



**Centre for Health Economics
and Policy Analysis**

1200 Main Street West,
McMaster University, HSC-3H1,
Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3Z5

T: 905-525-9140 ext.22122
F: 905-546-5211

cheпа@mcmaster.ca
www.cheпа.org



**Centre for Health Economics
and Policy Analysis**

**2002-2003
ANNUAL REPORT**



- The Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada delivered its Final Report to Canadians in 2002 and CHEPA was part of that process of informing Canadians. In the words of Roy Romanow, the commission “set a new standard for facilitating informed and productive policy debate”. CHEPA researchers contributed three of the 40 Discussion papers that were specifically requested by the commission and 17 papers developed by 11 CHEPA members were cited in its final report.
- CHEPA researchers held two policy workshops during this fiscal year, one on Policy Issues For New and Emerging Genetic Services and the second in a Roundtable format on Making Research Knowledge Work.
- Our knowledge exchange team invested much time and effort developing a new and improved website which is easier to navigate. Many of our publications are now available at www.chepa.org
- The annual value of research grants held by CHEPA faculty or associates as Principal Investigators increased this fiscal year to \$3,159,143.
- CHEPA welcomed a new director; Brian Hutchison began his three-year term in July 2002.
- CHEPA has broadened and strengthened the membership of our Advisory Council to include outstanding representatives of our key target audiences.
- Julia Abelson was awarded a 5-year Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award, in conjunction with a 3-year CIHR research project entitled: Understanding the Influences on Public Values About Health Care Services and Financing.
- Ivy Bourgeault was appointed as an associate member of CHEPA. She holds a Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award and a Canada Research Chair in Comparative Health Labour Policy. Her current research program focuses on comparative research on health occupations. She is also involved in research on rural health care issues, with emphasis on women's health and health care professionals' views of complementary and alternative medicine.

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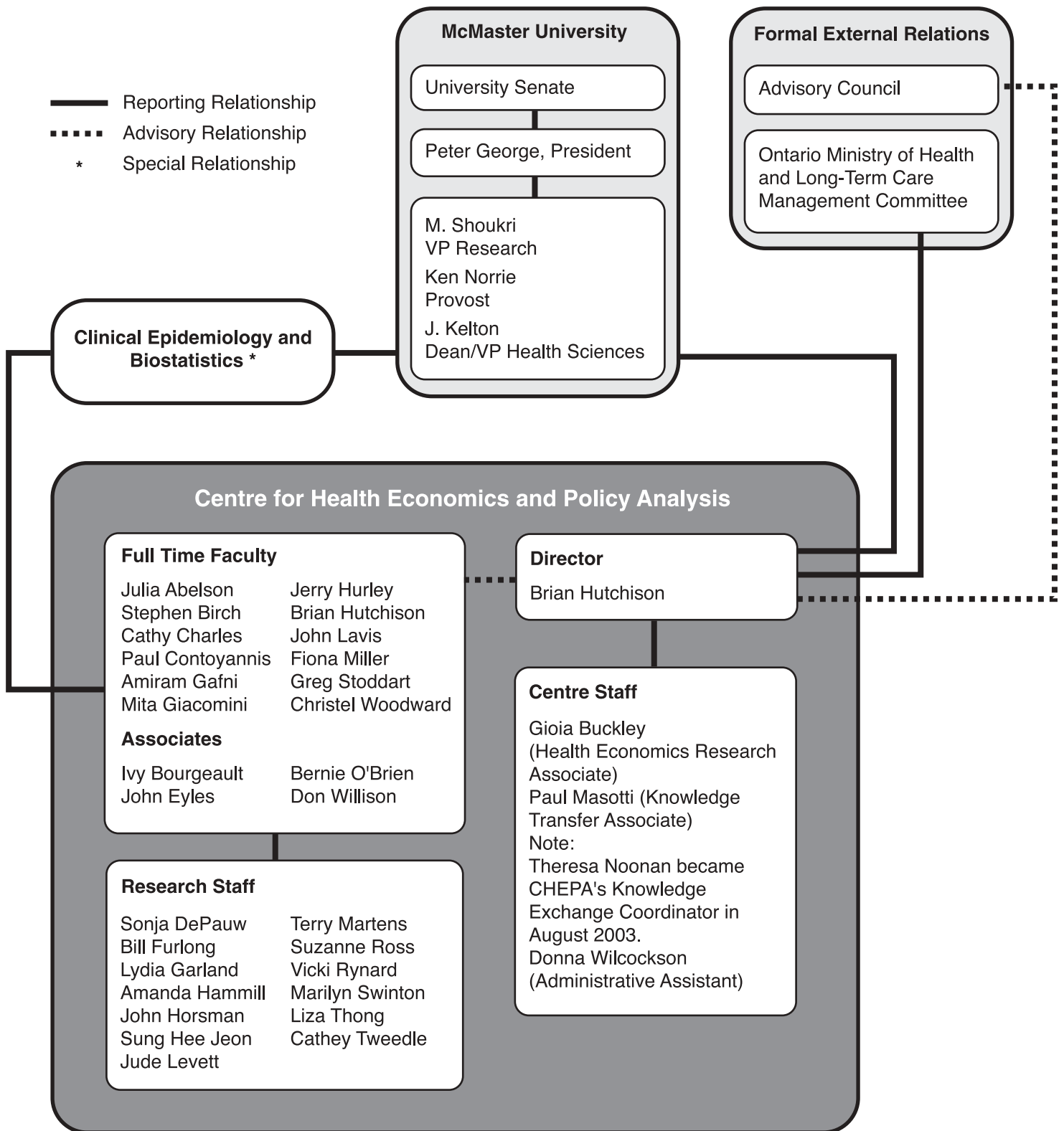
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Who We Are

