

## Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

February 2021

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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  
Virtual Location

Alex Muggah, Director, Synapse Consortium  
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/405351918>  
Dial in: +1-647-558-0588,,405351918#

**Next Monthly Check-up:** March 29<sup>th</sup> 9:00 – 10:00am | McMaster Innovation Park (via Zoom)  
Please sign up to our [mailing list](#) to receive meeting minutes and other important updates.

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

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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](mailto:Alex.Muggah@SynapseConsortium.com). Updates will be reflected in a revised version of the monthly minutes.

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As a result of the COVID-19, all in-person conferences and meetings have been cancelled. We are trying to track down events that will be held virtually and will try to keep our calendar up to date.

If you have an event that you would like listed here, please contact us at: [info@synapseconsortium.com](mailto:info@synapseconsortium.com)


## Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

Check out Synapse's [online calendar](#)

### March

- Feb 23: [Developing Alternative Administration Techniques for Therapeutics and Vaccines](#) (JLABS)
- Feb 24: [LSO 2021 Celebration of Success Awards Presentation](#) (Life Sciences Ontario)
- Feb 25-27: [Ontario Life Sciences Export Business Mission to Medical Fair India](#) (Government of Ontario)
- Mar 1: [Startup Survivor: Summer Program and Pitch Competition](#) Application Due (The Forge)
- Mar 6: [DeGroote Interprofessional Health Leadership Conference](#) (McMaster University)
- Mar 7: [Unplugged: An Unforgettable Virtual Concert Experience](#) (HHS Foundation)
- Mar 8-12: [Life Science Industry Week](#) (McMaster University)
- Mar 11: [Converting IP to \\$\\$\\$ for healthtech/medtech companies, part 2](#) (The Forge)
- Mar 15-16: [Effervescence 2021 - Future of Life Sciences](#) (Effervescence Mtl)
- Mar 23-25: [Clinical Trials Conference 2021](#) (CTO)
-  Mar 24: [Synapse Life Science Competition](#) (Innovation Factory)
-  Mar 29: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- Mar 30: [UpOnDigital: Update on Ontario Digital Health conference](#) (Digital Health Canada)

### April and Beyond

- Apr 9: [BDO Pitch Day Showcase](#) (BDO)
- Apr 20-22: [Collision Conference 2021](#) (Collision)
- Apr 28: Women's Symposium@McMaster University (Faculty of Health Sciences)
- May 26-27: [eHealth 2021 Virtual Conference and Tradeshow](#) (Health 2021)
-  Feb 22: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)

### On Demand

- [COVID-19 Webinar Series \(multiple videos\)](#) (Digital Health Canada)
- [Current COVID-19 Research in Canada, featuring McMaster VPR Dr. Karen Mossman](#) (CENE)
- [The McMaster University Collaboratorium – Seminar Series](#)

Time allotted | 30 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):

- Eric Zimmerman  
CEO and Founder, [Enhanced Medical Nutrition](#)

[presentation slides used, and are available for download from the [Health Check-up website](#)]

**Discussion**

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

Introduction to EMN

I'm the cofounder of Enhanced Medical Nutrition (EMN) – our passion and focus is building clinical nutrition products to help patients prepare better, recover faster from clinical surgery and critical illness. I have a background in exercise physiology and medical devices. I used to work in the operating room with companies that were selling implants (e.g., hips, knees, pins and plates). Got introduced to a lot of different areas of health innovation, and dove into this area in 2016. I'm originally from Winnipeg and currently living in Toronto.

We're building enteral formulas, a type of powder that is mixed with water. Patients drink the formula or are fed through tubes.

Originally, I had this idea for EMN, but it was basically just on paper. We were looking for help from anyone to help build a business – we knew the science but couldn't even spell incorporation. We didn't have much success at all in Toronto. Luckily, we got connected in through Monika at the [Forge](#) in Hamilton, and she waved the flag of early stage health innovation – and through that we were able to network through [Innovation Factory](#) and Synapse. It was through these connections that we found a lot of people who helped a hand and get the business launched.

Innovating a New Standard of Care

The problem we're trying to solve is the current standard of care – patients are unprepared for the metabolic stress of surgery, which negatively impacts both the patient and the provider (e.g., increased risk of infection, prolonged length of hospital stay, elevated costs associated with surgery, poor patient experience – not able to eat).

For anyone who has had surgery, there is a simple process: you're referred to a surgeon who works with you to identify a problem, and then you wait on your own before going into surgery. Regardless of how significant the surgery is, the surgeon simply finds a date, books it, and then says "see you then". This doesn't take into account the stress of what happens to a patient when we cut them open. We often compare the stress of surgery to a stress of a marathon. The reality is that we're asking patients to do the equivalent of showing up to run a marathon having never trained a day in their life.

We're trying to develop clinical grade nutrition supplements designed to reduce the metabolic stress from surgery. Help optimize patients and get them fit and ready for surgery. This leads to improve outcomes along the way by reducing some of these risk factors.

## Guest Speaker Discussion

We've commercialized two products since incorporating in 2016.

- ISOLution: a specialized ion-exchange protein isolate, that patients take prior to surgery. It can then be taken following surgery, which helps prevent muscles from shrinking as well as wound healings and recovery outcomes.
- PREcovery: a preoperative complex carbohydrate is our flagship product, which is designed to maximize insulin release. It is taken as an alternative to fasting to reduce surgical stress. We find that what we're working against is the old dogma to "don't eat before / after surgery". Through this product, we encourage patients to ingest it 3 hours beforehand, which their body in a fed state (i.e., "keeps engine running". This improves recovery outcomes and reduces how long they have to stay in the hospital after surgery.

### Evolution of EMN

EMN is positioned to become a market leader in perioperative nutrition. With key expertise in product development and established clinical references, EMN has followed a path that will lead to increased revenues and access to diverse international markets. We were a company that started on paper, came into a lab / research, commercialization and then into different markets.

In 2016, we were focused on early-stage R&D clinical work and understanding how to build out the structure of a business (e.g., incorporation, animal studies, preliminary human research). We were iterating on ideas, talking to clinicians, and understanding the problems associated with surgical patient populations (especially in Canada). Through that work we leveraged a lot of funding and champions in the hospital system – especially in the realm of surgical oncology, places where there is room for improvement compared to other comes (e.g., complications, length of stay, mortality, etc.).

Through all that work, we discovered that we were really good on product development and research but needed help on sales and marketing side. We realized that we needed to partner with bigger companies, distributors, with resources and access to supply chain logistics to help us get in the hands of more patients, hospitals and markets. In 2018, we were able to launch our product in Canadian hospitals, and in 2019 started distribution agreements and partnerships to increase presence across North America.

