

Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

July 2020

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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
Virtual Location Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/405351918>
Dial in: +1-647-558-0588,,405351918#

Next Monthly Check-up: August 31 | 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 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 accessed 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.

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 \(COVID-19\)](#)

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

Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

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

July & August

- Aug 12: [Introduction to Patent Law, Trademark trends and strategies](#) (Bereskin & Parr)
- Aug 12: [Ontario Clinical Trial Restart: Sharing Solutions on Remote Monitoring](#) (CTO)
- Aug 13: [Key Business Decision Making During the Economic Reopening](#) (Innovation Factory)
- Aug 13: [The new NAFTA: How to leverage CUSMA to enter new markets](#) (EDC)
- Aug 13: [Virtual Breakfast: Genomics, Precision Health, and COVID-19](#) (Life Sciences Ontario)
- Aug 14: [Power Breakfast: Mega-trends of the New Normal with Christine Crandell](#) (iF)
- Aug 19: [Unlocking Life Sciences Career Opportunities in an Uncertain Time](#) (LSO)
- Aug 9-22: [Emerging Leaders Program](#) (Health Leadership Academy)
- Aug 25: [Pitches & Pitchers Pitch Competition](#) (OBIO)
- Aug 25: [SR&ED Workshop for ICT, Life Science, and Advanced Health Industries](#) (MNP)
- Aug 25: [Medical Device Online Conference 2020](#) (Pharmaceutical Sciences Group)
-  August 31: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)

September and Beyond

- Sept 14-16: [Ontario Virtual Life Sciences Export Business Mission to DIGITAL RESI](#) (Ontario Government)
- Sept 17: [Startup School](#) (The Forge)
- Sept 17: [Demo Day – Showcasing the Summer Startup Academy](#) (The Forge)
- Sept 25: [Bereskin & Parr Legal Office Hours](#) (Innovation Factory)
-  Sept 28: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- Sept 28 – Oct 2: [Global Biotech Week](#) (GBW)
- Oct 5-7: [The MedTech Conference](#) (AdvaMed)
- Oct 14-15: [FHIR North Conference](#) (Mohawk College)
- Oct 19: [Driving the Future of Digital Health 2020](#) (Digital Health Canada)
- Oct 19-20: [CIX Digital Summit](#) (CIX)
- Dec 7-8: [Canada Regulatory MedTech Conference 2020](#) (Medtech Canada)

On Demand

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Managing the impact on global supply chains](#) (EDC)
- [COVID-19: Measures to Increase Availability of Disinfectant Products on the Market](#) (Yordas Group)
- [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 | 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
<p>Guest Speaker(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• James Connolly Co-Founder and CEO, VoxNeuro• [presentation slides used, and are available for download in Health Check-up drobox folder]
<p><i>[the following is a synopsis of the discussion, and has been lightly edited for length and clarity]</i></p> <p>Discussion</p> <p><u>Introduction</u></p> <p>Before I begin, I wanted to say a big thank you to so many of those who are in attendance today, as they have been extremely supportive of VoxNeuro over the past few years. My hope today is to provide a quick update of where we are, and some of the opportunities that we see coming up.</p> <p>VoxNeuro commercialized in The Forge (McMaster’s campus-based accelerator), and started in 2017. For those who tell start-ups that you have to hit the 2-year mark before you can be taken seriously – we now fully understand after 3 years of being in operation.</p> <p><u>World’s First Cognitive Assessment Tool</u></p> <p>Building on research by Dr. John Connolly at McMaster University, we have commercializing the worlds first assessment that goes beyond simple brain injury. We are able to generate quantitative and objective data for doctors to help manage brain health. The issue that we are hoping to address is a lack of quantifiable data, which can lead to high incidence of error and unpredictable patient outcomes.</p> <p>After 2-3 years of working with industry partners, it is clear that when cognitive rehabilitation is considered successful it is time consuming and expensive. That’s because current treatment is all about time and error – which leads to spending a lot of time looking for the issue with patients suffering from brain injuries.</p> <p>This is the space where VoxNeuro is trying to make things easier for clinicians. Specifically, our technology can inform cognitive rehabilitation efforts – enabling doctors to develop customized cognitive rehab programs for the first time ever.</p> <p>VoxNeuro’s Cognitive Health Assessments are the missing piece to standard patient care pathways that require rehabilitating and improving brain health. Physical, behavioural or neurological testing, & CT or MRI scans are unable to objectively identify abnormalities in brain function or assess the root of functional impairments a patient may experience. Integrating VoxNeuro’s non-invasive technology into the patient pathway helps to diagnose sooner, avoid the risk of misdiagnosis, ensure patients get the exact care they need in a timely manner, improve the patient experience and outcome.</p> <p>Before VoxNeuro, healthcare professionals had to rely on structural assessments like CT, MRI and SPECT, and assessments based on behavioural observations or patient self reporting. The gap in ability to objectively assess brain function leaves for a high margin of error in diagnosis and treatment. Cognitive Health Assessments™</p>

