Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

April 2019

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STANDING AGENDA TOPICS:

- **Guest Speaker Discussion**: insights around the experience and expertise of an invited speaker, focusing on a subject that may be of interest to the broader community

- **Communicate**: share recent successes, upcoming events, innovation pipeline and new products, health innovation trends, etc.

- **Collaborate & Accelerate**: welcome new members to community, partnership opportunities, discover programming and resources available to the community, discuss market gaps and challenges, learn about potential funding opportunities, new RFPs issued, etc.

Facilitator & Note Taker   Alex Muggah, Director, Synapse Consortium
Location   McMaster Innovation Park,
175 Longwood Dr,
9:00-10:00am

Next Monthly Check-up: May 27 | 9:00 – 10:00am | McMaster Innovation Park
Please sign up to our mailing list to receive meeting minutes and other important updates.

Finding collaborative partners for health companies and researchers can be difficult. Synapse has created the Health Innovation Partnership Portal (HIPP) to facilitate finding new partners within Canada's leading health research and educational ecosystem located in in Hamilton, Ontario.

Minutes for our monthly check-up meetings are not published and are for reference purposes only. We do our best to ensure all information is accurately portrayed, and that no privileged/private information is inappropriately disclosed. Past meeting minutes can be access through a public Dropbox, using the following link.

For additional information on any subject, to contact a presenter directly, or should you have an adjustment to make to the notes made here, please contact: Alex.Muggah@SynapseConsortium.com. Updates will be reflected in a revised version of the monthly minutes.

Time allotted | *20 Minutes*

Topic: **Guest Speaker Discussion**

Insights around the experience and expertise of an invited speaker, focusing on a subject that may be of interest to the broader community

Guest Speaker Discussion
Guest Speaker(s):   • Paul Brown   General Manager (MEDIC) at Mohawk College   • Topic: iDeaWorks @ Mohawk College: Capacity and Capabilities   [no presentation slides used, slides from past presenters available for download in Health Check-up drobox folder]

[the following is a synopsis of the discussion, and has been lightly edited for length and clarity]

Introduction

Thank you for having me here today. While a fair number of the folks in the room know about Mohawk College's capabilities, I want to take the chance to talk a little about them, and especially iDeaWorks, the driver of applied research at the college, focused on delivering customized support to organizations and companies across the region and around the world.

About 11 years ago, Mohawk got into applied research, with the goal to enable specialization to create clusters of expertise at the College. Because at heart we're an engineering group, and the strength of our own health programs and the strength of the regional health cluster in Hamilton, we picked the technical elements of digital health (e.g., interoperability, integration, security, privacy, etc.). This took the form of the mHealth and eHealth Development and Innovation Centre (MEDIC), which was designed to help companies, start-ups, not-for-profits, and government organizations develop and implement innovative digital health solutions to improve patient care.

We started our MEDIC group with a fair amount of very technical folks – software and technical engineers. Historically we've had great success working with institutions around the world, including building solutions for the Ministry of Health, Helath Infoway, private sector companies as well foreign organizations. For example, we had a project with the Gates Foundation where we built an immunization system built for an entire country (Tanzania). Our team is very technical and is interested in projects with a very heavy lift – enterprise-ready solutions.

That said, the sweet spot for Colleges is around supporting prototyping and ideation.

Discussion – New Digital Health User Experience Lab

We have a new space coming online this week: The Digital Health User Experience Lab, a design thinking/usability lab, which will have a new home in the Joyce Innovation building. We've got an open house on Wednesday afternoon, May 1 – starts at 3-4pm, and includes a tour (register here).

The idea for this new space is around a shop-floor concept. If you bring a problem into us, we'll work with you to identify and flush it an idea with practitioners who understand the underlying issues and technical complexity. We

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Guest Speaker Discussion

want to help clients define the correct problem – we'll do root cause analysis, and then incorporate issues raised into an iterative improvement process. A key part of our process also involves including and connecting with stakeholder groups. This enables us to let our clients go from design to testing to rapid prototyping development on accelerated timelines.

Our new space is meant to assist the College with prototyping and rapid product development. We've been contemplating this space for a couple of years, and are really excited about being able to open it up this week.

We will be able to incorporate this new space into an expanded set of capabilities that we can apply to current and future projects. We've got it set up for how each of the processes will work.

The new space (~5400 sq ft) is highly configurable, and will be used to create collisions between students, practitioners, researchers and engineers. There are two small testing labs where we can observe people who are testing and evaluation.

More specifically, we've created a dedicated testing and observation space, which is adjoined by a pair of rooms with a one-way mirror observation room. In these rooms we've put up audio visual (AV) capabilities to capture how people interact with the computers/tablets or equipment that is being tested. We also have video equipment to observe how people are using the device or software. Our project managers (and technical staff) can watch and interact with participants in real-time. We've also included a gallery space that can be occupied by stakeholders (e.g., researchers, students, company management, etc.) that can be used to observe what's happening.

We also find it important to make sure our software developers attend and observe the way in which people interact with the digital solutions they've helped construct. One of the biggest challenges that we've come across is the natural human tendency to build software for ourselves. We often think we're designing technology for others, but we end up doing it for ourselves, creating problems around usability. MEDIC's (and the broader College) is focused on integrating usability and designing thinking principles to help us counter this.

Already, we've started working with Canada Health Infoway, but in the future we see both public- and private-sector projects being able to leverage this space (i.e., one of our larger Ministry of Health projects will go there). Since I've been at MEDIC, there has been a focus on putting students first – both from Mohawk and our partner McMaster University. The strong health and engineering programs at Mohawk provide us with an important pool of talent that we can bring to bear.

Going forward, our focus is going to be around applying usability and design thinking to all our projects. As far as topic areas go, aging in home is of particular interest – which will be enabled by the expected change in terms of patient access to data. At a high level, hospitals are trying to put themselves out of business – they want to try and make sure people don't come back (or come to the hospital in the first place), which requires patients to be able to manage their own care. It's about working with education and public health systems – making people learn how to own their own health, and access to their data will be a key enabler – the data itself is boring, but what you can do with it will be transformative.

Other Mohawk College Capabilities

We have the Institute for Applied Health Sciences at McMaster (IAHS), which is located on McMaster Univesrity campus. The IAHS is effectively a 55-bed training hospital, enabling high-fidelity simulations across a variety of clinical areas, including at-home care delivery, acute-care, long-term care, pharmacology, cardiology, ultrasound and radiology.