To promote a collegial and supportive interdisciplinary environment that fosters excellence in acquiring, producing and communicating socially-relevant knowledge in the fields of health economics and health policy analysis.

Organizational Chart



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People

Julia Abelson is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. She currently holds an Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Career Scientist Award and was recently awarded a Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award. She obtained her M.Sc in Health Policy and Management from the Harvard School of Public Health and her doctorate in Social and Policy Sciences at the University of Bath, U.K. Through her research, education and service activities, Dr. Abelson works closely with decision makers in provincial, regional and local government levels.

Her research interests include:

- Democratic participation in health policy decision making
- Governance, organization and funding of community care
- Health policy analysis

Stephen Birch is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. He is a previous recipient of both the Faculty of Health Sciences Rose Levy Rosenstadt Award and a research scholarship award under Health Canada's National Health Research and Development Program. He received his doctorate in economics at the University of York in the U.K. He is currently Senior Editor in health economics for Social Science & Medicine. He also holds Order-in-Council appointments on the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council of Ontario and Hamilton District Health Council.

His research interests include:

- Economic evaluation
- Resource allocation
- Population health

Ivy Lynn Bourgeault is an Assistant Professor in the Health Studies Programme and an Associate Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. She was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Comparative Health Labour Policy, which she will take up in April 2004 following the

early completion of her Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) New Investigator Award. The focus of her CRC – a comparative examination of the migration of health care providers – evolves out of her CIHR study of the impact of gender and location on human resources decision making in key health care sectors - maternity, primary and mental health care - in Canada and the United States.

Her research interests include:

- Sociology of health and health care
- Health occupations (with a particular focus on medicine, nursing and midwifery)
- Alternative health care
- Health care policy
- Women's health and health care
- Rural health and health care issues

Cathy Charles is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology & Biostatistics, a Member of CHEPA and an Associate Member of the Department of Sociology at McMaster University. She is also an Investigator in the Supportive Cancer Care Research Unit, which is co-sponsored by the Hamilton Regional Cancer Centre and McMaster University. She is an Honourary Research Associate in the Department of Behavioural Sciences, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Cathy received a B.A. and M.A. in Sociology at the University of Toronto and a M.Phil. and Ph.D. in Socio-Medical Sciences from Columbia University.