Through 2020-21, we're ramping up with hospital and e-commerce partners, hoping to achieve strategic scale. Now we're at a point, in February of 2021, we are seeing significant impact on the elective surgery market because of COVID. However, we're starting to see things coming back to where we were last year. That makes us optimistic for the upcoming year.

### Clinical Traction & Partnerships

Some of the partnerships that we're working with include:

- Full system implementation for elective surgery (Vancouver CoastalHealth)
- Leading partner for cardiac surgery (Montreal Heart Institute)
- Validated e-commerce model with total joint reconstruction (Rush University Medical Centre)
- Completed site study for key reference in US market (Mayo Clinic)

I would say the majority of our time is spent on validation and building relationships in the space we'd call perioperative nutrition. Two people that hospitals care about - are they safe and are they effective. We've spent a lot of time working with different specialties, clinicians, research groups to validate clinical nutrition in the

## Guest Speaker Discussion

patient journey across multiple procedure types and patient challenges. Now we're at a point, we're in hospitals from BC to PEI, implemented in a majority of hospitals across Canada. We're starting to shift our focus to international exports – the US being a major player, as well as niche markets around the work that can't source these types of interventions. We're hoping to launch in 10 additional countries.

### Business Model

We've talked a little about the business journey so far. About half of what we do is traditional, working with value analysis committees, procurement and clinicians to get into the hospital. Hospitals are buying our products at high volume (low cost), and giving it to patients for free. They provide products at the booking meeting or after surgery. This is something that we've had to adapt during the pandemic, based on challenges associated with what's happened the last few months, while also considering the inefficiencies of selling directly to clinicians (which has been amplified by pandemic).

What that's led us to is a more niche e-commerce opportunity in the US, where we deal directly with the patients through the surgeon office. We skip over the procurement office, offering product directly to patients who are being proactive with their care. A few years ago we were 80% traditional sales and 20% e-commerce, today that's switched.

What spurred this was conversations with clinicians, and realizing that the two quickest moving departments in the hospital are cardiac and orthopedic surgery (due to volume and ability to generate revenue for hospital). Through that and our previous experience, we've networked with several opinion leaders in the reconstruction space (hip and knee surgery), and identify the differences in care in the US vs. Canada and the gaps where we can improve upon.

We developed a patient program for those undergoing hip or knee surgery. While there has been innovation in this space (i.e., robots, anesthetics, etc.), which have led to some better outcomes in terms of infection rates and readmission. But it turns out that nutrition was one remaining gap where there is currently nothing in terms of the standard of care. We built a robust clinical rationale for our approach, and worked with experts in the US to understand how we could introduce this solution, what would patients be willing to pay. For us, this was a learning experience, since it's a different healthcare approach (especially from a business perspective), and patients are used to paying out of pocket for care recommended by their surgeons. We've had early success – patients are extremely engaged – and presented as an adjunct to care. Presented as something that patients can do to manage their health: you can stop smoking, you can exercise to maintain muscle, and you can start this nutrition program. This is leading the way for us in terms of business development.

### Participating in Federal Supercluster

A recent win that I'd like to share is that we will be working with the Protein Industries Canada, a federal supercluster. We've just received a [joint investment of \\$2.2 million](#) to prototype and commercialize the development of plant protein blends designed to meet the protein requirements of hospitalized and outpatient individuals. We know plant-based proteins are part of a healthy trend (backed by personal healthy choice, personal preferences, environmental factors), but we don't have a good understanding of the impact on patient populations. This brought together a collaboration between some leading researchers at McMaster University and suppliers, to stack these proteins against the current market standards – and innovate and commercialize some solutions locally.

We're very excited about this, it's a massive award. But there is work that needs to be done over the next few years. We'll be spending a lot of time and energy getting this off the ground.

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### Closing Financing Deal

Like many of those working on startups, I'm wearing multiple hats in support of EMN. One of the other places that we're spending time is closing some financing. We're about 75% committed to this convertible debenture, which will be used to increasing sales and marketing in the US, while also accelerating our e-commerce model. I would welcome any follow-up and questions as it relates to this.

And with that, perhaps we can open up the floor to Q&A, if there are items that people are interested in learning about in a little more detail.

Thank you.

### **Question & Answers**

*Question: Do you measure the change in outcomes via a clinical trial? Do you use Placebo vs EMN products?*

Answer: As much of an investment, we're considered a sales and marketing company, we have engaged in a lot of research. We've had 8 randomized control trials across the country this year. For example, one of our trials at the University of Calgary is a placebo trial. We're focused on the concept of "prehabilitation", which is optimizing patients prior to surgery, and is really a significant practice change. We're working with colorectal cancer patients. We're supporting them with evidence based protein intake, we're training them so they're exercise to increase their baseline (e.g., step counts, exercise classes). We know that if patients comes into a surgery healthy, then they will have a more successful healthcare outcomes (measured by outcomes and length of stay). We're measuring outcomes against placebo in terms of the benefits they can provide. A lot of research in the space of surgical oncology and cardiac, and orthopedic surgeries. Everything we do is rooted in these trials and evidence that you would consider across the healthcare industry.

*Question: Although you have focus on perioperative nutrition, have you looked enteral nutrition for gastroenterology – this a method for patients with active flares of crohn's disease and colitis to help self-manage. I could see this as a longer-term nutrition strategy.*

Answer: Part of work has been on enteral side – looking at specific indications for patients. Crohn's has been on our specific list for development. We've been working with ICUs in the Toronto area during COVID, as they've seen increased incidence of patients in the ICU. And those patients have a high protein requirement based on multiple challenges. We have a commercialized pursuit based on this theme, deficiencies in surgical patients are common across different hospitals and facilities. I have a passion in the area of hip fractures, and I think we've seen a bit more of a highlight in the long-term care facilities we work with based on deficiencies on patients and challenges we would like to address..

*Quest: Has anyone studied the impact of inducing ketosis via diet impacting surgical outcomes?*

A: This isn't something that has been well studied. Typically, the two areas of focus for us are the states of being anabolic or katabolic. Katabolic is a break down state, anabolic is build up state. That's where we focus our energies. It's an interesting question, and something that will be looked at in the future. But when we look at carbohydrate loading, we know it's important to keep engine running to reduce insulin resistance.

*Question: Can you give us a sense of the scale of your company (e.g., employees, sales, money raised, etc.), and what your targets are?*

Answer: When I started the company as the lead founder, in early 2016, with an army of coop students. We've gotten to a point where we've completed some financing (seed round of \$1.2M in 2019). As of this month we

### Guest Speaker Discussion

have 6 fulltime employees, and we're projecting about a \$1M in revenue for this year. We're just in that scale-up phase of starting getting traction and having a pretty clear idea of our market fit and what our strengths/weaknesses are. We thought we would be there about a year earlier – but COVID slowed us down. For us, we are excited about leveraging many opportunities to grow quicker. We'll probably double our number of employees by the end of the year (given the supercluster project), and we are optimistic about hitting a stride on the international markets – opening up 10 countries in middle east and southeast asia.