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Guest Speaker Discussion

Mohawk is working with McMaster to join software developers at MEDIC with the students and research/training capabilities at IAHS. Working closely with practitioners and the nursing programs, we are able to pull out insights in a simulation lab that can be extremely valuable to our clients. We have a tight relationship with the McMaster eHealth program, and so expect them to make use of this space (e.g., class projects, or paid corporate projects). They also have apartments set up, to test and evaluate aging in place – either through apps, device monitoring, and help people age in place.

Working with provincial partners (eHealth Ontario), MEDIC created the online Innovation Lab. It's a virtual environment that allows users to understand and experiment with basic EHR services and connectivity. For those building custom applications or solutions, it's a place to validate planning, make product adjustments, and prove concepts. The platform is operationally and physically isolated from eHealth Ontario's production environments. It contains copies of eHealth Ontario EHR test environment assets and a fabricated, integrated EHR data set. No personal health information (PHI) or personal information (PI) is used in the innovation lab. MEDIC provides research, development, testing and training services for organizations and companies that want to use the Innovation Lab.

The Additive Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMRC) is part of iDeaWorks, and supports industry innovation using new manufacturing technologies by partnering on applied research and development projects, with particular expertise in DMLS technology (metal 3D printing). As an applied research lab, AMRC provides a test bed for industry to develop new products and processes.

Question & Answers

Question: What type of projects do you prefer?

Historically, we've done some usability work for in-house projects. But we're happy to host usability studies from any organization. If the product is in a beta state – so not ready to be rolled out on the shop floor – we can test to see whether it is a go-no/go decision to move forward. We're also able to help quickly and effectively if you're a company that has developed wireframes, or have an idea that needs to be rapidly tested and developed to assess whether the idea is sound. This addresses our most client request – "dropping kids off at daycare" management approach – to do rapid development to assess a need.

We're also happy to work with clinical folks who need support, especially those who lack technical expertise to transform their idea into a working prototype.

Question: What level of expertise do you have at MEDIC?

We have a very highly skilled team. We historically don't focus on medical devices, as our expertise is in software. If you want to access a hospital or government system, we have the expertise and experience to integrate with these systems. We can build APIs, we can build wireframes, we can build soup-to-nuts and everything in between. Our sweet spot is in prototyping. We use DOT.NET and helped write some of the underlying FHIR protocols.

Question: how do you engage students?

First way is through internships, and we bring them on for two years. We engage them on paid projects with actual partners. Our first mission as a college is to produce high quality professionals. Most of them when they

hit their second semester, they're close to a being a full technical professional. We may pair up with academic programs, so we find something that is student directed – ideally with a hospital or clinical partner. We also work with our regional Hacking Health group, they'll do the heavy lifting and we'll do some stickhandling around the most common issues (e.g., privacy, security, building a system that is available, redundant, etc.)

Question: How would you describe your approach to projects / collaborations?

We have four Ts – Teaming, Testing, Tooling and Training – that guide us:

- Teaming: you have a problem, now it's our problem. We have daily design meetings, but we're engaged on the partner team to build out the solution.
- Testing: evaluate processes and technologies. Can you talk to a government system, can you talk to a hospital system? We've worked with Health InfoWay, eHealth Ontario and others to build onboarding processes for their technical system.
- Tooling: we build things, both big and small. If we build it it's open-sourced, if our partner builds it (especially private sector partners) then they own the IP and the effort. If the project is publicly funded then we try to make the solution (or at least parts of it) open-sourced.
- Training: some folks will come to us, especially start-ups, to learn technical skills, or to train up their teams. So we help them to learn about how to use the tools they need to succeed (e.g., HL7)

Question: When you talk about funding – and they're a startup what are their options?

We'll talk to everyone and give advice. But if we get involved a project, we follow a 2-and-2 project. Two employees and two years of service. We've worked with start-up groups and we've seen them fail – the current financial reality is that they need to have some seed/grant/bank funding in order to be successful in engaging in a project with us. We have some success getting money for our clients, but they need to be further along (e.g., with a business plan).

Early start-ups have some difficulty getting funding, and the bar to get funding is going up. Our best offering in this case are free consultations – and we can help a start-up avoid some of that pain. Once they're a bit more robust (i.e., eligible for OCE grants), we have had success co-applying to writing a grant, and collaborate with them on the writing. We don't write the full grant for them, but anywhere from $5k -$25k can make the difference in allowing us to provide material development and support.

Our sweet spot are companies who have closed a first round of seed funding, and their Board is telling them to move fast and start developing a product. We can build a near-shore development team that can work with their business team – and while they're building up their inhouse capacity for development, we're doing development and testing in parallel. For example, they may want to build the web app, and have us build the mobile app. These scale-ups are a sweet spot.

We do have established companies who have no technical staff. We've played their role of their technical team, but that is not something we do often.

Question: Those clinical projects – we have researchers who "have a need", but they aren't software developers, how can they engage?

We have the clinical, construction side. Sometimes we've done things for free – especially if constrained for just a research project. That said, building things for free is not our default mode. We have history working with many different research groups. If you can land NSERC or CHIR funding, we can work on the project – even though we're in the College.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Question: How unique is MEDIC and its capabilities?

Don't see any other secondary institution that does what we can do in Canada.

We aren't here to replace a private firm. We're meant to be connective tissue in the ecosystem. We've developed our skills in-house. We have very technical expertise and experience working with high-profile international organizations likes the Gates Foundation. Each project is a stepping stone to the next one, building out our technical and program management capacity.

We can look at all aspects of a development projects – maintenance, testing, building, prototyping, versions, integration, security, etc… So when we have a client team come to us, we can explain what they need and then work closely with them to resolve their challenge.

In the end, we consider three main buckets: Is it feasible (technical side), is it sustainable, and is it desirable (stakeholder needs are being addressed).

Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

Check out Synapse's online calendar

April

- Apr 28 – May 11: McMaster Emerging Health Leaders Program (McMaster Health Leadership Academy)
- Apr 29 – May 3: Hamilton Health Innovation Week (Synapse)
- Apr 29: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)
- April 29: The Driving Forces Shaping the Future of Canadian Health Care (Health Leadership Academy)
- Apr 30 – May 1: Health Entrepreneur Bootcamp (Veolocity, The Forge & Synapse)
- Apr 30 – May 1: Healthcare Investor Conference (Bloom Burton)
- Apr 30: NeuroXchange Conference 2019 (NeuroXchange)

May

- May 1: MEDIC Innovation Showcase 2019 (Mohawk College, iDeaWorks)
- May 2: Capturing the Data: Improving Patient Outcomes (JLABs & Innovation Factory)
- May 2: Hacking Health Hamilton Meetup (Hacking Health Hamilton)
- May 8: Technology & Future of Healthcare 2019 (Hamilton Academy of Medicine)
- May 9: The Big DiF (Innovation Factory)
- May 10: Medical Imaging Informatics and Teleradiology Conference (MIIT)
- May 13-14: OCE Discovery (OCE)
- May 14-16: Health Sciences Research Plenary 2019 (McMaster)
- May 14: Evan Burfield in Hamilton - Regulatory Hacking for Startups (MILO)
- May 16: Canada-US Cross-Border Innovation Corridors: Cascadia and the Great Lakes Region
- May 23: LSO Breakfast Seminar: Antimicrobial resistance and alternative approaches to human health and infectious diseases (LSO)
- May 26-29: Call for Abstracts: e-Health Conference and Tradeshow (Digital Health Canada)
- May 26-29: eHealth Conference 2019: Health Canada's National Conference & Tradeshow (ICS)
- May 27: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)

June

- June 3-6: BIO International Convention (Biotechnology Innovation Organization - BIO)
- June 11: Capital@MIP – Speaker Series: Michael Dyment, NEXA Capital (McMaster Innovation Park)
- June 18: Future of Health Summit 2019 (Hamilton Health Sciences)
- June 19-20: TrueNorth (Communitech)
- June 24: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)

July and Beyond

- Sept 26: LiONs LAIR (Innovation Factory)
- Oct 4-6: Body Peace 2019 (Body Brave & NIED)
- Fall: Apps for Health (Mohawk College)

TIME ALLOTTED | *20 MINUTES*

Topic: **Communicate**

Recent successes, upcoming events, innovation pipeline, new products, health innovation trends, etc.

Discussion	Presenter
Hamilton Startup Fusion Pharmaceuticals nets historical $105 million investment A McMaster University startup company secured one of the largest single private investments in Canadian biotech history. Fusion Pharmaceuticals — formed in 2015 and based at the McMaster Innovation Park on Longwood Road South — develops cancer therapy products including a delivery system that seeks out and infiltrates cancer cells to deliver doses of radiation to a precise location. "We have made tremendous progress in the last two years and this financing reflects strong support for our work, our people and product pipeline," says company CEO John Valliant, who is also a professor of chemistry and chemical biology at the university. "With this investment we will be able to broaden our team and clinical program and accelerate our strategies to develop new therapies." The development is interesting because it is a strong example of why the innovation park was established. The goal — when the 54-acre research facility was officially opened in 2009 — was to design products for the marketplace out of university research. To read the full article, click here	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Fusion's success in Hamilton will impact Canada's economy and human health around the world (OpEd, Karen Mossman, Associate VP, Research, McMaster University) Last week, an international syndicate of investors, featuring companies from Canada, the U.S., Ireland and Sweden, announced they had chosen to invest the Canadian equivalent of C$140 million into Fusion Pharmaceuticals right here in Hamilton, adding to previous investments of more than $60 million. This is the kind of investment that speaks to the talent of our world-class researchers like John Valliant, professor of chemistry and chemical biology and founder and CEO of Fusion. It is also the kind of investment that rewards the trust and patience of the university's municipal, provincial and federal partners, who believed in and supported the concept of the McMaster Innovation Park long before it opened in 2006. It's a powerful example of the tangible value of research and its role in developing and diversifying our economy. As a cancer researcher, I am in awe of this investment. I know, first-hand, the years of work, the highs and lows, and the talented research teams that are the backdrop to this venture's realization. To read the full OpEd, click here	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Stryker Opens New $100 Million Headquarters in Hamilton	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
Stryker Canada is celebrating the opening of its new Canadian head office in Waterdown. The city says the close to $100-million commitment in the 130,000-square-foot facility is one of the most significant life sciences investments in Hamilton in the past decade. "We are thrilled to call Hamilton home and believe there are great opportunities in the future for Stryker in the city," Scott MacNair, president of Stryker Canada, said in a release. "Our relocation decision was easy — our employees wanted to be in Hamilton. We also wanted to attract potential employees by being in a city that afforded them a high quality of life with a vibrant arts and creative community." To read more coverage, click here, here, or here	
Hamilton's Mariner Endosurgery Selects Buffalo as First US Site for LabaroGuard Surgical System Surgeons are pioneering LaparoGuard, a suite of new technologies for patients, at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences at the University at Buffalo (UB). Developed by Mariner Endosurgery, LaparoGuard is a surgical navigation platform that augments visualization for minimally invasive surgeries. The first U.S. surgeries utilizing this advanced surgical technology will take place in Buffalo, led by Steven D. Schwaitzberg, MD, professor and chair, Department of Surgery in the Jacobs School. "Mariner Endosurgery is pleased to establish this partnership with the Jacobs School and such eminent thought leaders in minimally invasive surgery," commented Mitch Wilson, president of Mariner Endosurgery. "As past president of the Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons (SAGES), and an expert in pioneering the clinical use of advanced tools in laparoscopic surgery, Dr. Schwaitzberg is the perfect individual to lead U.S. introduction to LaparoGuard surgery. The facilities and level of industry-academic collaboration in Buffalo for surgical devices is exciting, and makes Buffalo an excellent U.S. entry point for our Company." Click here to read the full article	Mitch Wilson (Mariner Endosurgery)
Innovation Factory Client Profile: Epineuron On March 27th, 2019 Epineuron was awarded first place at Innovation Factory's 6th Annual Synapse Life Science Pitch Competition for their innovative health science technology. "The training provided through the Synapse Competition helped us to see what we weren't communicating properly and identify the key points needed to resonate with our audience. Synapse will also give us the opportunity to put a spotlight on the problem," says Aguirre Innovation Factory and the ecosystem in Hamilton have played a large role in the success of their technology, and the two give Hamilton credit in being more approachable than some other Ontario start-up hubs, such as Toronto. Aguirre has also been working with Innovation Factory for many years. "The best way to learn and network is to engage with people who are at various stages of entrepreneurship. Innovation Factory provides a platform for this with structured programming and mentorship." Epineuron has big plans for the next 5 years, Aguirre and Willand have created a set of strict milestones to achieve. Aguirre explained they will have units of their products produced within the next 12-18 months. "This will help us to refine our product, iterate concepts and generate data. Data drives investment and market adoption," adds Aguirre. Once capital is raised the team plans to bring Epineuron to market and begin sales in 2021.	Annie Horton (Innovation Factory)