Guest Speaker Discussion

answer this need and can be used to objectively assess concussion, brain injury, neuro-degenerative disorders, and the neurological consequences of COVID-19; as well as provide objective data to support clinical drug trials.

Using Quantifiable Data

Our platform means that we're proactively detecting cognitive decline. Using this data, VoxNeuro can support the creation of customized rehabilitation plans, reducing both the time/cost of care, while accelerating recovery time. We're helping doctors better predict patient outcomes – which can allow for streamlining health resources.

From the perspective of general cognitive health – there are currently significant gaps in our understanding of brain health. We are helping clinicians to better understand the health of the brain. We are working with many organizations across the GTA-region that are looking to integrate our solution into their care protocols.

We've developed a novel patient report design that allows us to integrate into current protocols and systems. The reports that are generated through the assessments are used to facilitate personalized medicine by helping healthcare professionals flag abnormalities in brain function, create targeted plans specific to each patient's needs, track performance, and ultimately accelerate treatment as healthcare professionals now have a data driven roadmap to help guide their practice.

We are conscious that we are in the process of disrupting existing technology and processes; so, we're trying to make sure that we support and empower care providers while providing better care to patients.

Looking Back and Moving Forward

Since 2017, we've got health Canada clearance and in 2019 we [received \\$249,000](#) in research and development funding from NRC-IRAP funding. Also in 2019, we were listed on the [Branham300 Canada's Top 25 Up and Coming](#) tech companies in Canada and got received a best-in-class award at the NY Summit.

While our SAS product is complete, it is still in the process of extensive beta testing which is very exciting. We are excited to be working to refine our technology with our two lead clients St. Joseph's Healthcare and Bayshore Health.

When COVID-19 hit us, we were in the process of opening up our first clinic. Since then our chief scientist has joined the CHIR CAN-COVID working group. VoxNeuro has also done some [work to assess the neurological implications of COVID-19](#) for individuals

Fortunately, we had a contingency plan in place, and we've managed to open up two certified clinics in Ontario – which are fully operational. We have secured three different types of payment coverage – auto insurance, WSIB (100%) and extended benefits (80-100%) – which makes deployment a lot easier.

I'm also happy to report that at the end of July we are now have a shared ethics approval with the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – a new partnership that we will develop and deploy over the next 6-12 months. This relationship will help us to further refine our platform, and better understand the nuances of how we can improve care through this type of care channel. We are focused on understanding the ways in which we can add value across the organization

Other achievements include the development of a pilot with the Department of National Defence, as well as having scaled operations south of the border, which has allowed us to be secure US patients.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Finally, I can also share that VoxNeuro is in the process of opening a \$1 million bridge round – which is 60-70% covered by existing investors. In a year's time, we're hoping to open a Series A. We expect to begin educating the public about this early in the new year.

Question & Answers

Question: How can the community help VoxNeuro?

Answer: The big ask from this group would be for your support. This can be as small as following VoxNeuro on LinkedIn, sharing our social media posts, and otherwise allowing us to enter your network so that can expand our exposure. For clinician, we are always looking for referral partners, and we're happy to explore how you can leverage our data.

Finally, I would ask that anyone familiar with auto insurance, WSIB, or extended benefits please reach out to me, as I want to learn more.

Question: How many customers do you currently have?

Answer: Our technology performed 40-50 assessments in July, and we're ramping up aggressively and so by October we hope to hit 100-150 (a month), and then 200 (a month) by the end of the year. We're just starting to ramp up. As well, I would say that we're noticing that everyone is doing just acute medical assessments, rather than ones that can wait.