*Q: You have several balls up in the air, but can you help us understand what are your biggest headaches over the next 6-12 months, and how can the community help?*

A: Want to use this meeting as a platform for networking. I'm a first-time founder, so it's all about who you know. The best way is to talk to others who have been down this road before. I would definitely say that the challenges that we're looking forward to tackling are related to scale in general. For example, adding bodies and building out different departments. We get used to wearing multiple hats, that sometimes even delegating is a challenge. I've been reaching out to colleagues and networks, to understand how they've added employees, building a culture that inspires people to come to work every day and being invested in EMN's success. So HR is my #1 challenge, and export being the other –exporting to US is different than exporting to the other side of the planet. Learning from others how to export from a product perspective. I'm always looking for relevant connections in Hamilton innovation ecosystem through Synapse – I noted that someone from Chartwell is in the audience, so that's an example of someone I'd like to connect with (e.g., work with long term care facilities).

*Q: What is your strategy for expanding into the Asian market? Will you mainly through distributors, or use an approach similar to how you entered the US?*

A: We met a white knight through an angle group (AngeQuebec) and the company is Lock Corporation. They are a matchmaker for medical device companies. Since we first commercialized these products in 2018, we'd get a lot of inbound requests for either distribution or direct sales – but we couldn't figure it out. We'd get a surgeon in Lagos, or Moscow, or Manila asking to buy the product, but we didn't know how to get the product there (dealing with the regulatory challenges, customs, etc.). Lock Corporation was a broker that helps to advertise the innovation and connect us with different distributors around the world (e.g. specializes in anesthesiology, etc.) and help us navigate the regulatory market. We're focused on the Middle East, Africa and Asia based on inbound interest from those countries. There may be market evidence to back this up this demand, but we've just taken this demand as our lead, and have been working with Lock Corporation to get regulatory information approved, and then find hospitals and other customers to work with.

Time allotted | 15 Minutes

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">St. Joseph's Healthcare Announces New Scientific Director: Dr. Lehana Thabane</a></p> <p>The Scientific Director is a dual-role that also comprises the Vice President, Research of St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton.</p> <p>Following an extensive search process, The Research Institute is pleased to announce that Dr. Lehana Thabane has accepted the position of Vice President, Research at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and Scientific Director of The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton. Dr. Thabane is a highly respected academic leader and researcher who brings more than 20 years of health care experience, including being a pioneer in health research and clinical trials methodology. He is celebrated as an academic mentor and an advocate of evidence-based medicine and health care in Canada and around the world.</p> <p>Lehana's current and past executive roles include: Interim Chair/Associate Chair in the Department of Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact (HEI) at McMaster University; Director of Biostatistics at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton; Board of Directors of The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton; Chair of the Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and Past Chair of the Nominations Committee for the Society for Clinical Trials; President, Biostatistical Section of the Statistical Society of Canada; Member of the McMaster University Board of Governors; and a Member of the Board of Directors of OHAfrica, among many others.</p>	<p>Gail Martin (Research Institute at St. Joe's)</p>
<p><a href="#">Enhanced Medical Nutrition (EMN) secures \$2.2M investment to expand medical and at-home uses of plant-based protein blends</a></p> <p>Today, Protein Industries Canada announced a co-investment into the development of a novel plant-based protein blend that will be designed to meet the protein needs of hospitalized and outpatient individuals, and highly active athletic consumers.</p> <p>New project will focus on meeting the rising demand for high-quality plant-based protein options within the clinical and athletic markets</p> <p>A \$2.2 million co-investment, the project is being led by Enhanced Medical Nutrition (EMN) and Infinit Nutrition Canada (INC). The partners are focusing on meeting the rising demand for high-quality plant-based protein options within the clinical and athletic markets. They're targeting consumers where sufficient protein intakes pose a challenge, particularly individuals recovering from surgery, the critically ill and athletes building muscle mass.</p> <p>"There are endless opportunities for plant-based protein products. Demand is growing for these products around the world, and we need to encourage the Canadian innovators so they are the ones who meet that demand. This announcement is just one more solid example of how the Protein Industries Supercluster is adding value to our farmers' crops and keeping the sector at the forefront of innovation," said the Honourable Marie-Claude Bibeau, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-food.</p> <p>EMN and INC will create ready-to-mix and modular protein powders that are allergen-free, clean label and ethically sourced and manufactured from Canadian raw materials. The modular</p>	<p>Michael Marini (City of Hamilton)</p>



Discussion	Presenter
<p>powders will be used in healthcare settings where they can be mixed into beverages or soft foods, increasing the protein content of the meal, or flushed through feeding tubes to deliver a dose of protein on top of the prescribed tube feed. The ready-to-mix powders will also be designed for hospital use, as well as for outpatient settings and at-home use.</p> <p>“Increasingly consumers are turning to plant-based diets. The amount of protein they need differs depending on factors such as their lifestyle and health situation,” CEO of Protein Industries Canada Bill Greuel said. “This rising demand and difference in needs makes it crucial that plant-based protein options are available in all settings and all forms—from grocery shelves to hospital kitchens, and from ready-to-mix powders to mixtures compatible with enteral feeding syringes. Making these products easily available helps ensure that all Canadians have access to a healthy, nutritious diet.”</p> <p>EMN and INC are also engaging with Dr. Stuart Phillips, an internationally recognized dietary, protein, exercise and nutrition scientist, on the project. Phillips will conduct research to investigate the plant-protein blend at the Protein Metabolism Research Lab (PMRL) at McMaster University.</p> <p>Read the full article <a href="#">here</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">McMaster Research Awarded \$375,000 Crohn’s and Colitis Canada Grant</a></p> <p>Crohn’s and Colitis Canada is delighted to award over \$1.2 million in new grants through its Grants-in-Aid of Research and Innovations in IBD Research grant programs. With funds distributed among five principal investigators and their teams, the grants will support novel research projects focused on Crohn’s disease and ulcerative colitis, the two main forms of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD).</p> <p>The notable researchers receiving funding through Crohn’s and Colitis Canada’s grants program included Dr. Brian Coombes, McMaster University: Dr. Coombes' research will advance understanding of how psychological stress impacts the immune response to invasive microbes associated with Crohn’s disease. This year, three principal investigators and their teams are the recipients of Grants-in-Aid of Research grants, and will receive \$125,000 a year for three years to advance prevention, treatments, and health policy.</p> <p>While Canadians of all ages live with IBD, research shows seniors are the fastest growing group and the prevalence in children has risen by more than 50% over the past 10 years. With the rising rate of IBD among Canadians and unique treatment challenges presented by all age groups, the data from the scientific community highlights the urgent need to invest in research.</p> <p>Read the full article <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">McMaster Researchers - Virus-Repelling Plastic Wins Top Prize in "Create the Future" Contest</a></p> <p>A research team at McMaster University has developed a self-cleaning surface that instantly repels viruses and bacteria – and could potentially prevent the transfer of superbugs (strains of bacteria resistant to most antibiotics). The transparent flexible film can be shrink-wrapped to fit onto door handles, railings, and other surfaces that act as magnets for bacteria. Inspired by the water-repellant lotus leaf, RepelWrap can be manufactured onto biodegradable and green plastic materials to alleviate concerns about sustainability and recyclability. RepelWrap has been</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>


