



**Centre for Health Economics
and Policy Analysis**

**2004-2005
ANNUAL REPORT**



- Brian Hutchison was selected as the 2004 recipient of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation (CHSRF) Health Services Research Advancement Award.
- Ivy Bourgeault was awarded a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Comparative Health Labour Policy and Practices.
- Laurie Goldsmith was awarded First Prize, Student Oral Presentation, at the inaugural conference of the Canadian Association for Health Services and Policy Research (CAHSPR) in May 2004 for her presentation "Economic Evaluation Across the Four Faces of Prevention: a Canadian Perspective. A discussion paper commissioned by the Canadian Medical Association.
- CHEPA hosted a policy forum "Options for Healthcare Financing: Implications for Sustainability", in October 2004. The forum explored the implications of alternative roles for the public and private sectors and the federal and provincial governments in the context of two specific policy challenges: pharmacare and the development of private sector finance.
- CHEPA co-sponsored the Ontario Regional Knowledge Transfer and Exchange Workshop: Building the Knowledge Base. The workshop brought together knowledge brokers and decision-makers with the objectives of sharing practice experiences in knowledge brokering and knowledge exchange; initiate a repository of practice and experiential learning; assess how the field evaluates the impact of knowledge transfer and exchange; and to initiate a regional community of practice for knowledge brokers.
- CHEPA welcomed two new associate members, Alina Gildiner and Michel Grignon.
- Alina Gildiner is a joint appointee in Political Science and the interdisciplinary Health Studies Programme. Her research interests deal with the politics and meaning of privatization, particularly how historical legacies have shaped these and how they continue to change in new historical contexts. Empirical work to date has focused on the impact of the organization of policy decision making on public-private change, drawing largely on historical-institutionalist approaches.
- Michel Grignon is a member of the Departments of Economics and Gerontological Studies. Prior to coming to McMaster he was at the Institut de recherche et de documentation en économie de la Santé in Paris, France. His research interests include determinants of health care and health care consumption, regulation of health care systems, and health economics.
- The CHEPA Advisory Council welcomed new members Lillian Bayne (Lillian Bayne & Associate) and Sandra MacDonald-Rencz (Acting Executive Director, Office of Nursing Policy, Health Canada) to the Council.
- CHEPA Faculty members continued to be very successful in external grant competitions in 2004, receiving over \$1.1 million as principal investigators on grants from CIHR, CHSRF and SSHRC.
- Logan McLeod and Martha Paynter were the recipients of CHEPA's doctoral fellowship for the 2004-2005 academic year.
- Valorie Crooks was CHEPA's studentship recipient for the 2004-2005 academic year. For details on these and other Centre activities please see the Annual Report or visit the CHEPA website at www.chepa.org.

