

The Centre for Health Economics and Policy Analysis (CHEPA) has reorganized and expanded its membership as it adapts and responds both to the increasing prominence of research and academic scholarship in health economics and health policy analysis and to McMaster University's Collaborations in Health initiative.

Changes include a reorganization of the centre membership into distinctive programs in Health Economics (HE) and Health Policy Analysis (HPA), an increase in faculty membership, the appointment of a new Centre Director and the establishment of an Associate Director role.

While the Centre's mission – to foster excellence in acquiring, producing and communicating socially-relevant knowledge in the field of health economics and health policy analysis – remains unchanged, its reorganized and expanded membership promotes greater cross-Faculty involvement with its 21 faculty members now spanning six departments and three faculties across the University.

This is the first major reorganization for CHEPA since its establishment at McMaster in 1988 as one of the first research centres of its kind in Canada. Over the past two decades, McMaster has earned an international reputation and is now home to the largest group of health economists and health policy analysts in Canada.

The changes are largely driven by the growth and development of research and academic scholarship in health economics and health policy analysis internationally. With a shared infrastructure of programs and activities overseen by CHEPA's new Director, Julia Abelson, and Associate Director, Jerry Hurley, the HE and HPA programs will use their respective strengths and synergies to pursue innovation and excellence in research and education. "A major emphasis of the newly reorganized Centre is to position McMaster as the 'go to' place for training in health economics and health policy in Canada and to sustain its international reputation for the production and transfer of high quality health economics and health policy research knowledge", says Centre Director, Julia Abelson.

These changes position CHEPA to play a prominent role in the University's Collaborations for Health initiative, focused on fostering innovative, high-quality collaborations among McMaster health researchers and educators. By more effectively capitalizing on the existing expertise in health economics and policy at McMaster, the changes create new opportunities for research, education and contributions to policy development. "CHEPA has always been and will continue to be an interdisciplinary research centre. But under our new organizational structure and membership, we have expanded that interdisciplinary strength and created more breadth and depth across our research and educational programs".

Detailed information on CHEPA members can be found at:
<http://www.chepa.org/Whoweare/tabid/53/Default.aspx>