Discussion	Presenter
<p>awarded the Grand Prize of \$20,000 in the 2020 "Create the Future" Design Contest, produced by SAE Media Group.</p> <p>Leyla Soleymani, Co-inventor, said "I'm really thankful to the judges, and the contest sponsors for proving the opportunity for us to present our innovation to the world. We believe the recognition from this contest will provide us with tremendous opportunities in our efforts aimed at translating this innovation into a marketable product for improving health and wellbeing in our society."</p> <p>Engineers and students from 60 countries submitted new product ideas to the contest, which was established in 2002 to recognize and reward engineering innovations that benefit humanity, the environment, and the economy. This year's contest was co-sponsored by COMSOL (<a href="http://www.comsol.com">www.comsol.com</a>) and Mouser Electronics (<a href="http://www.mouser.com">www.mouser.com</a>). Analog Devices and Intel were supporting sponsors.</p> <p>Read the full article <a href="#">here</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">An exceptional year for Bay Area Health Trust: Annual Report</a></p> <p>Innovators thrive on challenges, which explains why 2020 was such an exceptional year for Bay Area Health Trust (BAHT).</p> <p>"Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) is proud and grateful to be a beneficiary of BAHT, a company innovating to bring our community solutions and investing to create the change health care needs through its life science businesses," says Dave McCaig, executive vice president of corporate affairs and chief financial officer for HHS. McCaig is also a BAHT board member. Stepping up to challenges</p> <p>Read BAHT's annual summary report – <a href="#">2020 Bay Area Health Trust's Transformational Year for Future Growth</a> — to get highlights of key projects and initiatives from last year, including how BAHT contributed to fighting the pandemic locally.</p>	<p>John Hands (BAHT)</p>
<p><a href="#">ToeFX is accepting new patients for a clinical trial</a></p> <p>The Forge alumnus ToeFX is a medical device startup that has developed a safe, effective treatment for nail fungus. The study is accepting healthy people with toenail fungus who are between 18-75 years of age, not currently receiving medical treatment for toenail fungus, and willing to answer a short two-minute questionnaire. ToeFX is recruiting on an ongoing basis for clinical trials.</p> <p>For more information visit <a href="#">ToeFX's website</a>.</p>	<p>Monika Yazdanian (ToeFx)</p>
<p><a href="#">Communitech Hiring a new Startup Advisor</a> (MedTech focus)</p> <p>Communitech is hiring a new Startup Advisor and wanted to hear from those who might be interested in the opportunity. An ideal candidate would have a background in MedTech (e.g. having co-founded or worked in a MedTech startup), though that is not a requirement.</p> <p>Here is the <a href="#">role description</a>. Successful candidates can be located anywhere in our ecosystem, doesn't have to be Kitchener-Waterloo, as long as they are able to come in physically when needed (post pandemic).</p>	<p>Armin Eichhorn (Communitech)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">Deadline for round of Idea 2 Innovation (i2i) grants on March 29<sup>th</sup></a></p> <p>6 McMaster researchers received support from the last round including Jeremy Hirota who will receive commercialization support for a market assessment of a rapid, disposable, point-of-care diagnostic chip and reader technology for nucleic acid readouts.</p> <p>The objective of the Idea to Innovation (I2I) grants is to accelerate the pre-competitive development of promising technology originating from the university and college sector and promote its transfer to a new or established Canadian company. The I2I grants provide funding to college and university faculty members to support research and development projects with recognized technology transfer potential. This is achieved through defined phases by providing crucial assistance in the early stages of technology validation and market connection.</p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>
<p><a href="#">Watch it Again: McMaster Innovation Showcase</a></p> <p>On behalf of everyone at MILO, we thank all of those who attended our Innovation Showcase on December 16th, 2020. We hope attendees learned something new about the ongoing pandemic and made some fruitful connections throughout the event.</p> <p>If you have any feedback for us regarding IS2020 – or are interested in hosting an event in collaboration with MILO – feel free to email us at <a href="mailto:milodsk@mcmaster.ca">milodsk@mcmaster.ca</a></p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>
<p><a href="#">McMaster researchers developing homegrown vaccines to fight COVID-19 and prevent future outbreaks, using specialized campus lab and production facility</a></p> <p>A team of virologists, infectious disease experts and immunologists at McMaster is developing two new second-generation COVID-19 vaccine candidates, designing and producing them in a specialized facility on campus.</p> <p>The ability to manufacture a vaccine puts McMaster among a very small number of research facilities attempting to fill the made-in-Canada gap in the race to produce more vaccines.</p> <p>This critical work is being conducted at McMaster in the Robert E. Fitzhenry Vector Laboratory, the first facility of its kind in Canada and one of a few with the capacity to develop and produce viral-vectored vaccines for clinical testing.</p> <p>Although the Vector lab has limited capacity, researchers are manufacturing tens of thousands of vaccine candidate doses there, with the potential to manufacture hundreds of thousands more. With Health Canada approval, they hope to begin human trials with healthy volunteers in Hamilton in the spring and if successful, will expand to the second phase of clinical testing next fall.</p> <p>The research is part of Canada’s Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats, an international network based at McMaster, with scientists, clinicians, engineers, social scientists and other experts working collaboratively to prevent future pandemics and mitigate global health threats.</p> <p>Read the full article <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">McMaster researchers to begin trials for new COVID vaccine</a></p> <p>Canada’s COVID-19 vaccine woes may soon have a made-in-Hamilton solution.</p> <p>Researchers at McMaster University expect to soon begin clinical trials for two new so-called “second-generation” coronavirus vaccines that could help better protect people from new variants of the COVID virus.</p> <p>What’s more, the university’s vaccine lab has the capability to produce hundreds of thousands of vaccine doses by the summer. With some hoped-for upgrades, the facility could produce millions of vaccine doses by late fall.</p> <p>“It’s not widely known, or even locally known, that McMaster has this capacity,” said Brian Lichty, a professor with the McMaster Immunology Research Centre and co-leader of the vaccine development project. “It’s part of an effort to try to expand the facility so that maybe this summer we could make millions of doses,” Lichty said. “It’s hard to get our hands on vaccines in Canada because we don’t make any here ourselves yet.”</p> <p>The first-generation COVID vaccines now in use, such as the ones by Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna, target the large spike protein that protrudes from the surface of the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID. “But that’s the thing that is most able to change and that’s what’s creating all of these variants,” Lichty said.</p> <p>Read the full article <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">New strategic alliance with McMaster University Health Leadership Academy promotes excellence in health leadership</a></p> <p>The Canadian College of Health Leaders (CCHL) has awarded LEADS certification to the McMaster University Health Leadership Academy (HLA) for its Emerging Leaders Program (ELP) and Pathfinder Program. This three-year strategic alliance focuses on health leadership and emphasizes the commitment of both organizations in the pursuit of ongoing professional development and lifelong learning. The partnership agreement provides Emerging Leaders and Pathfinder participants with an opportunity to obtain their Certified Health Executive (CHE) designation while completing their studies.</p> <p>The CHE designation is the only leadership designation in Canada for all health leaders and is essential for career advancement. Other benefits of the CHE designation include support for lifelong learning in health services leadership, assistance with career advancement, and peer recognition.</p> <p>McMaster University’s <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy</a> is a joint venture between the <a href="#">DeGroot School of Business</a>, <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine</a> and faculty of <a href="#">Health Sciences</a>. Their leadership development programs are helping to evolve a new generation of innovative healthcare leaders.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">Praxis SCI Ideation Challenge! (February 22, 2021)</a></p> <p>The Praxis Spinal Cord Injury (SCI) Ideation Challenge is a roadmap to helping you develop potentially commercializable ideas for those living with SCI. Through an active learning</p>	<p>Alana McFarlane (Praxis Institute)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>curriculum, our challenge will help participants get their concepts investment-ready by providing support through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Guidance, feedback, and mentorship,</li> <li>• Financial awards, and</li> <li>• Opportunities to engage with potential investors, partners, clients, and key opinion leaders.</li> </ul> <p>If you are an individual, a community member, student, researcher, clinician, or an industrial partner, who is interested in developing your ideas, please register for our live launch and Q&amp;A session to learn more.</p> <p>Register for our virtual live launch: <a href="#">HERE</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">Life Sciences Ontario (LSO) Awards Networking: Virtual Get-together</a> (Feb 24)</p> <p>Every year, LSO celebrates the exceptional contributions of key individuals and organizations from across the life sciences community at our annual LSO Awards Gala. Given the circumstances surrounding COVID19, we planned on hosting this year’s event virtually. Unfortunately, the increasing case count and new public health restrictions means that we cannot carry out the necessary preparations to deliver the virtual gala on Feb. 24th as originally planned. Our priority remains the safety of all our awardees, staff and participants and this means adhering to the recommendations of our public health officials.</p> <p>This year is special. COVID has brought out the best and brightest of all life sciences members and; this year also marks the 100th anniversary of insulin – the Canadian discovery that continues to save millions of lives around the world. So it’s absolutely important that we celebrate our sector’s past, present and future as part of this year’s Awards Gala.</p>	<p>Andy Donovan (LSO)</p>
<p><a href="#">Ontario Life Sciences Export Business Mission to Medical Fair India</a> (Feb 25-27, 2021)</p> <p>The Ontario government is organizing an export business mission to Medical Fair India for export-ready Ontario companies supplying technology, medical devices and medical equipment to the healthcare market. The trade show and conference are a platform for industry, regulators and policy makers to discuss the latest digital technologies and new approaches shaping health care in India.</p> <p>Medical Fair India has featured special events such as Clin Lab India, an exhibition and conference on laboratory medicine, point of care testing, molecular medical diagnostics and clinical chemistry; and FTR4H - Future for Health focused on big data, artificial intelligence, mobile technologies and IT. The event is organized by Messe Düsseldorf. Last year’s trade show included 500-plus exhibitors, 17 countries, and nearly 15,000 visitors from hospitals and medical centres, medical schools and government health departments. The mission will offer delegates a clear understanding of the opportunities in the Indian health care sector.</p> <p>Ontario companies participating in the mission will receive targeted assistance from the Ontario government, including B2B meetings with Indian companies, hospitals and organizations; market intelligence and briefings on the health care industry in India; introductions to decision-makers in the Indian health care market; and access to networking events and potential speaking opportunities at Medical Fair India</p>	<p>Carolynn Reid (City of Hamilton)</p>

