

## Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017

### STANDING AGENDA TOPICS:

- **Communicate:** share recent successes, upcoming events, innovation pipeline and new products, health innovation trends, etc.
- **Collaborate:** welcome new members to community, partnership opportunities, discover programming and resources available to the community, etc.
- **Accelerate:** discuss market gaps and challenges, learn about potential funding opportunities, discuss new RFPs issued, etc.
- **Other Business:** as required

Facilitator & Note Taker            Alex Muggah, Synapse Consortium

Location                                    McMaster Innovation Park, 175 Longwood Dr, 8:45-10:00am

Please note that 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:  
<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/wszh8i2jq1sr03g/AACByBs-HmHVBI0ZIX5Hj7zEa?dl=0>

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](mailto:Alex.Muggah@SynapseConsortium.com). Updates will be reflected in a new section titled "Amendments from Previous Meeting".

**Next Monthly Check-up: February 26<sup>th</sup> | 8:45 – 10:00am | McMaster Innovation Park**

Please contact Alex Muggah at Synapse to be added to the meeting invite list / minutes distribution lists

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Time allotted | 20 Minutes

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Gabriel Scientific in Hamilton</p> <p>An Estonian company, Gabriel Scientific, which designs and manufacturers a line of infection-free bedding materials is trying to select a manufacturing site close to their North American market. Hamilton has been short-listed as one of three potential manufacturing sites.</p> <p>Based on this interest, the CEO of Gabriel Scientific has made the decision they want to establish a presence in Canada. Given green light to start up a distribution site in Canada, ahead of any final decision around manufacturing. Will start bringing product in from Estonia and start finding the early sale relationships.</p> <p>The Gabriel team has met with purchasing groups at St. Joseph’s and Hamilton Health Sciences, met with the GERAS Centre, McMaster University, City officials, as well as the hospital research groups. Many of these relationships were facilitate by Synapse, and as an outcome, it is a good case study, of what Synapse can do.</p>	<p>Niall Wallace (Infonaut / Gabriel Scientific)</p>
<p>Norway Delegation in Hamilton</p> <p>On Jan 24, a Norwegian delegation, including the Minister of Health, CEOs, Norway Health Tech, Innovation Norway and others, visited Hamilton. Impetus is the relationship between HHS/GERAS and Ably Medical, a manufacturer of beds.</p> <p>Story of their visit is two-fold. First, showcasing Hamilton’s capabilities as a world-class partner, and how our assets can accelerate health innovation through leveraging our research and commercial assets. Second, provided opportunity to learn more about opportunities for future collaboration with Norwegian parties, including supporting deployment of central repository system for all their healthcare information across Norway’s regions (e.g., overcoming challenges around secondary-use of data, deployment of AI, etc.)</p> <p>The event included sessions that were “roll-up your sleeve two-way conversations”, much better than a dry presentation. It allowed for good conversation about what was going on in both countries.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse Consortium)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>There are several Norwegian companies that have raised cash and are looking for how to land in North America. The capacity of Hamilton’s key institutions (including HHS, St. Joseph’s, McMaster) to co-sponsor research is a significant draw, as is their willingness to work between them, based on established relationships. It was noted that this differentiated us from other communities.</p> <p>Also used the opportunity to facilitate connection between Gabriel Scientific CEO (who was in town) and Norwegian companies, further sparking collaboration points.</p>	
<p>Block chain in Healthcare</p> <p>A readout on the recent <a href="#">Blockchain Hub</a> (@York University) seminar on block chain technology for healthcare products generated interesting conversation amongst the Synapse members, who see this technology as an opportunity for anyone dealing with personal health information. Opportunity to provide patients/consumers with access to health information, through a secure audit system/trail. Concept of ICO was discussed (for funding health chain startups), an interest for people looking in funding opportunities.</p> <p>Medicalchain, the UK guest speaker, used the IBM platform to scale up their company and deploy a hyper-ledger, to enable democratization of personal health information so that patients can control their own information. Also capable of tracking who has accessed patient information, and why.</p> <p>Gordon (from Hamilton’s IBM Innovation Exchange) noted opportunity to host session to further drive education/awareness of how to utilize and leverage blockchain technology. Will work with Karen (Innovation Factory) to consider how to frame a deeper dive session on block chain technology for the</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Block-chain / aka bitcoin –builds on notion of moving away from a party intermediary model, and allowing patients to build trust through digital interactions. Provides benefits, including trust, security, and traceability. For example, food traceability now possible back to the individual farm, the individual animal. Within healthcare, opportunity to inject digital trust into healthcare workflows.</li> <li>• Technology is open standard, something that IBM and others supported; coalition working to democratize this information.</li> </ul> <p>Point raised that we aren’t developing this technology aggressively enough in Canada. It’s a UK company that’s advising the Ontario Minister of Health, where they created agreements/portals for consumers to talk to providers, based on a clear system-wide vision</p>	<p>Patty Ryan (Health QR), Duane Hewitt, Gordon Alexander (IBM Innovation Exchange)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Noted that in B.C., they're developing a single key, with goal of solving their EMR issue to provide traceability of end-to-end digital transactions. But oftentimes the challenge is people/processes. The technology is the enabler, rather than the obstacle at this point – having someone at the top with a vision, and empowering those on the front line to enable change. Overcoming pushback from workers around adoption of new technology is also critical</p>	
<p>Niall Wallace (CEO of Infonauts) has just been named to <a href="#">health advisory board</a> at Ohio University State, whose mandate includes consider the opportunities around the adoption of innovation and technology by nurses and front line staff. In particular, they are interested in simulated activities that can improve frontline delivery of care for nurses and other frontline staff.</p> <p>If companies are interested in testing their technology, Niall has offered to make an introduction of their innovation to the Health Advisory Board, especially those that are applicable to delivery of nursing care. For more information, reach out to Niall (<a href="mailto:nwallace@infonaut.ca">nwallace@infonaut.ca</a>)</p>	<p>Niall Wallace (Infonauts)</p>
<p>Update, Hamilton Health Innovation Week (April 23-29)</p> <p>Further progress has been made around Hamilton Health Innovation Week, with McMaster University making progress on pulling together a VC Fair to bring together researchers/companies with angel and venture capital firms. Top health science researchers and innovators will have the opportunity to pitch their novel ideas to venture capital investors. Opportunity to learn how to succeed as an academic start-up and enjoy a networking lunch and roundtable session to have your questions answered by the investors themselves.</p> <p>Register for the event <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Time allotted | 20 Minutes