Discussion	Presenter
To read the full client profile, click here	
[McMaster University researchers discover "kingpin" of human stem cells](#) Hamilton researchers have discovered "kingpin" cells that orchestrate how surrounding stem cells develop and grow. "These cells organize the entire culture and they are responsible for giving rise to every single cell," said Mick Bhatia, director of McMaster University's Stem Cell and Cancer Research Institute. "If this were an orchestra, it would produce the violin, teach the person how to play it and orchestrate all the different instruments so it makes beautiful music." The cells called human pluripotent founder cells are significant because they can reveal secrets about how stem cells in the body activate and generate organs and tissue. It can also give hints about why the body doesn't regenerate at other times like irreversible tissue damage after a heart attack. "This could be a bit of a paradigm shift in how we think about the nature of stem cells in a dish, the body and in cancer stem cells in tumours," said Bhatia. The study published Thursday in the journal Cell also could help explain why findings in mouse studies don't always translate to humans as the newly-discovered cells are only in people and monkeys. "You would expect something so fundamental to be in every species but it turns out these founder cells don't exist in a mouse," said Bhatia. "We've never had something to put our finger on to say, 'This is a fundamental difference.'" The discovery of founder cells opens up so many research pathways that the Hamilton scientists worked with Harvard University and a group in Australia to create a repository of the data that could be accessed by scientists all over the world. To read the full Hamilton Spectator article, click here	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Hamilton Health Sciences Launches Rebranded Website Canada's second largest hospital network, and Hamilton's largest employer has launched a rebranded website (https://www.hamiltonhealthsciences.ca/). Hamilton Health Sciences is Ontario's most comprehensive healthcare system with five hospital sites and five specialized facilities in Hamilton and West Niagara. As an academic teaching hospital with more than 1,100 beds and an affiliation with McMaster University, it is committed to providing exemplary health care while advancing excellence in education and health research. Hamilton Health Sciences has earned recognition as one of the world's leading health sciences research organizations.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Happy 5th Birthday! The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton The Research Institute celebrated its 5th birthday as an independent research institution on April 1, 2019. Since its inception 5 years ago, the Research Institute has grown to nearly 200 principal investigators working across 5 research pillars, with over 500 research staff and students.	Gail Martin (Research Institute of St. Joe's)

Discussion	Presenter
Under the direction of the Scientific Director, Dr. Jack Gauldie, and Executive Director, Dr. Gail Martin, the Research Institute operates across five research pillars with an annual budget exceeding $25 million. In 2018, the Kidney & Urinary pillar was divided into the Kidney pillar and Genitourinary pillar, after a considerable research investment was made that will allow further growth and specialization. Learn more about our research pillars here. With nearly 200 principal investigators, and over 500 research staff and students, our ever-growing research enterprise achieved an impressive publication output of 1132 papers in 2018. Quantity and quality are fundamental to our research, with several landmark publications appearing in The New England Journal of Medicine, The Lancet, and other high-impact journals. While staying true to its original mandate by providing administrative support to researchers within St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, the Research Institute has grown to become a fully operational Institute with specialized IT for research, marketing, training, and compliance services. It has helped to build research programs within other hospital systems, including Niagara Health, and works with our McMaster University partners to protect and commercialize intellectual property. Through seminars and events, the Research Institute has also contributed to recognizing the achievements of our researchers, and integrating St. Joe's within Hamilton's innovative network of health science organizations. From everyone at the Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton, thank you for your support over these past 5 years.	
Firestone Institute Receives OLA Funding to Study the Effects of Cannabis Smoke on the Immune System The Ontario Lung Association (OLA) has announced a funding commitment of $50,000 to study the effects of combusted (smoked) cannabis on the immune system. The study is being led by Dr. Jeremy Hirota at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. Dr. Hirota is the Canada Research Chair in Respiratory Mucosal Immunology and Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine at McMaster University.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton: Research Publication List: April 2019 The Research Institute at St. Joe's has published its list of recently-published research articles collected by PubMed in the month of April 2019. All publications were authored by researchers affiliated with the Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton	Gail Martin (Research Institute of St. Joe's)
Innovation Factory and the Forge's new space at MIP – Open in June Construction is well underway on the 10,000 square feet new home for Innovation Factory and the Forge, which will include meeting rooms and public space/hot-desk space for anyone in the community to access. There are going to be private offices for alumni. There will be dedicated space for incubation of clients. We're most excited about the beers and bbq on our new patio.	Riley Moyes (Innovation Factory)
CBRE Report on Life Science Clusters Gaps in the United States A new CBRE report explores the opportunities and challenges facing the US life sciences industry. The report ranks the leading (and emerging) life science clusters across the US. It also explores how governments are trying to facilitate attract market leaders to their regions, but are facing market gaps. For example, there are 1.2 million square feet of labs required in Cambridge-	Jim Wilson (CBRE)

Discussion	Presenter
Boston, but there is only 300,000 square feet available. To get the full report, please contact Jim Wilson at: j.wilson@cbre.scom	
Synapse in Living Color: Synapse Competition 2019 Wrap-up Video & Building Innovation Ecosystem Roundtable Two videos were released featuring some familiar Synapse faces. The first was a wrap-up of another successful year for the 2019 Synapse Life Sciences Competition, with prizes being awarded to the best and brightest start-up companies in the Hamilton health ecosystem. The second is Highlights from the February 7, 2019 panel at McMaster Innovation Park titled 'Building an Innovation Ecosystem'	Alex Muggah (Syanpse)
Hamilton Health Innovation Week (April 29 – May 3) Inspiration can come at any moment and in many forms. Transforming inspiration into innovation requires more than perspiration – great ideas need to be nurtured and tested, challenged and celebrated. Hamilton Health Innovation Week 2019 (#HHIW2019) is a showcase for innovators and practitioners pushing the boundaries of health innovation. HHIW2019 serves as an opportunity to learn how practitioners can, and are, turning great ideas into practical real-world solutions that improve patient health, simplify care delivery, and bend the cost curve. From April 29th through May 3rd, 2019, Hamilton will be hosting healthcare innovators to explore the challenges and opportunities in bringing innovation out of the lab and into practice. HHIW2019 will bring together entrepreneurs, start-ups, researchers and practitioners from public and private organizations to discuss how innovation is impacting healthcare today, and how it will transform the healthcare sector of tomorrow. To learn more, please click here	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Open Forum: Code Red, Ten Years Later (April 30) *Hosted by the Hamilton Spectator.* Ten years ago, The Hamilton Spectator started an important discussion in Hamilton with a project we called Code Red. Using data and maps, we showed the strong connections that existed down to the neighbourhood level between people's health and people's wealth. The results were shocking. A decade later, we're back with new data, asking the question: So, what's changed? Join us as key collaborators talk about the findings and what the future holds. • (Host) Steve Buist is an investigative reporter at the Hamilton Spectator who has won four National Newspaper Awards and been named Canada's Investigative Journalist of the Year three times. • Terry Cooke is the president and CEO of the Hamilton Community Foundation. • Neil Johnston is a McMaster University researcher and a collaborator on the Spectator's Code Red series of projects. • Dr. Elizabeth Richardson is Hamilton's Medical Officer of Health.	Hamilton Spectator