Table of Contents

The Year In Brief	1
Table of Contents	2

Who We Are

Centre Mission	4
Organizational Chart	5

People

Faculty	7–11
Staff & Advisory Council	12

Research

Goals	14
Working Papers & Publications	15

Knowledge Exchange

Program	17
Newsletter & Website	18
Seminar Series	19
Labelle Lectureship	20

Education

Courses	22
Activities	23
Student Awards	24

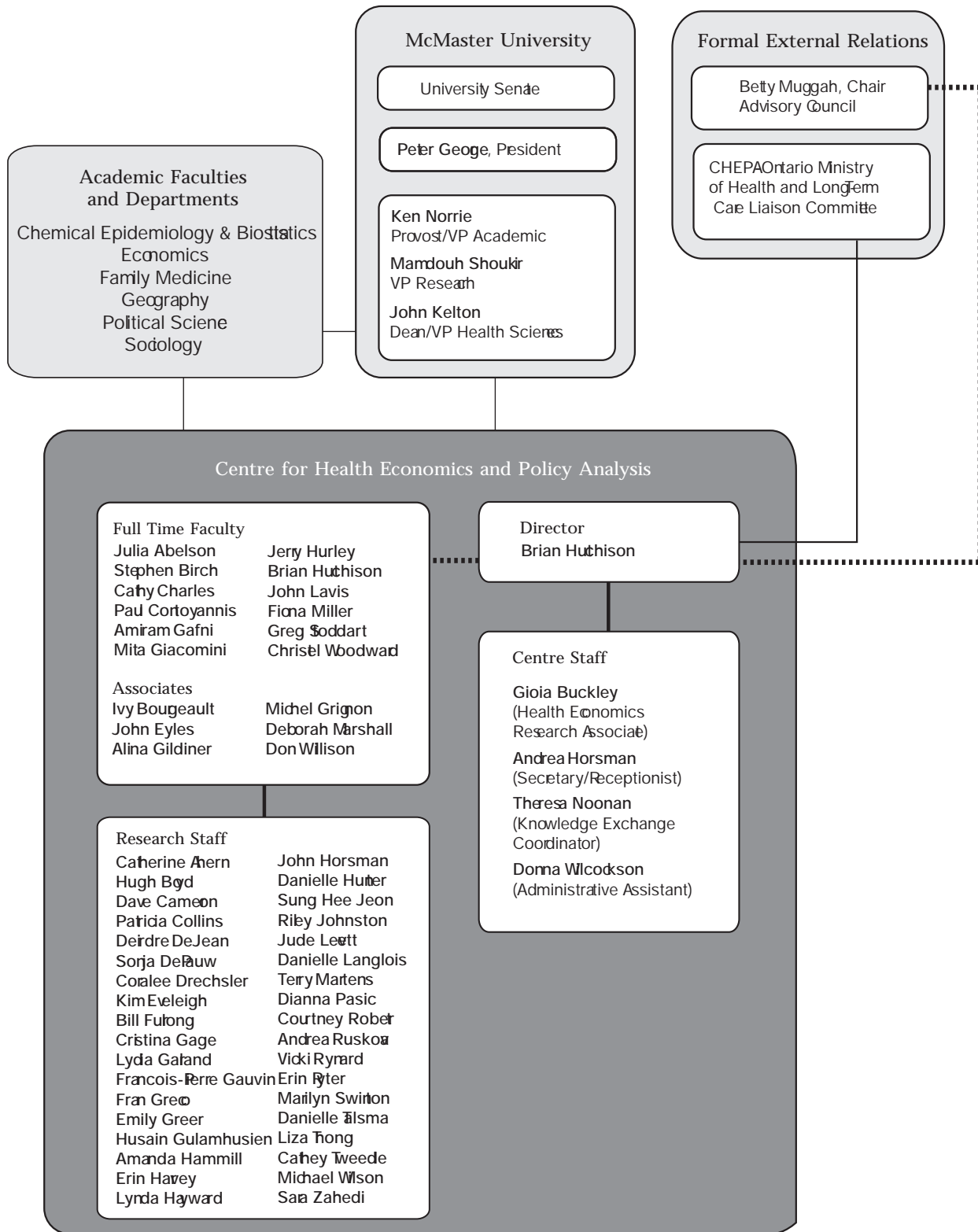
Note: This Report pertains to the 2004-05 fiscal year. Some information presented may have changed between the end of the fiscal year and publication of this report

The background is a dark gray gradient with several overlapping circles of varying sizes and shades of gray. A thick white horizontal line is positioned below the text.

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



- Reporting Relationship
- Advisory Relationship
- * Special Relationship

The background is a dark gray gradient with several overlapping circles of varying sizes and shades of gray. A thick white horizontal line with rounded ends is positioned across the middle of the page, partially overlapping the word 'People'.

People

Julia Abelson is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Associate Member of the Department of Political Science and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University. She holds a Canadian Institutes of Health Research New Investigator Award and was a past recipient of an Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care Career Scientist 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. Her research interests include democratic participation in health system governance; the evaluation of innovations in the organization, funding and delivery of health services; and the analysis of the determinants of health policy decision-making. Through her research, education and service activities, Dr. Abelson works closely with decision makers in provincial, regional and local government levels. She is a board member of the Canadian Centre for Analysis of Regionalization and Health.

Stephen Birch is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University. He is a previous recipient of the Faculty of Health Sciences Rose Levy Rosenstadt Award and a research scholarship award under Health Canada's National Health Research and Development Programme. He received his doctorate in economics at the University of York in the United Kingdom. His main research interests are in methods for economic evaluation of health interventions, equity in health care resource allocation and the relationship between health and environments. He is currently senior editor, health economics for *Social Science and Medicine*. He also holds Order-in-Council appointments on the Health Professions Regulatory Advisory Council of Ontario and Hamilton District Health Council.