Her research interests include:

- Shared treatment decision-making
- Physician-patient relationship
- Public participation in health care decision-making
- Research transfer
- Social constructions of health/health care policy

Paul Contoyannis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. Prior to this he was a Research Fellow at the University of York, U.K. since

1999, working on two Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) projects on the analysis of longitudinal health data. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics, also from the University of York in 2000, which focused on the causes and consequences of inequalities in health, considering both theoretical and empirical issues relating to addiction, wages and income inequality.

His research interests include:

- Health dynamics
 - Determinants of health and health inequalities
 - Simulation-based inference in microeconomic models
 - Models of addiction
-

John Eyles is a social and policy scientist at McMaster University. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is Director of the McMaster Institute of Environment and Health. He is Professor of Geography and Geology and Associate Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. He is author or co-author of some 200 books, peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports in the health and social sciences fields. He has carried out work for national and provincial organizations and governments in Canada.

His research interests include:

- Environment
 - Health and science policy
-

Amiram Gafni is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of CHEPA. Dr. Gafni has worked on the development of the healthy-years equivalent (HYE) preference-based measure of outcome for programme evaluation and the development of a bedside decision instrument, as well as a method for helping patients to reveal their preferences regarding treatment.

His research interests include:

- Economic evaluation (methods and application)
 - Decision boards
 - Modeling of consumers and providers behaviour (e.g. the physician-patient encounter).
-

Mita Giacomini is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. She currently holds a Canadian Institutes for Health Research / National Health and Development Program Scholar Award, as well as graduate degrees from the University of California in health services and policy analysis, the history of health sciences, and public health. She has authored many scholarly articles and reports on topics including health resource allocation and rationing, the politics of technology assessment, clinical uses of qualitative evidence, life support decision-making, demographic and psychosocial biases in health services, and financial incentives in the Canadian health system.

Her research interests include:

- Social dimensions of technology innovation, assessment and rationing
 - Values in health policy and decision-making
 - Health care organization and funding reform models
 - Methodology for policy analysis and case study research
-

Jerry Hurley is a Professor in the Department of Economics, an Associate Member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. He served as the Associate Coordinator of the CHEPA from 1994-1996, and as the Coordinator from 1996-2000, and Acting Director in 2001-2002. He has published in leading health economic and health services research journals and has acted as a consultant to regional, provincial, national and international agencies. He is currently a member of the Conference Board of Canada's Executive Roundtable on Health and Wellness, the Canadian Institute for Health Information's National Health Expenditures Database Expert Group.

His research interests include:

- Health care financing
 - Health care funding
 - Normative economic analysis in the health sector
 - Design of pharmacare programs and the utilization of pharmaceuticals
 - Resource allocation in the health sector
-

Brian Hutchison is a Professor in the Departments of Family Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University, Director of CHEPA, Co-Director of the Community Care Research Centre, McMaster Site Director for the Ontario Training Centre in Health Services and Policy Research, and Medical and Research Advisor to the Hamilton Community Care Access Centre. From 1994 to 1999, he held a National Research Scholar award from Health Canada. His principal educational activities are tutoring and thesis supervision in the graduate program in Health Research Methodology.

His research interests include:

- Organization, funding and delivery of primary and community care
- Needs-based health care resource allocation and funding methods
- Provider payment methods
- Preventive care

John N. Lavis is the Canada Research Chair in Knowledge Transfer and Uptake, Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Member of CHEPA and Associate Member of the Department of Political Science at McMaster University. He directs the Program in Policy Decision-Making, affiliated with CHEPA. He holds an M.D. from Queen's University, an M.Sc. from the London School of Economics, and a Ph.D. from Harvard University. He was the Liberty Health Scholar of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (1998-2003) and inaugural Chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health Policy and Systems Management grants review committee (2000-2003).

His research interests include:

- Knowledge transfer and uptake in public policy-making environments
- Politics of health-care systems
- Social determinants of health (especially the links between labour-market experiences and health)

Fiona Miller is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. She received her Ph.D. in History from York University and spent the 1999-2000 academic year as a Fulbright Visiting Researcher in the History and Sociology of Science Department at the University of Pennsylvania. In the 2000-2001 academic year she was a CHSRF/SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at CHEPA and Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, before being appointed to a faculty position.