Our technology can scale easily into existing clinics and then empower them to run these assessments themselves, providing these clinics with a new revenue stream and improved patient care. VoxNeuro provides analysis and technology on the back-end for each assessment.

Question: Can you tell me about your equipment platform?

Answer: We're agnostic about hardware – we're a software play. VoxNeuro leverage existing health Canada approved hardware in our platform. We're interested in partnering with the hardware providers, to take advantage of our growth. The hardware cost is about \$70k to setup at clinic. In some cases, the deployment of our system to support neuropsychological assessments can generate breakeven revenue in a couple of months.

Question: What are your acute needs for next 6 months?

Answer: What we're focused on getting FDA clearance over the next 6 months. We have two jobs posted – we're looking at hiring a chief revenue officer. We're also looking to hire some technical positions. We have many balls up in the air. We're building a true advisory board now, focused on what we need over the next 6-12 months. Like most start-ups, we are always looking for new contacts / perspectives

Time allotted | 20 Minutes

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p>\$5.7M Investment to Create National Sepsis Research Network (Canada Healthcare Technology, July 29)</p> <p>Dr Alison Fox-Robichaud at Hamilton Health Sciences received a \$5.7 million grant from the Government of Canada, through the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR), to support a new national research network – Sepsis Canada – to improve the treatment and recovery of sepsis patients.</p> <p>The source of infection in sepsis can be a microbial pathogen such as a virus or bacterium. The new coronavirus that causes COVID-19 is now on the list of pathogens that cause sepsis. Most patients critically ill with COVID-19 develop sepsis, which becomes a major threat to their survival.</p> <p>Led by Dr. Alison Fox-Robichaud, Sepsis Canada will track and study treatments for septic patients, and develop a bank of evidence-based tools to educate the public and healthcare professionals about how to best prevent, diagnose and manage sepsis. The network will also collect data that will give a true understanding of the burden of sepsis in Canada. A recent global report published in the journal Lancet estimated that 75,000 cases of sepsis occur in Canada every year, likely causing 18,000 deaths.</p> <p>To read more, click here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>Bayer-backed Century buys Hamilton-based Empirica to create brain cancer CAR-Ts</p> <p>Century Therapeutics has bought Empirica (a Hamilton-based company that grew out McMaster University) to drive development of allogeneic cell therapies against the brain cancer glioblastoma. The induced pluripotent stem cell (iPSC) player, which landed a \$215 million investment from Bayer last year, acquired Empirica on the strength of work to create a CAR-T treatment for glioblastoma.</p> <p>McMaster Children’s Hospital’s Sheila Singh and the University of Toronto’s Jason Moffat set Empirica up to use a functional genomics platform and patient-based models of brain cancer to develop novel drugs. Last month, Singh, Moffat and their collaborators detailed their progress toward that goal in a paper describing the development of anti-CD133 immunotherapies for use against glioblastoma.</p> <p>The work caught the attention of Century, an early-stage biotech with the financial muscle to buy in assets. Bayer and Versant Ventures got Century up and running last year with a \$250 million round, and ex-Novartis CEO Joe Jimenez joined the biotech’s board in January.</p> <p>To read more, click here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>Hamilton Based NanoPhyll Inc. Receives \$125K in Grants From NSERC</p>	<p>Mariya Leslie (The Forge)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) is leveraging the expertise of researchers in natural science and engineering and their partners across Canada to address this unprecedented crisis.</p> <p>Congratulations to The Forge alumnus, NanoPhyll Inc., on receiving three NSERC grants in July totaling \$125K for their COVID-19 related research. Nanophyll develops and manufactures smart nanocoating technologies that improve the physical properties of glass, metal, aluminum, concrete cementitious and ceramic materials.</p>	