Ivy Lynn Bourgeault was awarded the Canada Research Chair in Comparative Health Labour Policy, which she has taken up as of April 2004 following the early completion of her CIHR New Investigator Award. The focus of her CRC - a comparative examination of the migration of

health care providers into and out of Canada, the U.S., the U.K., and Australia - 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 U.S. She is a member of the National Steering Committee on Rural and Remote Women's Health and formerly of the CIHR Gender, Sex and Health Review Panel. Her current research program focuses mainly on comparative research on health occupations but she is also involved in research on rural health care issues, with emphasis on women's health and health care, and health care provider's views of complementary and alternative medicine. Dr. Bourgeault coordinates the first year introduction to health studies course as well as courses on the social organization of health care at both the undergraduate and graduate levels in the Department of Sociology.

Cathy Charles is an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics; a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis and an Associate Member, Department of Sociology at McMaster University. She is also an Investigator in the Supportive Cancer Care Research Unit which is co-sponsored by the Juravinski Cancer Centre and McMaster University. She is an Honorary Research Associate in the Department of Behavioural Sciences, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia. Dr. Charles 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. Dr. Charles' research interests include: public and patient participation in health care and treatment decision-making, shared treatment decision-making, the use of research information to improve the organization and delivery of health care, the health professions and public policy, and the social constructions of meanings in health policy analysis. Cathy's teaching interests include Medical Sociology, Health Policy Analysis, and Qualitative Research Methods. Cathy has been a health policy consultant to several provincial governments as well as to the federal government.

Paul Contoyannis is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics, Associate member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis. Prior to joining McMaster in February 2002, he was a Research Fellow at the University of York, U.K. working on two Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) projects on the analysis of longitudinal health data. He obtained his Ph.D. in Economics, from the University of York in 2000. His dissertation 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; and models of addiction.

John Eyles is a social and policy scientist at McMaster University. He is a Professor of Geography and cross-appointed in the Departments of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Sociology, and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis. He was Director of the McMaster Institute of Environment and Health until June 30, 2004. Dr. Eyles is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is author or co-author of some 200 books, peer-reviewed journal articles and technical reports in the health and social sciences fields. Dr. Eyles has carried out work for national and provincial organizations and governments in Canada. His research interests include: environment; and health and science policy.

Amiram Gafni is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis. 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; and modeling of consumers' and providers' behaviour (e.g. the physician-patient encounter).

Mita Giacomini is an Associate Professor in Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McMaster University and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster. She holds graduate degrees in health services and policy analysis, history of medicine, and public health. Her publications have addressed topics including ethical and political reasoning in health technology assessment, health care rationing, interdisciplinarity in health research, the idea of "values" in Canadian policy rhetoric, and the clinical uses of qualitative evidence. Current research projects focus on argumentation and evidence in health technology coverage decisions, values and ethics in Canadian health policy, and life support technologies in intensive care. Dr. Giacomini has provided consultation and service to local, provincial, national and international health agencies in areas related to technology assessment and health policy. She is currently a member of the Ontario Health Technology Assessment Committee. Dr. Giacomini teaches in the areas of philosophy of science, qualitative research methods, and health policy analysis. Her research interests include: social and ethical dimensions of health technology assessment; health resource allocation; ethics and values in health policy analysis.

Alina Gildiner is an Associate Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University. She is a joint appointee in Political Science and the interdisciplinary Health Studies Programme. Dr. Gildiner's research interests deal with the politics and meaning of privatization, particularly how historical legacies have shaped these and how they continue to change in new historical contexts. Empirical work to date has focused on the impact of the organization of policy decision making on public-private change, drawing largely on historical-institutionalist approaches.

Michel Grignon is an Assistant Professor with a joint position in the Department of Economics and the Center for Gerontological Studies and an Associate Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University. Dr. Grignon obtained his doctorate in economics at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales, Paris, France. His research interests include: the health care financing issues (efficiency and

equity); aging and health care systems; and the economic analysis of the determinants of health. He is an editor of the *Revue d'Epidémiologie et de Santé Publique* (France).