Her research interests include:

- Technology assessment
- Health system implications of genetics and biotechnology
- Health system risks and safety
- History and philosophy of health science
- Sociology of ethics
- Women's health

Bernie O'Brien is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University, Co-Director of the Centre for Evaluation of Medicines at St. Joseph's Hospital and an Associate of CHEPA at McMaster. He received his Bachelors and Masters degrees in Economics from the University of York (UK) and his PhD (Economics) from Brunel University in London (UK). He is on the editorial boards of Health Economics, Pharmacoeconomics, Clinical Therapeutics, and is an Associate Editor of Medical Decision Making. In 2001 he was appointed to the National Blood Safety Council.

His research interests include:

- Economic evaluation of health care programmes, particularly new medical technologies and pharmaceuticals in the context of clinical trials
- Methods for the assessment of health-related quality of life
- Clinical decision analysis
- Risk assessment methods for health care interventions
- Pharmaceutical policy evaluation

Greg Stoddart is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a Member of CHEPA and the founding Coordinator of the Centre, and an Associate Member of the Department of Economics. He is also a Fellow in the Population Health Program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research and one of the founders of the Program, as well as an External Associate of the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research at the University of British Columbia. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of British Columbia.

His research interests include:

- Public-private mix in health care financing
 - Social and economic determinants of health and health care utilization
 - Development and application of conceptual frameworks for studies of health determinants
 - Cross-sectoral resource allocation for health
 - Knowledge transfer to inform policy-making about health and health care
-

Don Willison is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and an Associate Member of CHEPA at McMaster University. He combines training in pharmacy (University of Toronto, 1977), Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (M.Sc., McMaster University, 1984), and health services research (Sc.D., Harvard School of Public Health, 1996). He works out of the Centre for Evaluation of Medicines at St. Joseph's Healthcare.

His research interests include:

- Balancing cost-containment access to prescription pharmaceuticals with the promotion of R&D
 - Effects of policies to restrict drug reimbursement on drug utilization, cost shifting to non-drug services and health outcomes
 - Privacy and security enhancing technologies
 - Public opinion on data privacy and health research
 - The role and function of research ethics boards
-

Christel Woodward is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a Member of CHEPA, Associate Member of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioural Neurosciences, and a Member of the Program for Educational Development in the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster. Her published work includes book chapters, monographs and articles on medical education, health human resource planning, quality of care assessment, utilization of medical services, survey research methods, the epidemiology of child psychiatric disorders and of school based injuries, and women in medicine.

Her research interests include:

- Evaluation of health care and education programs
 - Work and health
 - Survey research methods
 - Health human resources
 - Primary and community health care
-

Centre Staff

Gioia Buckley

Health Economics, Research Associate

Paul Masotti

Research Associate, Knowledge Transfer

Note:

Theresa Noonan became CHEPA's new Knowledge Exchange Associate in August 2003.

Donna Wilcockson

Administrative Assistant

Research Staff

Sonja DePauw, Research Coordinator

Bill Furlong, Research Coordinator

Lydia Garland, Research Assistant

Amanda Hammill, Research Coordinator

John Horsman, Researcher

Sung Hee Jeon, Research Statistician

Jude Levett, Administrative Secretary

Terry Martens, Administrative Secretary

Suzanne Ross, Research Associate/Assistant Professor

Vicki Rynard, Research Coordinator/Statistician

Marilyn Swinton, Research Coordinator

Liza Thong, Administrative Assistant

Cathey Tweedle, Administrative Assistant/Editorial Assistant

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The members of CHEPA's Advisory Council provide CHEPA with strategic advice on research direction and partnerships, facilitate linkages with health decision-makers and stakeholders and inform CHEPA's knowledge exchange activities.