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<p><a href="#">The Call for Applications for the 2021 OBIO Capital Access Advisory Program (CAAP®) is now open.</a> (Deadline February 28<sup>th</sup>)</p> <p>OBIO CAAP is a competitive, 10-month structured program (April-Feb) for health science companies seeking to raise post-seed financing in the 2021 to 2022 timeframe, culminating at the 2022 OBIO Investment Summit where CAAP companies will present to and meet with global investors. Companies presenting at the Summit have raised over \$390M.</p> <p>Application deadline: Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 PM EST. (<a href="#">Click Here to Apply</a>)</p>	<p>Grant Burns (OBIO)</p>
<p><a href="#">The Forge Startup Survivor: Summer Program and Pitch Competition</a> (Applications due Mar 1)</p> <p>The Forge has launched an exciting new program for McMaster Students and recent Alumni with novel business ideas.</p> <p>Introducing Startup Survivor – a 4-month innovation program culminating with a pitch competition in the Fall. Throughout the program, The Forge will be giving out up to \$75,000 to 10 Startup Survivor finalists. The finalists will receive cash prizes to further advance their startups, upon completing challenges focused on innovation, validation and business development. Only the top teams will outlast their competition and participate in The Startup Survivor Pitch Competition for the chance to win additional prize money. Preliminary applications due: Monday, March 1, 2021 (midnight).</p> <p>Challenge #1: Customer Discovery due: Wednesday, March 31, 2021.</p> <p>Tip: Submit your preliminary application as early as possible, so you have more time to work on Challenge #1: Customer Discovery before the due date!</p> <p>Any questions, please reach out: <a href="mailto:riley@theforge.mcmaster.ca">riley@theforge.mcmaster.ca</a></p>	<p>Riley Moynes (The Forge)</p>
<p><a href="#">CAHBI Innovation Cohort Application Deadline – March 1</a></p> <p>Applications just started for next cohort of The Centre for Aging + Brain Health Innovation (CABHI), led by Baycrest. You can receive an investment of up to <u>\$300,000 CAD</u> to grow and scale your healthtech solution (with particular focus on aging).</p> <p>The deadline is March 1, 2021.</p> <p>Any questions, please contact James: <a href="mailto:JMayer@cabhi.com">JMayer@cabhi.com</a></p>	<p>James Mayer (CABHI)</p>
<p><a href="#">Unplugged: An Unforgettable Virtual Concert Experience</a> (Mar 7)</p> <p>Hamilton Health Sciences Foundation is hosting UNPLUGGED – An unforgettable virtual concert experience on Sunday, March 7, 2021. We’re bringing together many of your favourite aspects from our gala to the comfort and safety of your home.</p> <p>All event proceeds help fund innovative research projects across Hamilton Health Sciences. As a loyal supporter, we hope to count on your continued engagement during this critical time. Click here to register now!</p> <p>UNPLUGGED will feature several outstanding artists, including returning performers from previous years like Justin Guarini. Justin’s career launched with the first season of American Idol</p>	<p>Pearl Veenema (HHS Foundation)</p>