Jerry Hurley is a Professor in the Department of Economics, an Associate Member of the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University. He served as the Associate Coordinator of the CHEPA from 1994-1996, 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 Canadian Institute for Health Information's National Health Expenditures Database Expert Group. His research interests include: health care financing, particularly public and private roles in health care financing; health care funding, particularly needs-based capitation funding models; normative economic analysis in the health sector; 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 the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, 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. Dr. Hutchison was the recipient of the Canadian Health Services Research Foundation's Health Services Research Advancement Award in 2004. 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; and 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 the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, and Associate Member of the Department of Political Science at McMaster University. He is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. His principal research interests include knowledge transfer and uptake in public policymaking environments and the politics of healthcare systems. He directs the Program in Policy Decision-Making, a research program affiliated with the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (www.researchtopolicy.ca). Dr. Lavis 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), inaugural Chair of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Health Policy and Systems Management grants review committee (2000-2003), one of two inaugural Canadian Associates of the Harkness Fellows Program (2001-2), Visiting Researcher at the Institut de recherche et de documentation en économie de la santé (IRDES) in Paris, France (2003-4), and a member of the World Health Organization's Task Force on Health Systems Research (2004-5). His research interests include: knowledge transfer and uptake in public policy-making environments; and politics of health-care systems.

Deborah Marshall is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and an Associate Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis at McMaster University. As well, she holds a joint position as Senior Manager at Innovus Research Inc. She completed her doctoral training through the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Marshall serves on the Board of Directors for the Health Technology Assessment International (HTAi) and on the Editorial Board of the *International Journal for Technology Assessment in Health Care*. Her research interests include: health technology; assessment of new medical devices, drugs, and diagnostics; economic evaluation of health care programmes, particularly for screening and

diagnostic technologies; and methods for the measurement of patient preferences for screening and diagnostic tests.

Fiona Miller is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, McMaster University. She holds a Career Scientist Award from the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care (MOHLTC). Dr Miller has methodological expertise in mixed methods, the interpretive analysis of qualitative data (historiographic, policy analytic, and sociological study of science and medicine), and substantive knowledge in the area of genetic and bio-technologies. Dr Miller's research focuses on genetic and genomic health services. She studies the social organization of medical genetics as a science and emerging health service, resource allocation and technology assessment in genetics, innovation creation in health biotechnology and the role of intellectual property rights, and the health service implications of disease re-definitions resulting from developments in molecular genetics. Dr Miller is also involved in policy development in these areas, through the Ontario Advisory Committee on Genetics and its Evaluation Subcommittee (technology assessment), through the Evaluation Subcommittee (program evaluation) of the Ontario Implementation Committee for Hereditary Cancer Genetics, and through consultations with various national and international groups.

Greg Stoddart is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis where he was the founding Coordinator of the Centre, and an Associate Member of the Department of Economics. His current research interests address topics from both the economics of health care and the economics of health, including: the public-private mix in health care finance; social and economic determinants of health and health care utilization; the development and application of conceptual frameworks for studies of the determinants of health; methods for the analysis of cross-sectoral resource allocation for health; and knowledge transfer to inform policy-making about health and health care. He teaches health economics to undergraduate, graduate

and post-professional students from the Faculties of Health Sciences and Social Sciences, and has developed several new courses and programs during his twenty-five year teaching career at McMaster. He currently co-directs (with Professor John Lavis) the Educational Initiative in Health Economics and Health Policy Analysis for Health Professionals in Training at McMaster. He was one of the founders and a Fellow of the Population Health Program of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research during the program's fifteen-year tenure (1988-2003). He has served as a consultant to the World Health Organization, the World Bank, and several Canadian Ministries of Health and task forces at both the federal and provincial levels on a wide variety of health policy issues. He has held visiting research appointments at Odense University (Denmark), the University of British Columbia, and the Ontario Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being and Social Justice, and has held adjunct or external associate faculty appointments at the University of Manitoba, the University of Montreal, and the University of British Columbia. He holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of British Columbia, and has received a number of academic awards including fellowships from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation, Health and Welfare Canada, and the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research.

Don Willison is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics and an Associate Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis 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; and the role and function of research ethics boards.

