

***Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social
Systems*** ***Spring 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.



Feng Xie speaks at the EuroQol Academy 2024 on March 6, 2024 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The event drew researchers from around the world who focus on measuring health-related quality of life.

Research Chairs

Andrew Costa and **Meredith Vanstone** have each been appointed Tier 2 Canada Research Chairs, with extendable terms running until March, 2028. The Chairs were awarded last spring but only just formally announced.

Costa was named *Canada Research Chair in Integrated Care for Seniors*, which enables him to continue to build interdisciplinary research programs to impact the health and well-being of older adults across care settings.

His research programs have already made important contributions to seniors' policy, care practices, and recently infectious disease practice and policy.

Costa, who is also a [Schlegel Research Chair in Clinical Epidemiology & Aging](#), says the Research Chair “will help me and my team expand important initiatives that will help align our health system with the rapid demographic shift taking place.”



Andrew Costa



Meredith Vanstone

Vanstone was appointed *Canada Research Chair in Ethical Complexity in Primary Care*. She studies different kinds of healthcare [“ethical complexity,”](#) which occurs in medical encounters which provoke uncertainty, dilemma, or distress in the patient, clinician, or both.

When a diagnosis is uncertain or when no effective cure is possible, primary care providers help patients manage their symptoms and circumstances, and help them cope with the impacts of health challenges on other aspects of their life.

Vanstone says "One of the hallmarks of high quality primary care is the provider's ability to manage uncertainty and complexity."



Grants

[Katherine Cuff](#) was awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada Partnership Engage Grant for a project entitled *Exploring the Role of the Canadian Personal Income Tax System in Supporting Individual and Family Healthcare Expenses*. The partner organization is [Home Care Ontario](#). [Arthur Sweetman](#) is a Co-Investigator, and Health Policy PhD student Gwen Feeny is also involved in the project.

Cuff explains that "the federal nonrefundable Medical Expenses Tax Credit and its associated refundable Medical Expense Supplement are two federal income tax credits designed to help Canadians pay for eligible out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, including home care services. The project will generate a profile, both in

cross-section and longitudinally, of Canadian individual and family users of these two federal tax credits using Statistic Canada's Longitudinal Tax Administrative Databank to help inform future work on how to modify or expand the income tax system to better support Canadians' healthcare throughout the life course."



Katherine Cuff



Featured Research



**Boris Kralj top,
and Arthur Sweetman**



Long-term trends show a drop in the number of hours worked by male doctors, suggesting a desire for a better work-life balance, according to new [research](#) published in the Canadian Medical Association Journal by [Boris Kralj](#), [Arthur Sweetman](#) and [Rabiul Islam](#), a Post-Doctoral Fellow with the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HEI).

The findings indicate that physician numbers aren't the only factor affecting access to care. The research was also cited in an [article](#) in The Globe and Mail.

[Read the research paper](#)

Videos and Events

Measuring Impacts of Engagement



PUBLIC AND PATIENT
ENGAGEMENT
COLLABORATIVE

[Upcoming workshops and more information](#)

On March 8, the [Public and Patient Engagement Collaborative](#) (PPEC) hosted a workshop in

Vancouver, BC on measuring the impacts of engaging people with lived and living experience. Highlights included a case example presented by researchers and patient partners from [INFORM RARE](#), which works to improve health care for children with rare genetic diseases, on their experiences using the [Engage with Impact Toolkit](#) to evaluate patient engagement within their research network.

Insights from PEHP Community Fellows

In fall 2023, the [Public Engagement in Health Policy](#) (PEHP) project, led by [Julia Abelson](#), awarded 11 [fellowships](#) to carry out innovative engagement initiatives in the community to foster a more inclusive health system.

PEHP Community Fellows **Shannon McGavin** from the [Well Community Collective](#) and **Donya Razavi** from [Eastern York Region North Durham \(EYRND\)](#). [Ontario Health Team](#) spoke to the importance of public and patient partnership and the impact these projects have made in the communities they work with and beyond.

Watch a video about the *Rural Integrated Youth Health Service Engagement Initiative* and how the [Well Community Collective](#) partners with youth and communities to create equitable, accessible and low-barrier youth wellness services.



Watch a video about how [EYRND's Newcomer Engagement Initiative](#) has created more accessible and relevant health care for newcomers in the York Region.



The Waiting Room Revolution

City News Toronto's David Zura broadcast a feature about the [Waiting Room Revolution](#), explaining the podcast's origin story and [Hsien Seow and Samantha Winemaker's](#) vision behind it. Watch the five-minute video below.



Watch the podcasts

Seow and **Winemaker** have several public [events](#) coming up on the theme of *Navigating a Life-Changing Diagnosis: 7 Keys for more Choice and Control*. Locations include:

- Hamilton on Wednesday, April 24. Information and registration [HERE](#)
- Almonte, Ont., on May 22. Information and registration [HERE](#).

Attendees will receive a free copy of the book *"Hope for the Best, Plan for the Rest"*.

There are also some talks scheduled for patients and families with specific diseases, including [ALS: 7 Keys for a Better Illness Experience, April 10th on Zoom](#).

They will also participate in an *Advance Care Planning Day* event at Innis College, Toronto, on April 16. Information and registration [HERE](#).



Presentations



Elizabeth Alvarez

Elizabeth Alvarez gave a virtual presentation on the results of a study: *Burnout among Public Health Workers in Canada: A Cross-sectional study*, on January 15, 2024 for the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness' Public Health Rounds. The study was also presented in Montreal by co-researchers on March 15 at McGill University's Public Health Day.

Feng Xie travelled to the University of Bonn, Germany, this winter to participate in the first PROFA project meeting. This project was funded by European Joint Program on Rare Diseases and CIHR. Read an article about his work **HERE**.

He also spoke at the EuroQol Academy 2024 in Copenhagen Denmark, on March 6 about his **research** including “*Learning and promoting health measurement and valuation using EQ instruments across continents*”, and “*Understanding the views of Canadians on valuing health for children and adolescents.*”

Additionally, he gave a keynote speech at the China Academic Forum on *Health Preference and*

Health Outcome Measurement in Jinan, China
March 15 entitled “*Health Utilities and QALY: Present and Future*”.



Feng Xie

REDI AWARD

Health Policy PhD graduate **Manisha Pahwa** won a Research Excellence, Diversity, and Independence (REDI) Early Career Transition Award. Pahwa, now at McGill University, will study *The influence of ethical and social values on decision-making about participation in personalized breast cancer screening: A constructivist grounded theory study of South Asian people in Canada.*

Research Participant Pool

[CHEPA](#) supports 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. The pool now has more than 300 participants. 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.chepa@mcmaster.ca

Publications

Report

Kralj, Boris and **Sweetman, Arthur** and AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub. [Personal Support Worker \(PSW\) Workforce Characteristics, Trends and Projections: Focus on the Home Care and Hospital Sectors](#). Fredericton, NB: AGE-WELL National Innovation Hub, APPTA. 2024. January 31.

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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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