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CHEPA *news*

Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis

*Informing Fair and Sustainable Health and Social
Systems Summer 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.



Research

Forum celebrates 15 Years

15-years of providing timely demand-driven evidence support



The combination of the increase on the demand-side and the responsiveness and timeliness on the supply side have really opened up incredible opportunities for using evidence in decision-making.”

McMaster University HEALTH FORUM



JOHN LAVIS
Director, McMaster Health Forum

[Read an article](#)

The [McMaster Health Forum](#) this spring marked its 15th anniversary of using the best-available research evidence, experiences and insights from citizens, professionals, organizational leaders, and government policymakers to support efforts to address health and broader societal challenges.

[Read the Forum's 15-year report](#)

Top 10 paper

The article [The associations of prescription drug insurance and cost-sharing with drug use, health services use and health: A systematic review of Canadian Studies](#), based on research led by [Emmanuel Guindon](#) and published in the journal *Value in Health*, was honoured by CIHR/IHSPR-CAHSPR as one of the [top ten articles published in 2023](#).

Presentations and podcasts



Elizabeth Alvarez

Elizabeth Alvarez presented an overview of **EMBOLDEN** on behalf of the **EMBOLDEN study team** at the MIRA/WHO conference on health and aging on May 5, 2024. She also contributed to presentations at the 2024 Canadian Collaborative Mental Health Care Conference (CCMHCC), held in Ottawa June 13-14, 2024, about "*Canadian Veterans' experiences of living with chronic pain and impacts on domains of well-being*" and "*Burnout amongst the Canadian public health workforce and its implications for population mental health promotion.*"

The McMaster Health Forum's **John Lavis, Mike Wilson, Marcela Vélez** and Jenn Thornhill Verma participated in a panel discussion on May 15 about strategies to mitigate health-related misinformation as part of the 2024 **Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR)** Conference. Misinformation is defined as false information that is spread, regardless of intent to mislead, while disinformation is the intentional spreading of

misinformation. The team has developed [a suite of projects](#) focused on types of misinformation and disinformation and the effectiveness of interventions to combat them.

They shared the latest updates and insights from a CIHR-funded living evidence synthesis (LES) on health-related misinformation, a new LES underway about strategies to address misinformation related to political institutions, as well as insights from government policymakers, citizens and researchers championing efforts to strengthen evidence-support systems and to address misinformation.

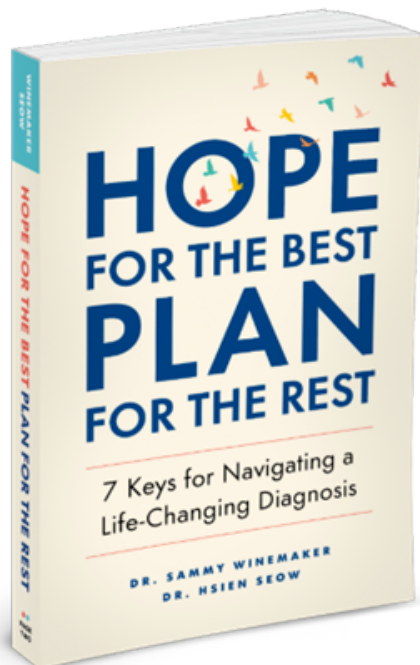


[See the presentation slides](#)

Students and staff working with CHEPA members [Julia Abelson](#), [Laura Anderson](#), [Gillian Mulvale](#), [Lisa Schwartz](#) and [Meredith Vanstone](#) took the [Canadian Bioethics Society conference](#) by storm May 29-31, 2024. They gave many presentations at the conference, which was held in Montreal alongside the [International Conference on Clinical Ethics Consultation](#). These included:

- **Rachel Yantzi**, PhD candidate, [Health Research Methodology](#) (HRM), presented a poster on the moral experiences of conducting research during the peak of the pandemic and a talk on providing palliative care at a [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) (MSF) pediatric hospital in Bangladesh.
- **Puspita Hossain**, [Health Policy PhD \(HP PhD\)](#) student, had a poster on her PhD research on problematizing what it means to be termed a refugee (or not) based on experiences of the Rohingya in Bangladesh and their access to healthcare.
- **Roma Dhamanaskar** ([HP PhD](#) student) had a poster on patient engagement and epistemic justice.
- **Caitlyn Ivany** ([HRM](#) MSc student) and Research Co-ordinator **Laura Tripp** gave a presentation about patient engagement.
- **Roger Kou**, ([MPH](#) student) gave two posters with [Laura Anderson](#) on public health interventions during COVID, and another on the application of the new CMAJ guidance on EDI reporting in clinical trials.
- **Rochelle Maurice**, (Social Work PhD student – Schwartz is on her supervisory committee) gave a presentation about the experience of Black maternity care and the experiences of breast feeding parents who consume cannabis.
- **Sonya de Laat** (Research Fellow) organized and ran the presentation on ethics and global partnerships in research at which Hossain, Yantzi, Isabel Muñoz-Baulieu (a student from McGill), and community partners Mayfourth Lunetta and Revka Perez (Phillippines CDP) and Emmanuel Musoni-Rwililiza (Rwanda) presented.