Christel Woodward is a Professor in the Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, a Member of the Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis, 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. Dr. Woodward's 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.

Staff / Advisory Council

Centre Staff

Gioia Buckley
Health Economics Research Associate
Andrea Horsman
Secretary/Receptionist
Theresa Noonan
Knowledge Exchange Coordinator
Donna Wilcockson
Administrative Assistant

Research Staff

Catherine Ahern, Research Co-ordinator
Hugh Boyd, Research Assistant
Dave Cameron, Research Associate
Patricia Collins, Research Assistant
Deirdre DeJean, Research Assistant
Sonja DePauw, Research Co-ordinator
Coralee Drechsler, Research Assistant
Kim Eveleigh, Research Assistant
Bill Furlong, Research Co-ordinator
Cristina Gage, Project Manager
Lydia Garland, Research Assistant
Francois-Pierre Gauvin, Research Assistant
Fran Greco, Administrative Secretary
Emily Greer, Research Assistant
Husain Gulamhusien, Research Assistant
Amanda Hammill, Senior Research Co-ordinator
Erin Harvey, Research Assistant
Lynda Hayward, Senior Programme Co-ordinator
John Horsman, Senior Research Co-ordinator
Danielle Hunter, Research Assistant
Sung Hee Jeon, Research Statistician
Riley Johnston, Research Assistant
Jude Levett, Administrative Assistant
Danielle Langlois, Research Assistant
Terry Martens, Administrative Secretary
Dianna Pasic, Research Co-ordinator
Courtney Robert, Research Assistant

Suzanne Ross, Research Associate/Assistant Professor
Andrea Ruskova, Research Assistant
Vicki Rynard, Research Co-ordinator/Statistician
Erin Ryter, Research Assistant
Marilyn Swinton, Research Co-ordinator
Danielle Talsma, Data Analyst
Liza Thong, Administrative Assistant
Cathey Tweedle, Administrative Assistant/Editorial Assistant
Michael Wilson, Research Assistant
Sara Zahedi, Research 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)
Vice President Grants and Community Initiatives
Hamilton Community Foundation

Terry Albert
Executive Director
Corporate Affairs
Canadian Medical Association

Bob Baldwin
Director
Social & Economic Policy
Canadian Labour Congress

Lillian Bayne
Lillian Bayne & Associates

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

John Capone
Associate Dean, Research
Faculty of Health Sciences
McMaster University

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

Brian Hutchison
Director, CHEPA
McMaster University

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

Sandra MacDonald-Rencz
Acting Executive Director
Office of Nursing Policy
Health Canada

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
Manitoba Centre for Health Policy

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

The image features a dark gray background with several overlapping circles of varying sizes and shades of gray. A prominent white horizontal line with rounded ends is positioned across the middle of the frame. The word "Research" is written in a white, serif font, centered above the line.

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.

Funding

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).

Working Papers/Publications

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.

04-03: Jeon S-H, Hurley J.
The Relationship between Physician Labour Supply,
Service Volume and Service Intensity.

04-02: Woodward C.
Home Care in Australia: Some Lessons for Canada.

04-01: Hurley J, Hutchison B, Buckley G, Woodward C.
Developing Needs-based Funding Formulae Using Individual-level Linked Survey
and Utilization Data: An Application to Home Care Services in Ontario, Canada.

Faculty and associates' publications are listed in our searchable literature database on our website www.chepa.org. Our database contains information on publications written by CHEPA faculty and associates from 1999 to 2004. The database can be searched by author or by topic. Database topics include:

Major Category	Sub-Category
Financing/funding and remuneration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private/public mix • User charges/cost sharing • Physician payment methods • Population based funding
Organization, delivery & utilization of health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance/organizational structures • Primary and community care • Providers of care • Patient/consumer participation in decision-making • Access to health care • Preventive care • Utilization
Economic methods, evaluation and technology assessment Health Policy analysis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methods • Economic evaluation of pharmaceuticals • Knowledge transfer and uptake • Public consultation in decision-making
Determinants of health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frameworks • Work and health • Socio-economic status and health

The background is a dark gray gradient with several overlapping circles of varying sizes and shades of gray. A thick white horizontal line is positioned across the middle of the page, partially overlapping the text.