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<p>in 2002. Since then, he has performed in multiple Broadway productions and hosted special events for the Oscars, the Emmys and the Grammys.</p> <p>On the frontlines and beyond, It's Always Vital to Care. We are extremely grateful to all of our sponsors and individual supporters for helping us enable critical research during this unprecedented time.</p> <p>For more details, including sponsorship opportunities, please email <a href="mailto:wrightmila@hhsc.ca">wrightmila@hhsc.ca</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">McMaster Life Science Industry Week</a> (March 8-12)</p> <p>Life Science Industry Week is being held to connect the Life Sciences sectors to the McMaster Engineering &amp; Science talent. Life Sciences Industry Week will feature companies from sectors such as healthcare, research, life sciences, medical devices and health tech in various event offerings. The signature event for this week will be the Life Sciences Career Pathways.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synaspse)</p>
<p><a href="#">Forge 2-Part Workshop on US Patent Strategy</a> (Mar 11)</p> <p>The Forge is happy to announce a very special two-part workshop for healthtech/medtech companies featuring Epineuron and US-based law firm Knobbe Martens. Knobbe Martens lawyers Ted and Michael specialize in helping healthtech/medtech companies with their US patent strategy. According to Mike Willand from Epineuron - they were not only instrumental in helping Epineuron get their technology patented, but they were also instrumental in helping them get investment. In the first workshop, we will do a quick overview of the legal instruments that can be used by healthtech/medtech companies looking to protect their intellectual property, then we dive into IP strategy. As we discuss strategy we will use Ontario-based, Epineuron as a case-study.</p> <p>In the second workshop, we will talk about the due diligence process, how to prepare and how to network with medtech/healthtech investors.</p> <p>Please share with your network! More detailed information found in the signup links below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Feb 4 (Part 1): <a href="#">Strategy is everything: IP strategy considerations for healthtech/medtech companies seeking investment</a></li> <li>Mar 11 (Part 2): <a href="#">Converting IP to \$\$\$ for healthtech/medtech companies</a></li> </ul> <p>Any questions, please reach out: <a href="mailto:riley@theforge.mcmaster.ca">riley@theforge.mcmaster.ca</a></p>	<p>Riley Moynes (The Forge)</p>
<p><a href="#">Synapse Life Science Competition</a> (March 24)</p> <p>Innovation Factory's Synapse Life Science Competition is Ontario's premier life science pitch competition and designed to help move innovative life science products and services out of the lab and into the market, by pairing up life science Innovators with business and entrepreneurship students.</p> <p>For the second year, the Synapse Pitch Competition will be delivered virtually on March 24, 2021. This year the event will take place as a virtual showcase, featuring pitch presentations, finalists exhibits, networking, and award big prizes to the winning innovators!</p> <p>Click <a href="#">here</a> to check out all the 2020 competition excitement where the Hamilton life science ecosystem gathered for the first time, virtually!</p>	<p>Jennifer Gauvreau (iF)</p> 

Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">Clinical Trials Ontario 2021 Conference</a> (Mar 23-25)</p> <p>CTO's conference will be held virtually on the afternoons of March 23-25, 2021. Recognizing the amount of time we have all spent in front of screens this year, we will feature a trimmed agenda. The conference will run for three days from 1:00pm to 4:00pm and will offer an agenda that engages our multi-stakeholder sector. Stay tuned for registration details and agenda updates.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>McMaster Health Leadership Programming (Various Dates)</p> <p>The <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy</a> is pleased to share its portfolio of 2021 leadership programming for aspiring and current health leaders that focuses on learning, and unlearning, the necessary skills to navigate and adapt to our ever-changing health environment. This year we are offering the <i>Emerging Leaders</i>, <i>Pathfinder</i> and the new <i>Shift</i> programs. Applications are now open.</p> <p><a href="#">Emerging Leaders</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the fundamentals of leadership in a health context</li> <li>• Tailored to senior undergraduates and recent graduates</li> <li>• Offered virtually: May 2-9 and August 15-22, 2021</li> <li>• Register to learn more: <a href="#">February 10, 2021 at 8:30pm EST</a> &amp; <a href="#">March 5, 2021 at 12:30pm EST</a></li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Pathfinder</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chart your leadership journey in an applied leadership development with personalized coaching</li> <li>• Tailored to health leaders, young professionals and post-doctoral/graduate students</li> <li>• Offered virtually: Apr-Jun and Sept-Nov 2021</li> <li>• Register to learn more: <a href="#">February 10, 2021 at 12:30pm EST</a> &amp; <a href="#">February 25, 2021 at 8:30pm EST</a></li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Shift</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design and build new health futures</li> <li>• Tailored to health leaders, young professionals and post-doctoral/graduate students</li> <li>• Offered virtually: Apr-Jun 2021</li> <li>• Register to learn more: <a href="#">February 12, 2021 at 12:30pm EST</a> &amp; <a href="#">February 23, 2021 at 8:30pm EST</a></li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy</a> is a joint venture between the <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot School of Business</a>, <a href="#">Faculty of Health Sciences</a> and the <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine</a> at <a href="#">McMaster University</a>. For more information about our programs, please visit <a href="#">healthleadershipacademy.ca</a> or contact Amanda: <a href="mailto:calzola@mcmaster.ca">calzola@mcmaster.ca</a></p>	<p>Amanda Calzolaio (McMaster Health Leadership Academy)</p>
<p><a href="#">MGD-HICE Educational Webinars &amp; DevTank Meetings</a></p> <p>Operating out of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University, the Michael G. DeGroot Health Innovation, Commercialization &amp; Entrepreneurship (MGD-HICE) aims to accelerate the exploration of health innovation opportunities and creation of socioeconomic impact. Check out the full suite of programming <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Sarrah Lal (MGD-HICE)</p>
<p><a href="#">JLABs Events Going Virtual (various dates)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Discovering the Digital Technologies of Tomorrow</a> (Mar 9)</li> </ul>	<p>Amanda Raponi (JLABS)</p>




Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Join us in this online event as we convene regional experts to discuss their views on the latest digital innovation trends and how these could be accelerated to potentially transform patient care across atrial fibrillation, neurovascular treatments, orthopedics, general surgery and other focus areas.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Closing the Gap in Access to Capital</a> (Mar 11) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Join Johnson &amp; Johnson Innovation - JLABS for a panel discussion as we discuss what can be done for female entrepreneurs at the micro and macro level, discuss potential avenues for capital, as well as other factors at play, such as a lack of female mentorship.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">How 3D Printing is Reshaping the Future of Health Tech</a> (Mar 31) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Join us to hear from experts and startup companies in the field on where they think the future of 3D printing is headed, and what advancements are on the horizon in 3D bioprinting and 3D printed healthcare solutions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>To learn more about upcoming JLABs events, click <a href="#">here</a></p>	
<p><u>Government Calls for Innovative Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Call for Suppliers</a> (Federal): In support of the Government of Canada’s <a href="#">whole-of-government response to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)</a>, they are asking suppliers about their ability to provide a variety of products and services.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Call for Suppliers</a> (Ontario): request for information from companies able to supply emergency products to help fight Coronavirus</li> <li>• Federal Government <a href="#">Call to Action for Canadian Manufacturers</a> to support businesses to rapidly scale up production or re-tool their manufacturing lines to develop products made in Canada that will help in the fight against COVID-19. Please refer to the <a href="#">product specifications and requirements</a> for Canada’s medical supply needs.</li> <li>• Health Canada will facilitate earlier access to a vaccine, or therapeutic product for COVID-19 to <a href="#">expedite the review of COVID-19 related health product submissions</a> and applications.</li> <li>• Government of Canada is speeding up the importation and sale of medical devices used to diagnose, treat or prevent COVID-19. Here is information about <a href="#">expediting access and authorization for diagnostic devices</a> for use against coronavirus (COVID-19).</li> <li>• Government of Canada will launch specific challenges through the <a href="#">Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC)</a> program and will rapidly select the best projects to accelerate development and testing of promising innovations that can have a direct impact on our health care response. Also use the ISC Testing Stream to become the first customer of these innovative products.</li> <li>• The <a href="#">National Research Council of Canada (NRC)</a> will organize an NRC COVID-19 Challenge Program, composed of teams of government, academic and private sector partners to address a range of medium term PHAC and HC needs, including personal protective equipment, sanitization, diagnostic and testing, therapeutics, and disease tracking technology. The most promising solutions will be selected for procurement, working with Innovative Solutions Canada.</li> <li>• <a href="#">DISRUPT COVID-19</a>, a Government of Canada virtual forum that will include representatives from the National Research Council (NRC), the Industrial Research Assistance Program (NRC IRAP), Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) and Innovation and Science, Economic Development (ISED), is being organised as a pilot initiative with the goal of getting technologies on the ground helping patients and health care professionals as fast as possible.</li> </ul>	<p>Innovation Factory &amp; Synapse Consortium</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Next Generation Manufacturing</a> (NGen) will invest \$50 million in Supercluster funding to support companies as they rapidly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by building a Canadian supply of essential equipment, products, and therapeutics. For more information on NGen’s COVID-19 Response Program, see the <a href="#">full bulletin</a>, review the <a href="#">project guide</a>, and share your capabilities in the form below.</li> <li>• <a href="#">Ontario Website for PPE Suppliers to Post Products for Sale</a>: Review a list of companies that sell personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to keep your employees and customers safe from COVID-19. Apply to be added to the <a href="#">workplace PPE supplier directory</a></li> </ul> <p>The <a href="#">Digital Technology Supercluster</a> has launched the COVID-19 Program is focused on unlocking solutions to protect the health and safety of all Canadians and our economy through the development, deployment, and scaling of digital technologies.</p>	