Hsein Seow and **Samantha Winemaker** toured their book *“Hope for the Best, Plan for Rest”* around the United Kingdom May 6-12, with events in Norfolk, Suffolk, East Kent and London, as part of Hospice UK’s *“Dying Matters”* Awareness Week. They also made presentations in Ottawa and Almonte, Ontario, later in the month.



The pair wrapped up Season 8 (episode 93) of their podcast [The Waiting Room Revolution](#) on June 4.



Feng Xie

Feng Xie travelled to Beijing in mid-June to present a keynote speech entitled *“Technical, Procedural, and Legal Challenges in National Drug Price Negotiation”* at the National Pharmaceutical Policy Development Academic Conference. The conference is part of 20th Anniversary events for the International Research Center for Medicinal Administration at Peking University.



Labelle Lecture - call for nominations



Roberta Labelle

[More information about the Labelle Lecture](#)

The Labelle Lectureship Committee of McMaster University is seeking nominations by June 30 2024, for a promising junior health services researcher – a rising star in the field – to give the 2024 **Labelle Lecture**. The Labelle Lecturer can be from any country and should have these characteristics:

- Is early in his/her/their career development (assistant or early associate level), and shows tremendous promise based on early research accomplishments;
- Is conducting research on a topic that challenges existing methods or accepted ideas in health research;

- Is capable of delivering a high-quality lecture that will be of interest to a multidisciplinary audience of health researchers and decision-makers;
- Can spend one to two days at McMaster to present a one-hour lecture, followed by a reception; meet with faculty and students and attend a dinner.

Please submit nominations by June 30, 2024 to [Emmanuel Guindon](#), at emmanuel.guindon@mcmaster.ca.

CHEPA seminar series

CHEPA's regular seminars will resume on September 18, 2024, with a presentation by CHEPA member [Emma Apatu](#) on the topic of *Bitcoin and Public Health*. She is former Director of McMaster's Master of Public Health Program, Interim Director of the Graduate Diploma in Community and Public Health; and an Associate Professor (part-time) in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HEI).

[Read a paper](#)





Emma Apatu

Learners

Physician and [HP PhD student](#) **Monica Dutt** was awarded a Vanier Canada Graduate Scholarship for research on *“The policy intersection of work and public health: Paid sick leave as a way to strengthen evidence-informed decision-making to improve health equity and population health.”* The award pays \$50,000 over three years during doctoral studies. Her supervisor is [Meredith Vanstone](#).

Fatima Sheikh, a [HEI](#) PhD candidate co-supervised by [Lisa Schwartz](#) and [Alison Fox-Robichaud](#), was awarded a [@CIHR_IRSC](#) award to study the *“Social Determinants of Sepsis: A prospective observational cohort study.”* The research aims to investigate the effects of social determinants of health on the incidence and outcomes of sepsis to inform health policy and equitable healthcare practices.

Rachel Yantzi, a [HRM](#) PhD candidate supervised by **Lisa Schwartz**, presented her work to officials from [Médecins Sans Frontières](#) and was hired on contract to work for the organization in Burkina Fasso to help develop capacity in palliative care in complex humanitarian settings.

Virginia Viscardi, a [HRM](#) PhD student supervised by **Jean-Éric Tarride**, was awarded the 2024 [Fergal Mills Memorial Scholarship](#) from [The Canadian Association for Healthcare Reimbursement \(CAHR\)](#) to support her thesis work in the area of rapid health technology assessments to inform reimbursement decisions for health technologies.

Successful doctoral thesis defences given this spring included:

- **Ahmad Belal** ([Health Policy PhD](#), supervised by **John Lavis**); *"How Can Research Evidence and Citizen-serving Organizations Support Citizens Advocating for Strengthening Their Health Systems."*
- **Ania Theuer** ([Health Policy PhD](#), supervised by **Mike Wilson**); *"Examining Police, Health, and Mental Health Crisis Response Teams."*
- **Qi Wang** ([Health Policy PhD](#), supervised by **John Lavis**); *"Supporting the Implementation of Health-System Guidance at the National and Subnational Level."*



Publications

Journal Articles

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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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