<p>Hamilton Home Care Provider Deploys SeamlessMD for Employees (Canadian Healthcare Technology, July 29)</p> <p>St. Joseph’s Home Care (SJHC) announced that it has implemented SeamlessMD’s digital care platform to support the homecare organization’s employees with daily digital screening and ongoing education for COVID-19. SeamlessMD is being used by SJHC to remotely track employee COVID-19 status and symptoms; to educate employees on proper COVID-19 self-care; and to regularly determine when employees are “cleared for work”, need to “stay home in isolation” or take other self-care actions.</p> <p>SeamlessMD also provides a centralized dashboard and real-time notifications for SJHC’s occupational health department to monitor employee COVID-19 trends and to quickly determine which employees are safe to work. “Employee health and patient safety during COVID-19 is a top priority,” said Carolyn Gosse, president of St. Joseph’s Home Care. “Partnering with SeamlessMD enables us to keep our employees safe, and by extension, to keep the patients we care for safe as well.”</p> <p>To read more, click here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>New VP Partnerships and Innovation @ McMaster University</p> <p>Darren provides university-wide leadership for activities central to the research enterprise, working with the University’s senior leadership and faculty members to seek out and establish partnerships with public and private stakeholders, identify opportunities for interdisciplinary collaborations, and support institutional commercialization and entrepreneurship efforts.</p> <p>A big focus for me is to understand what is stopping companies from growing and how can McMaster help. Will work with start-up and scaling companies to unlock the needed expertise, infrastructure, and support required.</p> <p>Darren joined McMaster in May 2020, after serving as Humber College’s Dean of Applied Research and Innovation. Over his 25-year career, Darren has held leadership roles in research and development, in both the private and academic sectors. While in industry, he developed expertise in commercializing technologies and partnering with academia and provincial and federal governments. Darren successfully transferred those skills to the academic sector where he continues to build mutually beneficial partnerships – with government, industry and community stakeholders – that leverage McMaster’s research excellence to drive technology and social innovation across the sectors.</p>	<p>Darren Lawless (McMaster University)</p>
<p>Inovex Secured Ontario Together Fund Support</p>	<p>Mark Majewski (Inovex)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Mark Majewski shared that OTF Announcement is happening on August 4th – it will be a virtual event. The Ontario Premier and Minister of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade attended.</p> <p>The Ontario government is providing Inovex Inc. with \$100,000 from the Ontario Together Fund to provide vital healthcare data as well as to track the supply and demand for personal protective equipment in the fight against COVID-19.</p>	
<p><u>Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) Update</u></p> <p>Have been working out of the covid-19 scenario – working out how to ramp up our services, including how to reduce the current surgical backlog and figure out the right balance of face-to-face vs. virtual visits.</p> <p>While research has been reduced, it is starting to back up – including the CREATE digital health team which has been busy, including around areas of machine learning and digital health.</p>	<p>Ted Scott & Prathiba Harsha (Hamilton Health Sciences)</p>
<p><u>Life Science – Upcoming Events</u></p> <p>We have a couple of events coming up, including our golf tournament, a PGA style opportunity with an education component. We also have a networking event on Genomics, precision health and COVID-19, using the REMO platform which will give people to jump from table to table. We've used REMO a few times, and it can be customized, separate tables for sponsors. Hosts for 6 times per people.</p> <p>To learn more, reach out to Andy Donovan at andy@lifesciencesontario.ca</p>	<p>Andy Donovan (Life Sciences Ontario)</p>
<p><u>Innovation Canada – Accelerated Growth Services Program Supporting Strategic Innovation</u></p> <p>Innovation Canada, responsible for strategic innovation and growth hub. We have a few funding mechanisms, which is under ISED. My unit, is the Innovators Experience Branch, where we run the Accelerated Growth Services Program (AGS), it's a service that provides that has a minimum growth rate. Once accepted into the program, we then create a growth service plan over a 18-24 month period, with each funding body providing support. We supports companies by identify funding bodies and then inviting them to the table so that we can discuss needs and ambitions. It's a competitive process to get into the program, and most partner programs are over subscribed (e.g., NRC-IRAP, BDC, etc.).</p> <p>The AGS program is a rolling application – I meet with companies and decide which to nominate into the program. They are then considered and approved by a national secretariat. We're looking for more companies and who are need support from the government</p> <p>For more information, please feel free to reach out to me @ rawl.banton@canada.com or check out www.innovation.canada.ca</p>	<p>Rawl Banton (Innovation Canada)</p>