Betty Muggah (Chair)

Community Development Consultant
Hamilton Community Foundation

Terry Albert

Director, Policy & Planning
Canadian Medical Association

Bob Baldwin

Director, Social & Economic Policy
Canadian Labour Congress

Charlyn Black

Director, Centre for Health Services and Policy Research
University of British Columbia

Guy Bujold

Assistant Deputy Minister
Policy and Communications
Infrastructure Canada

John Capone

Associate Dean, Research
Faculty of Health Sciences
McMaster University

Sheree Davis

Executive Lead, Strategic Directions
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Peter Finkle

Director (Acting) - Finance and
Information Management Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Cathy Fooks

Director, Health Network
Canadian Policy Research Network

Cliff Halliwell

Director General, Applied Research
and Analysis Directorate
Information, Analysis and Connectivity
Branch, Health Canada

Brian Hutchison

Director, Centre for Health Economics
& Policy Analysis
McMaster University

John King

Executive Vice-President, Corporate
Programs
St. Michael's Hospital

Shan Landry

Vice-President, Primary Health
Saskatoon Health Region

Ginette Lemire Rodger

Chief of Nursing
Ottawa Hospital

Mary Catherine Lindberg

Executive Director
Ontario Council of Teaching Hospitals

Marnie Paikin

Alison Pilla

Executive Director, Integrated Policy
and Planning Division
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Maureen A. Quigley

Maureen Quigley and Associates Inc.

John Ronson

Courtyard Group

Noralou P Roos

Director, Manitoba Centre for Health
Policy
University of Manitoba

Ian Shugart

Assistant Deputy Minister, Health Policy
and Communications Branch
Health Canada

Hanita Tiefenbach

Director, Corporate Policy Branch
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

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Research

- To develop and apply methods to evaluate the costs, risks, benefits, and utility of specific health interventions and of alternative allocations of health resources.

- To analyse and evaluate the effectiveness, efficiency and equity of systems of organization, governance, financing, funding, and delivery of health services.

- To develop, apply and evaluate methods for analysing the behaviour of the public, patients, providers, managers and other decision-makers in health systems.

- To develop, apply, and evaluate methods to convey health information to the public, patients, providers, managers, funders, and other decision-makers in health systems.

- To evaluate the role of health and social policy initiatives in addressing the determinants of, and alleviating inequalities in, the population's health.

- The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and McMaster University make our research possible. CHEPA faculty also receive salary support and research funding through grants from other organizations including the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) and the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Featuring the research of faculty, associates, and staff of the Centre, this series provides a means to circulate polished, but not yet published, reports of compiled research. The aim of these Working Papers is to stimulate discussion on analytical, methodological, and policy issues in health economics and health policy analysis.

02-03: Miller F, Hurley J, Morgan S, Goeree R, Collins P, Blackhouse G, Giacomini M, O'Brien B.
Predictive Genetic Tests and Health Care Costs: A Policy Framework and Illustrative Estimates.

02-02: Hurley J, Hopkins R, Hutchison B, Rynard-Torrance V.
The Relationship Between Health Care Need and Standardized Mortality Ratios in Ontario.

02-01-Update: Woodward C, Brown J, Abelson J, Hutchison B.
Consistency of Home Care Personnel Under Managed Competition: A Case Study from Ontario (Shortened Version Presented at the Knowledge to Wisdom Conference).

02-01: Woodward C, Brown J, Abelson J, Hutchison B.
Consistency of Home Care Personnel Under Managed Competition: A Case Study from Ontario.



Faculty and associates' publications are listed in our searchable literature database on our website www.chepea.org. Our database contains information on publications written by CHEPA faculty and associates during the last five years from 1999 to 2003. The database can be searched by author or by topic.

Database topics include:

Major Category	Sub-Category
Financing/funding and remuneration	Private/public mix
	User charges/cost sharing
	Physician payment methods
	Population based funding
Organization, delivery & utilization of health care	Governance/organizational structures
	Primary and community care
	Providers of care
	Patient/consumer participation in decision-making
	Access to health care
	Preventive care
Economic methods, evaluation and technology assessment	Utilization
	Methods
Health Policy analysis	Economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals
	Knowledge transfer and uptake
Determinants of health	Public consultation in decision-making
	Frameworks
	Work and health
	Socio-economic status and health

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Knowledge Exchange

Over the last few years, Knowledge Exchange has evolved into an explicit function for many Canadian health research organizations, including CHEPA. CHEPA's John Lavis defines knowledge transfer as:

A process by which relevant research is made available and accessible for application in practice, planning and policy-making – preferably through interactive engagement with decision-makers and supported by both user-friendly materials and a communications strategy that enhances the credibility of the organization and, where relevant, reinforces key messages from the research.

