum in Gatineau PQ, in October.

Research led by [Emmanuel Guindon](#) on "*The effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of population-level policies to reduce alcohol use: a systematic umbrella review*," was presented by co-researcher Umaima Abbas, a medical student, at the Canadian Cancer Research Conference in Halifax, NS on November 14, 2023.

CHEPA director [Jean-Éric Tarride](#) presented the key findings of a report on pull incentives to increase the availability of antibiotics in Canada to the [Institut national d'excellence en santé et en services sociaux \(INESSS\)](#) on November 9, 2023. Tarride is a co-author of the report.

[Read the report "Overcoming Resistance"](#)

[Read a news article about pull incentives](#)

Tarride, McMaster's [Lehana Thabane](#) and some Brazilian colleagues took part in a three-day international workshop held in Brazil in October, 2023, about "*Hot topics related to Hospital-based HTA: Research and Health Technology Assessment*" organized by the Hospital das Clinicas of Medical School of São Paulo State University – UNESP in Brazil with McMaster University. The workshop was sponsored by several Brazilian organizations and [HTAi](#), the international Health Technology Assessment organization.

Tarride and [Lisa Schwartz](#) acted as experts (Tarride on health economics and Schwartz on ethics) for reports by [CADTH](#) (Canada's health and health technology agency) about overcrowding in hospital emergency departments.

[Read "Emergency Department Overcrowding in Canada"](#)

[Read "Emergency Department Overcrowding: Pan-Canadian Guidance"](#)



## CHEPA Seminars

CHEPA's monthly seminars resume on Wednesday, **January 17, 2024**, when CHEPA member [Mike Wilson](#), Scientific Director of the [McMaster Health Forum](#), and **Marcela Vélez**, the Forum's Senior Scientific Lead, Innovative Evidence Products and Spanish Outreach, will present "*Impact of strategies to mitigate health-related misinformation in diverse settings and populations: Findings from a living evidence synthesis.*" Read more [HERE](#). The seminar takes place from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in room CRL-B119 and virtually on Zoom. Email [ramsay@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ramsay@mcmaster.ca) to obtain a link to participate virtually.

On **Wednesday, February 28**, from 12:30 to 1:30 pm, **Jeff Goodyear**, Senior Executive & Strategist, Mayfair Consulting, and Former Director of the Health Human Resources Policy Branch, HHR Strategy Division of the Ontario government, will present a virtual seminar on the broad topic of 'government relations.' More information and details about virtual access will be posted on the [CHEPA website](#).

CHEPA's [Lisa Schwartz](#), the McMaster Arnold L. Johnson Chair in Health Care Ethics, will present a seminar on **Wednesday March 20**. Her seminar will be held in room CRL-B119 from 12:30 to 1:30 pm and virtually on Zoom. More information and details about virtual access will be posted on the [CHEPA website](#).

The annual [Labelle Lecture](#) was presented by [Dr. Lauren Lapointe-Shaw](#), MDCM, PhD, on October 25, 2023. Her presentation, entitled "*Healthcare to Keep People Out of Hospital,*" drew on her work as a general internist and health services researcher, which gives her a bird's eye view of the system gaps that drive demand for acute and unplanned hospital care.

[Watch the video](#)



## Learners

- **Graeme Ball**, a Health Research Methodology (HRM) candidate supervised by [Jean-Éric Tarride](#) successfully defended his PhD thesis entitled "*Economic evaluation methods in oncology.*"

- **Cristian Mansilla**, supervised by **John Lavis**, successfully defended his PhD in Health Policy thesis entitled: *"How to strengthen evidence ecosystems by facilitating the connection between evidence producers and users and the role that living evidence syntheses could have in this process."*

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## Moving on....

CHEPA bade farewell to research associate **Gioia Buckley**, who has been at the centre for 24 years. She came to McMaster after completing her undergraduate degree at the University of Perugia in Italy and was hired at CHEPA after completing her Master's degree in economics at McMaster. She is a valued researcher; checker of data and financial statements; proof-reader and all-round good colleague and friend. We wish her well in the next phase of her career.



**Gioia Buckley**

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## Publications

The [Health Reform Observer - Observatoire des Réformes de Santé](#) (HRS-ORS) held a special virtual event on December 8, 2023 to mark the launch of its special [COVID-19 special issue](#). The [Institute for Pandemics](#), the [North American Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#), and [Health Reform Observer - Observatoire des Réformes de Santé](#) launched the special issue, which documents experiences, successes, and failures of health systems reforms and policy responses during the pandemic, leveraging the variations that were seen across the country in the nature, timing, and responses to the evolving pandemic. The Journal is also preparing [a special issue for publication in 2024 on Jordan's Principle / principe de Jordan](#).

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# Journal Articles

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