Topic: **Collaborate**

Partnership opportunities, programming and resources available to the community, etc.

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Hamilton Hacking Health Hackathon – February 9<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Hacking Health is designed to improve healthcare by inviting technology creators and healthcare professionals to collaborate on realistic, human-centric solutions to front-line problems. Weekend hackathons are fun, intense, hands-on events where small teams tackle tough problems in a supportive community of peers and mentors. Be part of a global movement bringing innovation to healthcare...right here in Hamilton!</p> <p>To register, or learn more, click <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Karen Linseman-Brown (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p>McMaster Integrated Science Session - Tues Feb 6 @ 5:30pm</p> <p>Innovation Factory will be hosting a workshop seminar on how to pitch your innovation / idea / startup at the McMaster Integrated Science program.</p>	<p>Karen Linseman-Brown (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p>Hamilton Health Sciences: Innovation Health Sciences Summit.</p> <p>HHS Foundation is in initial stages of considering the creation of a Life Science Innovation Summit – drawing companies from BC to Newfoundland and from the States to see what we’ve got here in Hamilton .</p> <p>Looking to solicit feedback from the community, so that we can collectively own this summit. Vision is for a two-day conference, and bringing inspirational speaker, inclusive and driven by private sector participation, around the idea of driving health innovation and scaling technology companies. Would invite the whole community in (not just practioneres), around topics with broad appeal.</p> <p>Noted that this could build on existing efforts to create draw in Hamilton (e.g., Hamilton Health Innovation Week, Apps for Health, etc.)</p>	<p>Jim Wilson (HHS Foundation)</p>
<p>Innovations in the Science of Cannabis Conference - February 9-10, 2018</p> <p>The event will feature researchers and clinicians from the Centre as well as institutions from across North America. The list of institutions represented includes: Dartmouth Geisel School of Medicine, the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), Oregon Health and Science University, Columbia University, the Centre for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), Indiana University, the</p>	<p>Sarrah Lal (McMaster MGDII)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Canadian Centre on Substance Use and Addiction, Dalhousie University, the University of Guelph and McGill University.</p> <p>For more information please see below and contact <a href="mailto:cmcr@mcmaster.ca">cmcr@mcmaster.ca</a>. If you wish to attend the event, please <a href="#">register</a>. To submit a poster submission click this <a href="#">link</a></p>	
<p>McMaster 2018 Innovator Series: MGDII Innovator Series: Commercialization Journeys (Feb 14)</p> <p>Given the amount of research and innovation at McMaster University, is there time to pursue entrepreneurship and commercialization? Join Dr. Sheila Singh, a pediatric neurosurgeon and researcher, and Dr. Heather Sheardown, a chemical engineering professor and world-renowned expert in ophthalmic biomaterials, share how their research-intensive academic careers evolved to encompass entrepreneurship and commercialization. Pizza and refreshments will be provided.</p> <p>Register <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Sarrah Lal (McMaster MGDII)</p>

Time allotted | 20 Minutes

Topic: **Accelerate**

Market gaps and challenges, learn about potential funding opportunities, discuss new RFPs issued, etc.