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Discussion	Presenter
McMaster Emerging Health Leaders Program (McMaster) (April 28-May 11, 2019) The Emerging Health Leaders (EHL) Program is a two-week program to become a better leader life-altering experience that will challenge your thinking and push you to become a better leader! If you are a student or young professional seeking to make a difference in the health landscape, enhance your leadership capabilities, and give yourself an edge when entering the world of work— EHL is the program for you! Apply to take advantage of the Early Bird rate for Spring & Summer 2019 offerings of the program. EHL is an interdisciplinary program, welcoming students from all programs and faculties. Enrolment is limited. For more information, click here.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Health Entrepreneur Bootcamp (April 30 – May 1) The Forge (Hamilton), Velocity (Kitchener Waterloo) and Synapse is proud to announce that a small group of pre-seed HealthTech entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to spend two intensive days getting their burning questions answered and networking in the health innovation ecosystem. We will cover: health economics, regulatory pathways, raising capital, IP strategy, quality and risk management. You will meet clinicians, hospital administrators, investors, and other HealthTech start-ups. Confirmed speakers include: • Andy Haigh (Chief Operating Officer, Adapsyn Bioscience) • Adrien Cote (Science Lead and Business Advisory, Velocity) • Peter Robertson (OCHIS Innovation Broker, Business Advisor, CAHO) • Katie Porter (Director of Research Administration, Hamilton Health Sciences) • Jonathan Bramson (Founder, Triumvira Immunologics / Vice Dean of Research, McMaster University Faculty of Health Sciences) • Gail Martin (Executive Director of the Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton) • Puneet Seth (Chief Medical Officer, Input Health) • Kim Elliot (Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer, VoxNeuro) • Steve Lemonius (Consultant, Affective Team Dynamics) • Joel Ironstone (President, Ironstone Product Development) • Taras Worona (Engineering CPR) • Andrew Martinko (Co-Founder, Suncayr) • Sandy Schweger (CEO, m-Health Solutions) • Alexa Roper (CEO, Penta Medical) • Anand Ganeshalingam (Associate, IGAN Partners) • Hadi Salah (Director, Strategy & Partnerships, RBC Ventures) To learn more, go to the website or please contact Monika <monika@theforge.mcmaster.ca>, Adrien <adrien.cote@uwaterloo.ca>, or Alex <alex.muggah@synapseconsortium.com>	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Bloom Burton Healthcare Investor Conference (April 30-May 1) Bloom Burton hosts its annual Healthcare Investor Conference in Toronto, Canada. We host approximately 60 of Canada's premier publicly-traded and venture-backed private companies together with the most promising pre-venture companies in the healthcare industry.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

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Discussion	Presenter
The event attracts Canadian, U.S. and International investors who are interested in the latest developments in Canadian healthcare companies. Investors have the opportunity to obtain corporate updates from presenting companies, and participate in our 1-on-1 meeting system with company management.	
7th Annual Manufacturing Forum and Industry Open House: AI in Manufacturing (May 2) The focus this year will be on Artificial Intelligence in Manufacturing. The MC is Jayson Myers, CEO of NGen Canada and the keynote speaker is Cameron Schuler, Chief Commercialization Officer and VP, Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence. Following the keynote there will be a panel discussion highlighting technology, implementation challenges and approaches to innovation. In the afternoon we will be opening up the associated labs at both the McMaster Innovation Park and on McMaster main campus. More event details can be found HERE as they come available. Free event registation can be completed HERE.	Stephen Veldhuis (MMRI)
Technology & the Future of HealthCare Conference (May 8, 2019) The first of its kind conference is designed for forward-thinking front line health care providers who recognize the requirement to integrate technology into their practice. It's a conference for forward-thinking frontline providers. Stuff that is available today that will help patient experience, and what is coming around the corner. 350 have already registered to attend. There are ~40 company exhibitors who will be showcasing their innovation. 16 speakers are scheduled to speak, and some early stage start-ups (who aren't part of the exhibition) will have a dedicated space to display the next generation of technology. The conference seeks to define and understand digital health as front-line providers, obtain relevant information which aids in guiding our delivery of health care, and identify health care challenges that may have digital solutions. We hope you join us on May 8th, as we will learn what technologies can be incorporate into practice right away and what is coming next in the future of health care. Check out the schedule here	Dennis DiValentino (Hamilton Academy of Medicine)
Innovate and Celebrate @ The Big Dif 2019 (May 9) The Big DiF is Innovation Factory's annual open house and client showcase that brings the Hamilton community together to celebrate entrepreneurship and innovation in our city, as well as recognize our partners who help make what we do at iF possible. The night will feature client displays, a pitch competition, networking and more! We will also recognize one person who goes above and beyond for the community – an award we call the Mark Chamberlain DiFizen of the Year Award. Join us for an evening of celebration! Network with our ecosystem and meet some of our up-and-coming innovators! Register here	Jennifer Gauvreau (Innovation Factory)