In accordance with CHEPA's continuing dedication to support better decision making by facilitating the transfer of research findings to decision makers, the KE program strives to develop and apply knowledge transfer strategies that make knowledge accessible and useful to public policy makers, health systems managers, researchers and other stakeholder groups.

For more information on CHEPA's Knowledge Exchange Program, please contact Theresa Noonan Knowledge Exchange Coordinator at noonant@mcmaster.ca.



Each year, the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) initiates a series of highly interactive, invitational workshops, in which a small group of researchers and decision-makers meet to discuss research knowledge that has emerged in a particular policy domain. The workshop participants come from diverse backgrounds, with each contributing a somewhat different perspective to these stimulating and informative deliberations.

Roundtable on Making Research Knowledge Work

CHEPA held a roundtable on Making Research Knowledge Work in October 2002. What does it mean to build system capacity for research to become knowledge in action? The roundtable brought together participants from different system sectors – research organization directors, research funding agency decision-makers, and federal and provincial health policy decision-makers – to grapple with this challenge. Facilitated by Jonathan Lomas, Executive Director the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation, and co-chaired by John Lavis and Suzanne Ross, both from CHEPA, the roundtable was organized around three sessions:

- 1) Developing a Systematic Approach to Knowledge Transfer;
- 2) Measuring the Impact of Research Knowledge; and
- 3) Creating Bodies of Knowledge Around the Needs of Decision-Makers.

Here are some of the highlights of the roundtable discussion:

- We need to move from knowledge transfer to knowledge exchange. This has multiple implications and actors. Research funders need to be more thoughtful about how to promote this.

- How do we build better relationships among system actors? We need to foster more and better interactions between system stakeholders in order to improve their understanding of different perspectives and cultures, different research needs, and different ways that stakeholders use research knowledge.

- Policymaker needs are complex. They draw on multiple and very different types of information. Moreover, for any particular policy area they are informing a wide variety of issues. Building better "bodies of knowledge" around policymaker, not researcher, questions will help policymakers integrate research knowledge into the policy deliberation process.

- What is health services research (HSR)? Health services researchers and funders should direct more attention to identifying the different contributions HSR can make. It is important to clarify the difference between categorizing/capturing/describing the existing stock of health services research, versus identifying areas for distilling and assessing the implications of existing research, and versus considering and prioritizing areas for advancing new health services research.

CHEPA held a policy workshop on genetic health services in February 2003. The goal

Policy Issues for New and Emerging Genetic Services

was to engage expert researchers, practitioners and policy makers in discussion of two key issues:

(1) how genetic services could be adequately evaluated to determine their eligibility for public coverage;

and as a sub-question

(2) how economic evaluations could be used to support coverage decision-making.

Dr Fiona Miller of McMaster University, and Dr Steve Morgan of the University of British Columbia made brief presentations on these topics. Participants then discussed these issues, concluding that:

- There was a need for a proactive and systematic process of evidence-based assessment of genetic services.
- That to support this, decision makers and evaluators needed more guidance on the typical features and consequences of classes of genetic services.

- That sound economic assessments could be an important component of these deliberations, but they required standardized assessment data, some of which might derive from the use of precedents.

- And finally, that a coordinated approach across jurisdictions was both useful and complex. Such an approach would need to attend to the jurisdictional tensions concerning market access and public subsidy between the federal and provincial governments, and would have to attend to the need for both equity and jurisdictional autonomy across the provinces.