<p><u>The Forge Business Incubator – Closed Latest Round for Fast-Track Start-ups</u></p> <p>The Forge Business Incubator is a limited-enrollment program for early-stage startups. We create customized plans for a small cohort of tech startups to help them grow. Alumni of this program include software, hardware, IoT, medical devices, healthcare IT, life sciences, advanced</p>	<p>Mariya Leslie</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>manufacturing, and consumer products companies. Full-time founders based in Hamilton are preferred but all applicants are welcome.</p> <p>The Forge and McMaster University do not take equity in the companies they support and are committed to growing the entrepreneurship and innovation community.</p>	
<p><u>“The Clinic” @ McMaster Opens It’s Doors</u></p> <p>Twenty-four emerging health innovators are tackling healthcare challenges this summer with the support of a new health sciences innovation centre at McMaster University. The Clinic @ Mac provides entrepreneurial education, collaboration space, experts-in-residence, a diverse mentor network of researchers, clinicians, engineers, entrepreneurs and industry professionals, and access to market research and IP databases.</p> <p>It opened its doors virtually in June to support its first cohort of Clinic @ Mac Residents. The residents are an interdisciplinary group of undergraduate, graduate, post-doctoral fellows and researchers from across campus. The Clinic @ Mac’s physical space is on the first floor of the Health Sciences Library on McMaster’s main campus. A grand opening celebration will take place when it is safe to do so.</p> <p>A call for project-based applications will take place in late summer for a fall intake via the MGD Health ICE newsletter and website.</p> <p>Newsletter sign up: https://bit.ly/39nHTgQ Website: healthinnovation.mcmaster.ca The Clinic @ Mac online: https://healthinnovation.mcmaster.ca/about-us/visit-the-clinic</p>	<p>Charlotte Miller (MGDIIH)</p>
<p><u>HHS Joins International Team to Pursue European Horizon 2020 Funding Opportunity</u></p> <p>HHS has submitted an application to the Horizon 2020 funding program with a consortium of European organizations, including some from Norway. The focus of the project will be around international cooperation in smart living environments for ageing people. The project title is: Providing digitalised prevention and prediction support for ageing people in Smart Transition-enabled Living Environments (SMILE)</p> <p>The goal is to help health and care system must serve all people at all ages and leave no one behind – an idea embedded in the core vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The development of care pathways for ageing people with multi-morbidity and various stages of frailty or pre-frailty will depends on a deep understanding of their needs informing integrated people-centred care.</p> <p>For more information, please contact Prathiba Harsha at: harshap@hhsc.ca</p>	<p>Prathiba Harsha (HHS)</p>
<p><u>VoxNeuro Announces Research Project With St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton</u></p> <p>At the close of 2019, VoxNeuro joined a pilot study conducted by the Women’s Health Concerns Clinic & Mood Disorders Program at St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton. The study is led by Dr. Benicio Frey and Dr. Flavio Kapczynski, and has been designed to identify biomarkers of bipolar disorder.</p> <p>For this project, the teams are collaborating on the assessment’s application to mood disorders, specifically bipolar. The current classifications of psychiatric diagnoses are based purely on</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>behavioural observation and self-report, and lack of substantial biological validation. This contrasts sharply with the rest of medicine where diagnosis and treatment are routinely aided by biological tests that are based on validated biomarkers. Biological markers, or biomarkers, are quantitative measurements that provide information about biological processes, a disease state, or about response to treatment (FDA’s Biomarkers Research Group definition). The objective of the study is to create a biological bank of potential biomarkers to investigate etiology, prognosis, and/or treatment response in individuals with bipolar disorder.</p> <p>Read the full article here</p>	
<p>Hamilton Ecosystem Showcased by Invest Ontario</p> <p>Invest Ontario summarized advantages of doing business in Hamilton – demonstrating recent success stories and infrastructure available for companies from around the world looking to do business in the region. Invest Ontario is meant to be a “one stop shop” for businesses and investors. Invest Ontario’s focus is on three strategic sectors where the province has a global competitive advantage — advanced manufacturing, life sciences, and technology.</p> <p>Click here is a sample of the cutting-edge organizations that are a part of Hamilton’s growing community.