Discussion	Presenter
[Medical Imaging Informatics and Teleradiology Conference](#) (May 10, 2019) The Hamilton-based Medical Imaging Informatics and Teleradiology (MIIT) conference focuses on emerging technologies and practices for acquiring, processing, managing, accessing, and sharing medical images, along with topics driving changes in relevant policies within Canada. This annual conference brings together experienced speakers to address challenging topics in the field of medical imaging informatics and provides a unique opportunity to approach the experts and find answers to questions and issues. The MIIT Conference is intended for an audience of professionals and students in engineering and computer sciences, health informatics (PACS Managers, DI Managers, IT Professionals, CIO/CTOs), health care provider (Radiologists, Technologists, Physicians), and industry roles. To learn more, visit the [conference website](#)	(MIIT)
[OCE Discovery](#) (May 13-14) Discovery is Canada's leading innovation-to-commercialization conference. Hosted by Ontario Centres of Excellence, Discovery brings together key players from industry, academia, government, the investment community as well as entrepreneurs and students to collaborate. Garnering over 3,600 attendees and more than 550 exhibitors in 2018, Discovery is a showcase of leading-edge technologies, best practices and research from sectors such as health, manufacturing, digital media and cleantech. Renowned keynote speakers and panels ignite discussion, knowledge-sharing and new perspectives. Networking opportunities feature key influencers from government, academia, industry and leading sectors. To learn more, or to register, click [here](#)	Gillian Sheldon (OCE)
[HSCN Healthcare Supply Chain Conference: Success Through Synergy](#) (May 13 – 15) Canada's only conference designed especially for healthcare supply chain professionals and gain insights into the industry's most innovative approaches to supply chain. Success Through Synergy will explore strategic ideas, innovative tactics and best practices in supply chain that lead to optimizing patient outcomes. The conference provides suppliers with a variety of sponsor and exhibitor opportunities designed especially with supplier needs in mind. This organization is looking for some innovators in the medical space to give seven minute summaries of their business. It would put them in front of an audience of influencers in the hospital supply chain space. For more information please contact Caroline Aston: caroline@astonevents.com or 416-521-9148 or visit the website [here](#)	Robert Fichtner (Focal Point)
[Regulatory Hacking for Startups by Evan Burfield](#) (May 14) As startups use technology to shape the way we live, work, and learn, they are taking on challenges in sectors such as healthcare, infrastructure, and education, where failure is far more consequential than a humorous chat with Siri or the wrong package on your doorstep. These	Gay Yuyitung (McMaster Industry Liaison Office)

Discussion	Presenter
startups inevitably have to interface with governments responsible for protecting citizens through regulation. Evan Burfield is the cofounder of 1776 and CEO of Union, where he works with startups around the world tackling important challenges in areas like education, health, energy, transportation, food, and financial services. As an angel investor and venture capitalist, Evan has invested in more than 40 startups with world changing ideas, from Silicon Valley to Nairobi. McMaster University, in partnership with the U.S. Consulate General Toronto, is pleased to present this opportunity to listen and learn from Burfield on how and why start-ups need to balance innovation and technology with government regulation. "Regulatory hacking" is being creative and strategic in navigating the complexities of regulatory markets. Who is Evan Burfield? http://www.evanburfield.com/, https://www.linkedin.com/in/eburfield/, https://www.facebook.com/eburfield	
Health Sciences Research Plenary 2019 (May 14-16) McMaster University is celebrating excellence in the areas of graduate student and postdoctoral fellow health science research. This open forum event includes multiple poster and oral sessions over the course of three days. We are pleased to include over 160 poster and oral presentations from across the health sciences and FHS affiliated programs. The event will be held at the Jan and Mien Heersink Reading Pavilion (HSC Library, 1st floor). An Awards Reception is scheduled for Wednesday, May 29, 2019	McMaster University
Call for Abstracts: Body Peace 2019 Conference (deadline May 15) Body Peace is a first-of-its-kind virtual body image and eating disorders conference. This year's theme, Lived Experience Is Evidence Too, will highlight lived experience, not only in survivors but in caregivers and health professionals. This event will feature training sessions, panel discussions, keynote speakers, live chats and more! Over the three days of the conference, Body Peace 2019 will offer three different areas of focus: Innovation, Representation, and Collaboration. • Innovation: Highlighting innovative approaches, fresh ideas and new perspectives in the eating disorders and body image world. • Representation: Highlighting the diverse voices of those with lived experience, caregivers, and clinicians. • Collaboration: Highlighting the ways we can join our voices to break down stigma and promote empowering approaches to healing. Abstracts will be accepted until May 15, 2019. Presenters will be notified if their abstracts have been accepted by June 1, 2019. Submissions should provide a brief explanation of the presentation in 150 words or less. Non-profits Body Brave, National Initiative for Eating Disorders (NIED.ca) have teamed up to bring you Body Peace 2019! To learn more, contact Sonia Seguin: sonia@livingbodybrave.com	Sonia Seguin (Body Brave)

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Discussion	Presenter
Canada-US Cross-Border Innovation Corridors: Cascadia and the Great Lakes Region (May 16) This one-day workshop will convene stakeholders from the Cascadia Innovation Corridor, Detroit-Windsor, and the Buffalo-Niagara-Hamilton-Toronto binational region to tell their stories about the promise of a cross-border approach to economic growth and innovation. Participants will discuss the drivers for creating stronger collaborations in each cross-border region; their timeline (when did they start? how long has it taken?); and how they are doing it. It is anticipated that participants will learn from each other's experience; strengthen their networks; distill key insights; derive new perspectives to take away to their respective regions; and be inspired to find ways to commit to new levels of strategic collaboration. Given common challenges and perceived opportunities for the United States and Canada, we look forward to the Dialogue informing broader U.S.-Canada policy discussions on innovation and economic growth and partnership possibilities. An agenda and further information on the program are forthcoming. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Kathryn Bryk Friedman, Global Fellow, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Research Associate Professor of Law and Planning, University at Buffalo, at kbf@buffalo.edu	Kathryn Friedman (UB)
LSO Knowledge and Networking Breakfast @ McMaster's Children Hospital (May 23) Topic: Antimicrobial resistance and alternative approaches to human health and infectious diseases. Description: Overuse of antibiotics is increasingly challenging the way we conduct modern medicine. This has created tremendous potential for innovative approaches from the Life Sciences community to treat both infectious diseases and to explore the microbiome through a different lens. Speakers: • Mark Leob, Professor Pathology and Molecular Medicine, Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McMaster University • Dr. Emma Allen-Vercoe, Professor of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of Guelph	Andy Donovan (LSO)
Call for Abstracts: e-Health Conference and Tradeshow (May 26-29) Digital Health Canada has put out a call for those interested in submitting an abstract for presentation at e-Health Conference and Tradeshow. Contact Health Program Chair Scott McMillan or Conference Coordinator Yurim Park to get more information at: events@digitalhealthcanada.com	Digital Health Canada
City of Hamilton Booth @ e-Health 2019 (May 26-29) City of Hamilton has reserved a booth at the e-Health Conference, which includes 4 registrants at e-Health 2019 at the Beanfield Centre in Toronto. Representing Hamilton will be: • St. Joseph's Healthcare, Hamilton • McMaster MeHealth • Mohawk College • Synapse Consortium • Hamilton Health Sciences	Carolynn Reid (EcDev)