For more information regarding the CHEPA Workshop Series, please contact Theresa Noonan by email at noonant@mcmaster.ca

CHEPA News is a quarterly newsletter located on the CHEPA website, published by the Knowledge Exchange Program. Highlights of the newsletter include:

- Abstracts of new CHEPA Working Papers
- Spotlights on current CHEPA research projects and how to access them
- Features on new research completed in the broader spectrum of Canadian health policy and economic research
- Information on Canadian conferences and awards
- Notice of upcoming seminars and lectureships and of workshop reports

The CHEPA website is located on the web at www.chepa.org and serves as a gateway to CHEPA research and activities. What can be found on the web?

- CHEPA News and CHEPA Workshop Reports
- CHEPA Working Papers
- A searchable literature database of all CHEPA faculty and associates' publications
- Advance notice of upcoming seminar series and lectureships
- Educational information and links to courses taught by CHEPA faculty and associates
- Information and application forms for Student Awards
- Contact information for faculty, associates and support staff
- Links to other related sites

On the third Wednesday of each month during the academic year, CHEPA has an invited speaker present a seminar. The series attracts attention from a large audience, drawn from both the University and the wider community interested in health and health care issues.

During the 2002-2003 academic year, CHEPA hosted five seminar speakers. Advance notice of presentations are published in CHEPA News and on the CHEPA website.

2002-2003 Academic Year Speakers

Health Care Restructuring, Organizational Change and the Health and Well-being of Home Care Workers.

Dr. Margaret Denton, Professor, Department of Sociology and Gerontological Studies, McMaster University

The Macro-Determinants of Health Expenditures: Assessing the Impact of Income, Age Structure and Time

Dr. Livio DiMatteo, Department of Economics, Lakehead University

AIDS Media Advocacy and the Public Sphere

Dr. James Gillett, Assistant Professor, Health Studies Programme, McMaster University

Critical Issues in Knowledge Utilization and Health Policy-Making

Dr. Robert Rich, Professor of Law and Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Politics of Population Health

Dr. Dennis Raphael, School of Health Policy and Management, York University

Roberta Labelle was one of the Centre's founding members. Her death in 1991 was unexpected and occurred when broad recognition for her research in health economics was just starting to emerge. In memory of Roberta, CHEPA and the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics collaborated in establishing the Annual Labelle Lectureship Series. In the third week of October each year a health-services researcher with emerging recognition and an interdisciplinary approach to research gives a general interest lecture on a topic in the broadly defined areas of health economics and/or health policy. The Labelle Lecturer is also available for consultations with individuals in and outside McMaster University during the period of his or her visit. An endowment was established to ensure the ongoing funding of the Lectureship.

Assessing Health Technologies: Should Canada take the NICE Path?

Mark Sculpher, Director, Programme for Economic Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment
Centre for Health Economics, University of York, UK
<http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/che/sculpher.htm>

The National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) is a new body responsible for making decisions about which health care interventions and programmes should be funded by the UK National Health Service. NICE is part of an international trend of decision-making authorities, which use cost-effectiveness evidence to reach decisions on the reimbursement of interventions that will be paid from public resources. There are many unique features about the NICE model including its breadth of scope beyond medications to also include surgical procedures and devices, and its policy to commission independent Technology Assessment Reviews (TARs) from academic groups to be used as part of the decision making process. Sculpher drew on experience from NICE and illustrated a series of methodological issues, which emerged in the process. These issues included the choice

of analytical framework within which to synthesize evidence; determining the appropriate way to describe uncertainty to decision makers; how to make decisions under conditions of uncertainty; and how economic analysis can help set priorities for further research.

Mark Sculpher is a Professor of health economics and leads the Team for Economic Evaluation and Health Technology Assessment (TEEHTA) at the Centre for Health Economics, University of York. He holds a Career Scientist Award in Public Health awarded by the UK National Health Service Research and Development Programme.

Listings of previous Labelle Lectureships and abstracts can be found on the CHEPA website www.chepa.org. Notice of upcoming lectureships are advertised through CHEPA News and on the website.

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Education

Reflecting the commitment of its members to education and training, the Centre has maintained and strengthened its already substantial contributions to education in health economics and policy analysis at all levels.