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 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 cheпа@mcmaster.ca.

CHEPA News is an electronic newsletter located on the CHEPA website and by subscription, published by the Knowledge Exchange Program. Highlights of the newsletter include:

- Links to each new CHEPA Working Paper
- Spotlights on current CHEPA research projects
- New publications by CHEPA researchers
- Information on Canadian conferences and awards
- Notice of upcoming seminars, lectureships, and workshop reports

The CHEPA website is located at the url 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 CHEPA faculty publications
- Advance notice of upcoming seminar series and lectureships
- Educational information and links to courses taught by CHEPA faculty
- Information and application forms for Student Awards
- Contact information for faculty 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 2003-2004 academic year, CHEPA hosted nine seminar speakers. Advance notice of presentations are published in CHEPA News and on the CHEPA website.

2004-2005 Academic Year Speakers

**A System of Integrated Care for Older Persons with Disabilities in Canada:
Results from a Randomized Controlled Trial**

François Béland, Department of Health Administration, University of Montreal

**Using Discrete Choice Experiments to Value the Benefits from Health Care:
An Application to Prenatal Diagnosis**

Mandy Ryan, University of Aberdeen, UK

Efficient Reward System for Pharmaceutical Innovation

Aidan Hollis, Institute of Health Economics, University of Calgary

The Impact of Up-Front Payment on Drug Expenditures: Evidence from France

Michel Grignon, Departments of Gerontology and Economics, McMaster University

The Health Council of Canada: Can It Make A Difference?

Cathy Fooks, Executive Director, Health Council of Canada

Private Decisions and Public Priorities - An Exploratory Study of Routine Prenatal Testing

Brenda Wilson, Department of Epidemiology and Community Medicine, University of Ottawa

What Shapes Innovative Health Care Delivery Models?:

The Design and Implementation of Satellite and Mobile Dialysis Units

Pascale Lehoux, Department of Health Administration, University of Montreal

Steering Health Policy: Lessons from the New Zealand Experience Since 1990

Tim Tenbensel, Centre for Health Services Research and Policy,
University of Auckland, New Zealand

Power, Incentives and Trust.

Policy Instruments for Regional and Local Action in the Health Field

Pierre-Gerlier Forest, GDW Cameron Visiting Chair, Health Canada
Department of Political Science, Laval 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.

Why Are They Doing This To Us: Will Changes In Data Health Privacy Legislation Kill Research As We Know It?

2004 Labelle Lecture: October 20, 2004.

Valerie Steeves, Assistant Professor, Department of Criminology, University of Ottawa

The argument that privacy legislation is threatening research is misleading, for two reasons. First, 30 years of experience indicates that privacy laws were drafted to ensure the continued flow of information to data collectors and have proven to be ineffective as tools to restrict surveillance, including medical surveillance. A historical review of the development of data protection rules demonstrates that fair information practices were negotiated by data collectors to ensure a continued flow of accurate data for research and administrative purposes. Requirements such as individual knowledge of collection and rights of access and correction work to ensure that the data retains its integrity, which in turn protects its value to researchers. Accordingly, data protection legislation works not to restrict but to advance research interests. Second, an analysis of health privacy legislation across the country reveals that virtually every Act exempts research from the application of fair information practices and/or the requirement that the data collector obtain consent to the collection of personal health information. In other words, privacy legislation does not stop the flow of information to researchers or place restraints on the collection of data for research purposes. Instead, it throws the ball to REBs who are empowered to decide whether or not consent is impracticable in the specific context of each project.

The argument that privacy threatens research is also misleading because it obscures underlying factors which have restructured medical research and contributed to a perceived conflict between privacy and the development of new knowledge. Typically, researchers seeking to avoid a consent-based paradigm argue that the individual right to privacy detracts from the social benefits of advancing knowledge. However, pure research is no longer the norm. Public-private partnerships and the pursuit of intellectual property have blurred the line between public health care and academic research, on the one hand, and the health industry, on the other. Accordingly, research is no longer an unencumbered public good, but increasingly involves the conversion of personal health data into a form of property which is alienated from the individual in accordance with commercial imperatives. Ironically, the research environment is, in fact, not characterized by growing privacy constraints but by a shrinking public sphere due to the increasing privatization of health information as an exploitable commodity. In this environment, fair information practices may help to protect research against commercial imperatives and ensure that data currently being commodified in the hands of corporate owners will remain available to the research community at large. To this end, it is naive to argue for rules (or the lack of rules) that are based on the needs of pure science divorced from any commercial imperatives; it is also important to remember that eroding any expectation that health information is private opens the data to other users, including enforcement agencies, and that will have serious social consequences which, in turn, may lead to biased data.