Discussion	Presenter
Please reach out to Carolynn Reid (Carolynn.Reid@hamilton.ca) if you'd like more information or to participate in Hamilton's engagement at e-Health 2019.	
Capital@MIP - New Speaker Series at McMaster Innovation Park (June 11) McMaster Innovation Park invites you to attend a new speaker series, Capital@MIP. Come listen to industry professionals speak about their adventures in seeking opportunities to invest, and what makes them say, "WOW." Learn how to make your business flourish financially by gaining insider knowledge about when to take the next step. Session 01. Michael Dyment, NEXA Capital | Following the Money to Infinity and Beyond in Aerospace - Michael Dyment will be our inaugural keynote speaker for the Capital Series. Michael is the founder and managing partner of NEXA Capital, an investment firm specializing in the aerospace and transportation sectors. In addition to his work with NEXA, Michael also leads investment programs in drones and Urban Air Mobility. His experience over 40 years has included M&A and advisory projects with the likes of Boeing, Airbus, Embraer, Rolls-Royce, American Airlines, Thales, Raytheon and others. Series Schedule - June 11: Michael Dyment, NEXA Capital | Following the Money to Infinity and Beyond in Aerospace - September 17: David Schincariol, Changing Tide Ventures | An Unapologetically Canadian Approach to Doing Well by Doing Good - October 22: Hassan Kahn, Quantius Capital | The Alchemy of Intellectual Property Funding - November 19: Matthew Johnson, Bloom Burton Capital | Crossing the Chasm from Toronto to Hamilton - January 2020: Karen Grant, Angel One | Where Angels Fear to Tread Want to a more intimate experience? Apply to be apart of our Round Table Sessions. What are Round Table Sessions? Enjoy small group sessions with keynote speakers before the main event where you can ask your burning questions and get an inside look into the speaker's mind. Maximum 10 attendees per session. To learn more, email events@mcmasterinnovationpark.ca	Mark Stewart (MIP)
Hamilton Health Sciences hosts inaugural Future of Health Summit (June 18th) HHS is will host the inaugural Future of Health Summit on Tuesday, June 18th, bringing together healthcare experts, industry and innovation partners and community stakeholders in an opportunity to drive conversation about the future of health. With the goal to Connect, Engage and Empower our exclusive group of delegates, this event will showcase and build capacity towards the goals of proactive management of health, democratization of healthcare journey and creating stronger and healthier communities. We are looking to enhance our strategies of engagement to our broader community of people, patients, care givers, advisors, consumers and influencers. With the outcome to drive the shift towards	Ted Scott (HHS)

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Discussion	Presenter
democratization of responsibility, access and participation as we work towards our CALL TO ACTION - How to Create a more Participatory and Equitable Healthcare Experience. There is an exclusive Save the Date appended to this email. If you have any questions or wish to direct your invitation to another delegate on your behalf, please contact Andrea Lee, Research Development and Innovation Officer (leeand@hhsc.ca). We are very much looking forward to hosting this day and are excited at the opportunity to engage you for this remarkable summit.	
True North (June 18-19) Communitech is hosting a conference on living digital, including an exploration of how our healthcare is going to be affected by digital influx. Ticket are available on May 1. The focus of the conference is how this region has become a centre of tech innovation – in every field (e.g., not just IoT or ITC). A lot of discussion will be around tech will impact our live "Tech for Good" is a theme. We're anticipating 4,000 people. We had 2,500 last year. The lineup is already set – we've got founder of the internet Sir Tim Berners-Lee and may others, including Hamilton's MedStack. There is also an adjacent Hackathon that is happening at the same time as well as a festival portion in the evening / weekend. Most of the city was shut down because we had so many people coming. To learn more, visit the website	Jacob George (Communitech)
Next Great Big Ideas is now scheduled to take place in mid-September, and will be held in Burlington. We've got a great line-up (Stryker, GE, JLABs). Will be putting together the organizing committee. Those interested should reach out to Jim Wilson (J.Wilson@CBRE.com)	Jim Wilson (CBRE)

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Time allotted | *20 Minutes*

Topic: **Collaborate & Accelerate**

Partnership opportunities, programming and resources available to the community, market gaps and challenges, learn about potential funding opportunities, discuss new RFPs issued, etc.

Discussion	Presenter
Synapse engages companies and organizations from outside the region that may be interested in engaging with the Hamilton ecosystem – including those that are seeking to establish a presence in Hamilton or that wish to partner with Hamilton resources and capabilities. For more information about upcoming engagement, or for assistance in hosting inbound visits that may be of interest to the broader community, please contact Alex Muggah: Alex.Muggah@SynapseConsortium.com Recent visits to/from Hamilton: • Recent: RBC Ventures visiting Hamilton (March 27): the Director, Strategy & Partnerships, Health & Wellness of RBC Ventures will be visiting Hamilton. RBC Ventures is focused on building new ventures, acquiring growing firms, making investments and partnering with organizations operating in the digital health space. • Recent: City of Hamilton Booth @ e-Health 2019 (May 26-29): Synapse will be joining the City of Hamilton at their booth at the upcoming e-Health Conference. Space may be available to interested companies and organizations in the region who would like to join the City's delegation. Please reach out to Carolynn Reid (Carolynn.Reid@hamilton.ca) for more info. • Recent: Dr. Nick Hopkins, Jacobs Institute (April 5): a delegation from Hamilton Health Sciences and Synapse, including practitioners, innovators, and administrators, will be heading down to Buffalo in early spring to visit world-renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Nick Hopkins and one of the US's leading cardiovascular research centres, the Jacobs Institute. While there, the delegation hopes to build on the momentum of Dr. Hopkins recent visit to Hamilton to explore collaboration opportunities. Upcoming site visits to/from Hamilton • Upcoming: Stanford BioDesign & Company Meetings (May 7-9): Synapse will be part of a delegation including representatives from Hamilton Health Sciences, the McMaster Innovation Park and McMaster University visiting the Bay Area. The visit will include two days of visits with the Stanford BioDesign program, as well as several meetings with industry and organizations representing the region's life science cluster • Upcoming: Ontario Genome (May 17): Vice President of Strategic Partnerships & Resource Development is coming to visit with Synapse, Innovation Factory and the McMaster Industry Liaison Office (MILO) to talk about strategic partnerships - including their ideas around future applications for federal funding (e.g., FedDev, SIF) where they may be seeking academic partners. • Upcoming: Jiangsu Provincial Government Science and Tech department (June 17-18, MILO lead): coming from New York, where they are attending the SAPA 2019 Healthcare Investment Forum and Roadshow. They have asked to visit McMaster	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
University, the Innovation Park, and Innovation Factory (iF) with a particular interests in setting up subsidiaries in Ontario.	
LiON'S LAIR Applications are Open (Deadline May 12) LiON'S LAIR is an annual competition presented by Innovation Factory and the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, which brings together the entrepreneurship and innovation community in Hamilton. The competition gives 10 companies the opportunity to pitch their ideas to a panel of our city's top business experts – the "Lions" – for a chance to win over $100,000 in cash and in-kind resources! The first annual competition took place in 2011, and has significantly grown – in application volumes, gala attendees, prizing and buzz – year after year. Apply here	Riley Moynes (Innovation Factory)
Market Research Available to Innovation Factory Companies Innovation Factory noted it is possible for companies to take advantage of free market research (available via MaRS), which can be tailored to each ventures specific needs and turned around in two weeks. The market research is quite high value – with an average value of $5,000 – but is available to Innovation Factory clients for free. In addition, the regional innovation centre network also offers consulting hours that can be accessed via Innovation Factory. To learn more, contact Riley Moynes (riley.moynes@innovationfactory.ca)	Riley Moynes (Innovation Factory)
The Fundica Roadshow (Deadline: May 5) The Fundica Roadshow begins with three, private pitch sessions in Vancouver, Toronto, and Montreal—attended by our pre-selected entrepreneurs and investors—and ends with an all-day, public finale in Montreal, complete with first-class panels, keynotes, and pitches. The Roadshow is coming to Toronto & looking to give promising startups a chance to receive up to $1,000,000 to fund their businesses. Apply by May 5.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
ITAC Health - HIMSS Europe Conference - GOA funding for CND companies available (June 11 – 13) ITAC Health has been granted GOA funding to assist participating members in the costs for attending and participating in the HIMSS and Health 2.0 Conference in Helsinki, Finland from June 11 – 13, 2019. For June 10th, we have been able to secure a meeting with the Canadian Consulate in Finland in the morning and they will be arranging for a virtual meeting at their office with the other Canadian Consulates from across Europe. In the afternoon of June 10th, ITAC has organized a site visit to the Helsinki University Hospital, which will provide further valuable insight to participating companies into the typical Health IT infrastructure, regional future initiatives intel, procurement processes, etc. in Finland, Scandinavia and Europe.	Nijusha Barmala (ITAC)