Undergraduate

CHEPA faculty participate in undergraduate education in the faculties of social sciences and health sciences, as well as in undergraduate and postgraduate health professional training programs (MD, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy, occupational therapy).

For more information on undergraduate courses and programs, please visit the McMaster Undergraduate website at <http://registrar.mcmaster.ca/external/>

Graduate

CHEPA faculty participate as course co-ordinators and instructors, thesis supervisors and academic advisors to masters and doctoral students in the Health Research Methodology and Nursing graduate programs and in the MBA program's Health Services Management stream.

For more information on graduate courses and program, please visit the McMaster Clinical Health Sciences Graduate Program website at prelude.mcmaster.ca/grad/index.htm

Polinomics

Named after a quirky merging of the terms health policy and economics, Polinomics is a monthly seminar attended by individuals representing a wide range of disciplines from McMaster and outside universities and organizations. Individuals join for the academic year to present their work (grant proposals, papers ready for submission, etc.) and to provide written feedback to other participants.

For more information on Polinomics, please email Donna Wilcockson at wilcocks@mcmaster.ca.

Educational Initiative in Health Economics and Health Policy Analysis for Health Professionals

As part of CHEPA's goal to develop and implement a major educational initiative for training health professionals at McMaster, the Centre holds a number of seminars each year. The objective of this initiative is to ensure that all students enrolled in a health sciences discipline receive an introduction to basic concepts and tools from health economics and health policy analysis. These skills will assist in decisions about the content of clinical practice (e.g. economic evaluation of clinical services and clinical practice guidelines) and to understand the context within which they will practice.

In addition to student education, the Centre has also implemented a faculty development series in health economics and health policy analysis for Health Sciences faculty. The series has drawn faculty members from the medical, nursing, midwifery, physiotherapy and occupational therapy programs, as well as several postgraduate training programs.

For more information on these educational initiatives, please email John Lavis at lavisj@mcmaster.ca.

CHEPA Studentship

The Studentship Award provides McMaster University students who are enrolled in a graduate program and have an interest in health economics and/or health policy analysis with an opportunity to gain research experience and skills in an interdisciplinary environment. Students gain this exposure by either working on their own projects or on other ongoing projects run at the Centre or by its faculty. The amount of the award is \$8,000, consisting of a stipend of \$6,000 and up to \$2,000 for research expenses, books and travel to a conference to present research results, etc.

2002/2003 Academic Year Recipient

Emily Freeman, a third year doctoral student in the School of Geography and Geology at McMaster University. Her research interests lie in the areas of health, social and feminist geography as well as in qualitative research methods. She used the CHEPA Studentship to study areas of research that were not available to her through her own department. While at CHEPA, Emily worked on a project entitled "The Role of Patient Values in Evidence-Based Medicine" with Cathy Charles.

CHEPA Doctoral Fellowship

The CHEPA Doctoral Fellowship is intended to provide income support for graduate students enrolled in a Ph.D. program at McMaster University, whose field of research is health economics or health policy analysis. To be eligible, candidates must be entering their first year of doctoral study at McMaster, be supervised by a CHEPA faculty member, and be nominated by the Chair of their graduate program.

2002/2003 Academic Year Recipient

Gillian Mulvale is a PhD student in the Health Research Methodology Program. Gillian is pursuing her interests in health economics and policy analysis, with a particular focus on issues in mental health service delivery in Canada. In her thesis research, Gillian explores how public and private supplemental insurance coverage influences utilization of mental health services provided by different professional groups in Canada, in hospital and community settings, for various subpopulations and regions.

2002/2003 Visiting Fellow

Laurie Goldsmith is a doctoral candidate in the Department of Health Policy and Administration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH). She has received a Health Services Research Dissertation Award from the U.S. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality as well as multiple training, teaching and research awards from UNC-CH. Laurie's dissertation is a qualitative exploration of access to health care from the perspective of disadvantaged persons in Canada and the United States. From 1992 to 1997, Laurie was a Research Coordinator with CHEPA and the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University. Her research interests include: access to health care, the measurement of medical underservice, comparative healthcare systems, the politics of healthcare delivery, and the use of qualitative methods in health services research.