Social-psychological research indicates that any loss of expectation of privacy with respect to health records will necessarily be met with a social restructuring of the required level of privacy, typically through patients withholding information or providing false information. Recent research indicates that patients may even forgo medical treatment in order to protect their privacy. Especially now that the primary purpose of collecting health information for the provision of care is collapsing into secondary purposes such as quality control and research, it is likely that the relationship between patients and health care providers will be restructured due to a breakdown in trust, and that the accuracy and/or completeness of databases containing personal health records will be corrupted unless fair information practices are put into place.

The background is a dark gray gradient with several overlapping circles of varying sizes and shades of gray. A thick white horizontal line is positioned across the middle of the page, starting from the left edge and ending at the right edge, passing through the word 'Education'.

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 a number of programs across the Faculties of Social Science, Health Sciences, and Science, 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 and Post-Graduate

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

For more information on graduate courses and programs, please visit the McMaster School of Graduate Studies webpage at www.mcmaster.ca/graduate/

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 from 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, Centre faculty members John Lavis and Greg Stoddart lead or participate in a number of educational sessions each year. The objective of this initiative is to ensure that as many students enrolled in a health sciences discipline as possible 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 (i.e. economic evaluation of clinical services and clinical practice guidelines) and help to understand the context within which they will practice.

For more information on this initiative, 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.

2004/2005 Academic Year Studentship Recipient

Valorie Crooks is a third year PhD student in the School of Geography and Geology at McMaster University. For her doctoral research project she has conducted 55 in-depth interviews with women diagnosed with fibromyalgia syndrome (FMS) living in Hamilton, North Bay and Sudbury to find out about their experiences of living with a 'controversial' and not well understood chronic illness, of finding and using health services (including GPs, specialists and allied health professionals), and the impact that accessing and using health care services has on their everyday lives and daily paths. With the assistance of CHEPA associate member Ivy Bourgeault, she will draw on this existing data set of 55 interviews and Sickness Impact Profile (SPI) tests. She will put patient's experiences into the context of the structure of the health care system as a way of explaining some of what they have shared about issues such as local access to GPs and specialists.

CHEPA Fellowship

The CHEPA Doctoral Fellowship is intended to provide income support for graduate students enrolled in a Ph.D. programme at McMaster University whose field of research is health economics or health policy analysis. 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 programme. The award carries an annual stipend of \$16,000.

2004/2005 Academic Year Doctoral Fellowships

Martha Paynter is a first year PhD candidate in the Health Research Methodology Program at McMaster

University. She is interested in women's sexual and reproductive health, feminist methodologies in health research, and the translation of research to policy. Martha has been a Research Assistant at the Atlantic Centre of Excellence for Women's Health and to the Elizabeth May Chair in Womens' Health and the Environment at Dalhousie University in Halifax, NS. She holds a BA in Economics and Art History from McGill University and an MSc in Development Economics from Dalhousie University.

Logan McLeod is a first year PhD student with a specialization in health economics. He received his Honours degree in Economics from the University of Western Ontario in 2001, and his Masters degree from McMaster University in 2002. Logan worked at Statistics Canada for two years in the Business and Labour Market Analysis division conducting research on low-income in Canadian cities and in the Health Statistics Division on the Health Indicators project. His research interests are in the areas of non-health related government policy and the effect on population health as well as need-based allocation. His immediate research will examine the Ontario welfare reform of 1995 and the effect it had on the health of the population.

2002/2005 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. In addition to pursuing a doctoral degree during her hiatus from CHEPA, Laurie worked as a research associate at the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at UNC-CH. At the Sheps Center, Laurie helped redesign medical underservice measures used by the United States Federal Department of Health and Human Services. 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.



**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