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Seeking assistance in natural health space</p> <p>Currently working with a private sector company on a research project in the natural health products space, that will have particular impact on dermatologists. In particular, the company is examining molecules derived from plants, including extraction, analysis and assessments.</p> <p>Focal Point Research is looking for local collaborators who have experience, technology or expertise that could be of help. Please reach out to Rob (CEO, Focal Point) directly if you have any insights or ideas.</p> <p>[note: Duane Hewitt and Gordon Alexander (IBM) both noted that they might be able to make interesting connections, and promised to follow up after the meeting]</p>	<p>Rob Fitchner (Focal Point Research)</p>
<p>Need for Hamilton Wet Lab Space in Hamilton</p> <p>At least three groups have indicated interest in a wet-lab innovation centre. However, wet-lab space is difficult to find and to build, driving costs into thousand per square foot. The demand for wet-lab space in the region is significant and growing. Would like to know about those who have wet lab space. [Suggestion was that there may be some up in the Henderson hospital, and contact will be made].</p> <p>Noted that Catalyst 137 set up an innovation centre in Kitchener Waterloo, and they've retrofitted an old tire factory to create a space. Also noted was DIY/BIO, which have created a wet-lab space.</p>	<p>Jim Wilson (CBRE)</p>
<p><a href="#">3i Ontario</a>, lists grants, funding and partnership opportunities for life science companies. 3i Ontario is maintained by Azimuth Health Group, an Ontario Innovation Bbroker</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">Universal Innovation Prize</a> applications now open</p> <p>Applications now open for the International Innovation Prize, which aims to promote innovation in the field of Life Sciences. The most innovative projects in the field of biotech, medtech and digitech will be awarded with a grant and a year of consulting services offered by Universal Biotech, with a combined value of €30 000. The prize will be awarded during a special award ceremony in October.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Grand Challenges Canada – Saving Lives at Birth RFP (due Feb 28)</p> <p>GCC launched a Request for Proposals, running until February 28, funded by the Government of Canada: Saving Lives at Birth. Funding opportunity seeks innovative breakthroughs in prevention and treatment approaches that could save the lives of pregnant women and newborns in low-resource, hard-to-reach communities around the world. Further information and application instructions can be found here: <a href="https://savinglivesatbirth.net/apply">https://savinglivesatbirth.net/apply</a></p> <p>GCC advances science and innovation diplomacy by funding Canadian- and developing-country entrepreneurs to develop innovations appropriate for low- and middle-income countries – which can include commercial opportunities. (<a href="https://spark.adobe.com/page/TnVi4gvYvbMMv/">https://spark.adobe.com/page/TnVi4gvYvbMMv/</a>)</p> <p>For additional information, go to <a href="http://www.granchallenges.ca">www.granchallenges.ca</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>St. Joseph’s researcher to create new tool for cystic fibrosis patients</p> <p>Dr. Jeremy Hirota has been awarded a \$280k New Investigator Research Grant to create a new precision medicine tool (combination of different drugs tailored to each patient), for cystic fibrosis patients, combined with a new technology called microfluidics – which refers to the study of tiny volumes of liquids.</p> <p>Analyzing tiny samples means that the proposed device would be small, require a smaller sample from patients, and could work faster than existing methods to determine the best combination of drugs for each patient.</p> <p>“We believe that our tool can reduce hospitalizations for cystic fibrosis patients,” says Dr. Hirota. “Depending on our experiments, this could lead to the development of other microfluidic devices for precision medicine to be used for other lung diseases – such as asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.”</p> <p>To learn more, click <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>



## Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

### February

- February 9-10: Innovations in the Science of Cannabis Conference
- February 9-11: [Hacking Health Hackathon](#)
- February 14: McMaster 2018 Innovator Series: MGDII Innovator Series: Commercialization Journeys
- February 15: Innovation Open Mic @ Mohawk College (presented by Synapse & HHS)
  - Come hear stories about the leading edge of health innovation and collaboration at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Innovation Open Mic, hosted by Mohawk College
- Feb 15: [LSO Networking Event](#)

### March

- MARCH 5-9, 2018 [HiMSS Annual Conference & Exhibition 2018](#)
- March 27-28: [CTO 2018 Clinical Trials Conference](#) (hosted by Clinical Trials Ontario)
- March 28: Synapse Competition, presented by Stryker Canada

### April (and Beyond)

- April 9-13: [Toronto Health Innovation Week](#) 2018
- April 23-29: Hamilton Health Innovation Week 2018
- April 23: [McMaster VC Venture Fair](#) (McMaster)
- April 25: [Apps for Health](#) (Mohawk College)
- April 26: [FHIR North](#) (Mohawk College)
- April 28 – 29: IBM Hackathon
- May 4: Annual Medical Imaging Informatics & Teleradiology Conference (MIIT)
- May 27-30, annual [e-Health Conference and Tradeshow](#) (in Vancouver)
- June 4-7: [BIO International Convention 2018](#)
- June 19: [MedEdge Summit 2018](#)