Discussion	Presenter
GOA funding is available for any Canadian company and will cover up to 75% of travel costs (air flight, meals, hotel, taxi/shuttle transportation and conference registration) for one person per company. Other company representatives from the company can also participate, however, the funding is only available for one person per company. With the conference less than 2 months away, plans will need to come together quickly and space is limited, ITAC will need to know who will be participating as soon as possible. If you know of another Canadian company that might be interested, please feel free to connect them with Elaine Husing at ehuesing@itac.ca	
HIEC Focus on Growth Program: Connecting Employers with Co-Op Programs Have you ever considered bringing on a college level co-op student? There are many benefits to hiring college students – including potential tax incentives and a funnel of future candidates. Specifically, the project has created a framework for partnership between businesses and colleges, with HIEC as a key connector centering on two education partners – Mohawk and Sheridan colleges in areas of growth and need, including advanced manufacturing, artificial intelligence, cyber security and medical technology. As part of the project, HIEC can help you: • Map out specific college programs that align to skills and roles you are looking for • Navigate the college system to determine the right fit and alignment to roles • Provide sample job description templates to assist in defining the roles you need • Connect you directly with the college coop coordinators to finalize job postings and coop placements HIEC welcomes the opportunity share more information about this opportunity with any of your member employers and learn about interest in hiring coop students and provide our support in assisting you with the process. To learn more, contact Debra Thompson, Communications Manager (dthompson@hiec.on.ca)	Debra Thompson (HIEC)
Synapse has created the Hamilton Innovation Partnership Portal (HIPP) to make the process simpler and more streamlined to find new partners within Canada's leading health research and educational ecosystem. It is a way for companies to interact with the Hamilton community. A streamlined approach, to have Synapse represent everyone. We've set up an intake form, and have asked companies to direct them to the portal. Synapse is working with HHS to test it out with companies right now, including getting the approach/questions right. This will be a sense of who wants to interact with the community, and then triage companies to relevant stakeholders within Hamilton. Portal is online through the Synapse website: http://synapseconsortium.com/partner/	Andrea Lee (HHS)
MGDII Educational Webinars Operating out of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University, the Michael G. DeGroote Health Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship (MGDII)	Sarrah Lal (MGDII)

Discussion	Presenter
aims to accelerate the exploration of health innovation opportunities and creation of socioeconomic impact. Some of the upcoming webinars include: • Market Research, Patent Searches and Target Product Profiles MARCH 28 | 12 - 1 PM | Register here • Market Sizing and Developing User Personas APRIL 11 | 12 - 1 PM | Register here • Compelling Value Propositions: Pitching to Different Audiences APRIL 18 | 12 - 1 PM | Register here	
Digital Health Canada: Webinar Wednesdays (May 1) Listen and learn every Wednesday from noon to 1pm EST. Each webinar features a presenter from the public or private sector sharing details of a successful project, innovative idea, or new practice. Members share valuable info and insights every week • How Innovation Procurement Delivers Value to Healthcare Organizations (May 1) Sarah Friesen, Friesen Concepts Inc This session, presented by innovation procurement and policy specialist Sarah Friesen, will provide an introduction to the underlying principles around outcome-focused procurement, as well as to the Healthcare Supply Chain Networks Innovation Procurement Toolkit. • Mediseen + Lakeridge Health (May 8) Daniel Warner, Mediseen + Lakeridge Health • Community Initiatives Building Healthier Communities (May 15) Rachelle Arbour, Centre de sante communautaire de Sudbury-Est and Brian Sankarsingh, Alliance for Healthier Communities • Top 10 Pitfalls To Avoid During New Hospital Data Analytics Initiatives (June 12) Richard Obubowich, 3terra	Digital Health Canada
3i Ontario Looking for resources to support your great idea for improving health and healthcare? This page lists a range of opportunities available to Ontario innovators and innovation champions, as well as recently published information and thinking related to health innovation. We focus on health technology, including digital health solutions, innovative medical devices, and more.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Accenture: Medavie HealthTech Innovation Challenge This innovation Challenge encourages participants to submit ideas for digital solutions to unmet health and wellness needs of Canadians. Accenture is seeking solutions that: • Minimize common challenges faced by elderly citizens and those living with chronic health conditions while improving their level of independence and quality of daily life • Encourage wellness and lifestyle improvement among Canadians • Make health, wellness and caregiving services more accessible and consumer centric	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
• Align to or leverage industry related trends such as "Gig Economy" and "Personalization It's an opportunity to potentially win $2,500, meet and pitch to senior executives, and run a 6-week proof of concept with Medavie. Entries can be submitted from this link: Medavie HealthTech Innovation Challenge	