Time allotted | 15 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
<p><a href="#">Want to Connect with your Ecosystem: Check out the Synapse Health Ecosystem Directory</a></p> <p>Synapse has created a Director of +200 private- and public-sector organizations in the Hamilton (and regional) health innovation ecosystem which work alongside the Synapse Consortium to support of the commercialization of health innovation.</p> <p>Learn more about what others are up to, and identify potential collaborative partners at: <a href="http://www.synapseconsortium.com/directory">www.synapseconsortium.com/directory</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p> 
<p><u>Engaging Mohawk College's IDEAWORKS</u></p> <p>IDEAWORKS projects in general (of which, MEDIC is one area) which was provided and may help with identifying if Mohawk College can support our companies with projects. This might be a refresher for some or all of us, but highlighting nonetheless:</p> <p>Tips for Innovation Factory Referrals to IDEAWORKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our four innovation centres (MEDIC for Digital Health, AMIC for 3D printing, EPIC for energy efficiency related projects and MTIC for Medical Technologies related challenges) are active during this time- but note that due to existing commitments, are often looking at projects one month to three months in the future.</li> <li>• Other <a href="#">areas of expertise</a> are on a case by case basis, especially this year, with a number of our faculty committed to teaching and revamping courses</li> <li>• The ideal applied research partner is one that is in the scaling stage; they have some revenue and can meet a lot of the funding agencies criteria for funding or want to self-fund a research project. Typically what we look for is 2+2; two years in business with two employees</li> <li>• We recommend working with us on projects that aren't mission critical but can help the company explore an innovative idea.</li> </ul> <p>What about start-ups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If they require a few tips or advice, we can normally chat with them (or if there is a critical mass -like five or six companies in a space-, we can do a webinar type discussion).</li> <li>• They can see about the availability of capstone projects, where students generally work on projects for a four month period, for free, in order to get course credit. It may help with MVPs.</li> </ul> <p>Contact Andrea Johnson for more information: <a href="mailto:andrea.johnson4@mohawkcollege.ca">andrea.johnson4@mohawkcollege.ca</a></p>	<p>Andrea Johnson (Mohawk College)</p>
<p><a href="#">The CONNECTION - McMaster University Online Partnerships Portal!</a></p> <p><a href="#">The Connection</a> is a new program offered by McMaster's Office of Community Engagement (OCE) designed to facilitate online, mutually beneficial partnerships between campus and local Hamilton community organizations. As communities look for ways to adapt and rebuild in response to COVID-19 The Connection will make the process of addressing Hamilton community and University identified needs easier by providing online tools and resources.</p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>It's a way for everyone who sees themselves as part of a collective community-campus effort to connect and respond to COVID-19 locally</p>	
<p><a href="#">Collaborating with McMaster Institute for Infectious Disease Research (New Intake Form)</a></p> <p>In addition to our ongoing COVID-19 research initiatives at McMaster, the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research is mobilizing its strong research community to assist Canadian researchers and businesses in their attempts to find solutions to the international crisis.</p> <p>The IIDR teams have the capacity to assist with the testing of anti-viral compounds and products, as well as the testing of products or devices aimed at sterilization. This includes new methods for sterilizing personal protective equipment. They are able to offer services in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BSL2 cell culture infection with representative human coronaviruses;</li> <li>• Testing of methods or products that are designed to inactivate the virus;</li> <li>• Biochemical/enzyme studies with anti-viral agents.</li> </ul> <p>Cell culture and small animal models of SARS-CoV-2 infection can be performed in McMaster's secure biosafety level 3 facility. Availability for BSL3 testing is very limited, and projects requiring this type of work will be screened and prioritized by an internal committee.</p> <p>If you have a product or innovation that you are interested in pursuing further and feel that we could be of assistance to you, please <a href="#">reach out to us through the online form</a>. Each project will be evaluated to determine if McMaster has the capabilities and capacity to perform the required testing.</p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>
<p><a href="#">Hamilton-based technologies available for licensing</a></p> <p>Each year researchers at McMaster, <a href="#">Hamilton Health Sciences</a>, and <a href="#">St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton</a> make new discoveries that lead to new products, services, or process improvements to help companies expand their pipeline or increase their productivity. The business development team at <a href="#">MILO</a> is here to help you tap into and access these discoveries as efficiently as possible. MILO's objective is to support effective transfer of these technologies to companies for social and economic benefit and enable the continued growth of research excellence at the institutions.</p> <p>Please contact <a href="#">Glen Crossley, Associate Director, Business Development and IP</a> or search the list to see some of the technologies currently available for licensing or further R&amp;D.</p>	<p>Glen Crossley (MILO)</p>
<p><a href="#">Hamilton Innovation Partnership Portal</a></p> <p>Synapse has created the <a href="#">Hamilton Innovation Partnership Portal (HIPP)</a> to make the process simpler and more streamlined to find new partners within Canada's leading health research and educational ecosystem.</p>	<p>Andrea Lee (HHS)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>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 for companies to direct request to the portal.</p> <p>Portal is online through the Synapse website: <a href="http://synapseconsortium.com/partner/Submit%20Community%20Events%20on%20the%20Innovation%20Factory%20Calendar">http://synapseconsortium.com/partner/Submit Community Events on the Innovation Factory Calendar</a></p>	
<p>Our calendar is home to Innovation Factory workshops and networking events as well as events from the community which help support our local entrepreneurs and businesses. If you have an event which may a fit, please submit it and we will review it within five business days.</p>	<p>Riley Moynes (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p><a href="https://go.bdo.ca/2021-vc-pitch-day.html">https://go.bdo.ca/2021-vc-pitch-day.html</a></p> <p>Are you a Canadian tech startup looking to validate or grow your next big idea to an all-star panel of VCs and get private feedback too? This spring, we're bringing our sixth annual VC Pitch Day to you virtually, so you can show off your best concept from the comfort of your own home.</p> <p>Apply now to meet, field questions, and pitch your best idea to VCs in six cities across Canada and make connections that build your network and get you to the next level of funding.</p> <p>We're giving preference to: Technology companies that are in the startup phase looking for funding.</p> <p>Submit your application by Wednesday, March 10th at 11:59 pm EST.</p>	<p>Alexandra Flewell (BDO)</p>
<p><a href="#">HHS transfers Integrated Decision Support to OHA</a> (Canadian Healthcare Technology, Feb 3)</p> <p>TORONTO – The Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) has announced the transfer of Integrated Decision Support (IDS) to the OHA from Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS). Launched in 2009, IDS is a leading collaborative solution for sharing integrated health partner data for planning and analytics. Through its data sharing platform across a host of subscribers – including hospitals, home and community care, primary care, public health and EMS – IDS equips healthcare providers with linked data of their shared-care patients, which allows them to address common challenges that can only be solved through their combined efforts.</p> <p>With an Ontario-wide mandate to support providers, the OHA will help IDS build its network of users and the rich set of tools offered to meet their analytics needs. The IDS data platform has established infrastructure, processes and partnerships with a proven ability to share and link data. It's the most efficient, service-ready solution to enable integrative projects such as Ontario Health Teams, by providing greater visibility into patients' and clients' journeys across the continuum of care.</p> <p>Read the full Canadian Healthcare Technology piece <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Our Synapse Consortium partners are at the forefront of addressing COVID-19 in the City of Hamilton, and across Ontario: doctors and nurses caring for patients, public health officials coordinating city-wide responses, conducting epidemiological research at Canada's leading research hospitals, and innovative companies developing products to provide needed supplies and services.

Throughout all of this, Synapse remains committed to our core goal of facilitating connections across the Hamilton health ecosystem, bringing public- and private-sector actors together to enable innovation and resolve pressing health challenges. While Synapse staff are not in the office, we're still providing support virtually – so please continue to reach out and find out how we can help!

If you want to get in touch, please contact [Alex Muggah](#), Director of the Synapse Consortium. Separately, we've assembled links to information that has been compiled by organizations across Ontario (and Canada) to assist you with navigating the COVID-19 pandemic.

### Learn More About COVID-19: Online Resources

Synapse Consortium partners have put together a significant amount of information and updates on the status and activities related to containing and addressing COVID-19 for both businesses and citizens in the region:

#### Hospitals and Research Centres

- Hamilton Health Sciences: [COVID-19 Updates](#)
- St. Joseph's Healthcare: [Research Institute](#) and [Hospital](#) Update
- McMaster Institute for Infectious Disease Research: [News and Updates](#)
- McMaster University: [COVID-19 Update](#)
- Mohawk College: [COVID-19 Update](#)

#### Hamilton Community Partners

- Mohawk College [Collaboration Landing Page](#)
- McMaster University [Collaboration Landing Page](#)
- City of Hamilton: [City Response and Resources](#)
- Hamilton Public Health: [Learn more about COVID-19](#)
- Innovation Factory: [COVID-19 Info Centre](#)
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce: [Resources for businesses](#)
- Hamilton Spectator: [What you Need to Know in Hamilton](#)
- Buy-Local (Hamilton): [Hometown Hub](#)

#### Government and Agencies

- Health Canada: [COVID-19 Information and Resources](#)
- OCE: [Collaboration Platform](#)
- Government of Ontario: [COVID-19 Information for Ontarians](#)
- Government of Canada: [Business Support](#)

#### For Companies Making COVID-19 Related Medical Products

- [Call for Suppliers](#) (Ontario)
- [Call for Suppliers](#) (Canada)
- Health Canada: [Expedited Review of Health Product Submissions and Applications for COVID-19](#)
- Health Canada: [Applications for medical devices under the Interim Order for COVID-19 use](#)
- Health Canada: [Expedited Access and Authorization to make COVID-19 personal protective equipment](#)
- Health Canada: [Diagnostic devices for use against coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)