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>Hamilton based SteriRight launches N95 Mobile Mask Sanitizing Technology in Response to COVID-19</p> <p>SteriRight was born as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and particularly the crisis of personal protective equipment (PPE) availability. Critical shortages of PPE triggered Health. Canada to look for innovative solutions from reprocessors of disposable N95 respirators and from manufacturers of reprocessing equipment to meet current needs, and the gradual return to the “new normal” meant that organizations had to think about their office or work environment cleaning differently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State-of-the-art mobile sanitization technology for N95 mask PPE now available to support Ontario’s reopening. • Safe, effective and sustainable solution to N95 supply constraints <p>SteriRight is a Hamilton based start-up backed by its parent company Bay Area Health Trust and is managed by a dedicated team with significant experience in the health care and life science industries. Currently focused on the sanitization and reprocessing, SteriRight’s future will include an expansion of equipment and services such as building and facility disinfecting. Learn more at www.steriright.ca</p>	<p>John Hands (BAHT)</p>
<p>Ontario Government Creates a New Investment Attraction Agency – Invest Ontario</p> <p>The Ontario Government has stood up a new investment attraction agency, Invest Ontario. Ontario has the talent, science, and infrastructure to grow globally competitive companies and create high-value jobs for Ontarians. The creation of this agency brings us one step closer to realizing the potential of this sector and setting a clear target to create a made-in-Ontario global success story</p>	<p>Andy Donovan (LSO)</p>
<p>‘Starve the virus’ and build LRT, says Hamilton Chamber of Commerce in pandemic recovery report (Hamilton Spectator, Aug 2)</p> <p>The recent “Post-COVID-19 Economic Blueprint” report was released by the Hamilton’s Chamber of Commerce. “The best strategy for long-term economic health is to starve the COVID-19 virus,” reads the report, but adds that the provincial shutdown and physical distancing have</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>exacted a heavy toll on businesses. “At some point our efforts will change from fighting the spread of the virus, to re-establishing economic activity. The need for stimulus will be acute.”</p> <p>Stimulation is a word frequently used in the 12-page report, submitted to the city’s economic recovery task force. It calls on governments to assist businesses amid COVID restrictions — and that the province proceed with funding the much-debated light rail transit (LRT) project in Hamilton.</p> <p>Read the full Spectator article here</p>	
<p>NGen COVID-19 Response: Made Smarter - Strategic Supply Challenge</p> <p>NGen is committed to building world-leading advanced manufacturing capabilities in Canada. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NGen has launched a strategic supply challenge aimed at developing sustainable and globally competitive manufacturing capabilities in Canada for products critical to protecting the health of Canadians.</p> <p>Projects will be selected for funding based on critical needs identified by the Government of Canada, the long-term viability of manufacturing those products in Canada, and the ability of manufacturers to produce products that are safe for use and meet required product and production quality standards.</p> <p>Application Process</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Join NGen as a Member organization 2. Read the Project Guide, Intellectual Property Strategy, and Finance Guide 3. Review the slides and FAQs from the July 9th information webinar 4. Visit the Project Application Portal to submit your application 	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>Emerging Leaders Program (Aug 9-22)</p> <p>A two-week intensive, residential, leadership program for students from all disciplines, medical residents and young health professionals (with 7 years or less of work experience or enrolled in an academic program) seeking to develop their leadership capabilities. Run by Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy at McMaster University.</p> <p>Now accepting applications for our 2020 Summer (August 9-22) programs. All students receive 25% off the program fees. Attendance at this program entitles certified Canadian College of Health Leaders Members (CHE/Fellow) to 20 category II credits towards their maintenance of certification requirement.</p> <p>Core sessions include topics like <i>Characteristics & Qualities of Leaders, Effective Teams, Decision Making & Problem Solving, Mentorship & Coaching, Foresight & Innovation, Design Thinking, Change Management, Presentation & Persuasion, Management & Finance Essentials, Cultural Impact and Its Dynamic Role in Leadership</i>. A playlist of student testimonials can be viewed here.</p> <p>Questions or would like to keep in touch with Health Leadership Academy, subscribe to the mailing list.</p>	<p>Victoria Mazarolo (HLA)</p>
<p>OBIO – Pitches & Pitchers event (Aug 25)</p>	<p>Grant Burns (OBIO)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>You and your colleagues are invited to OBIO's Pitches & Pitchers event (register here) on Thursday, August 25th, 2020 from 5:00-7:00pm.</p> <p>The competition will feature 3-minute pitches from innovative health science companies participating in OBIO's CAAP & Health MINT programs. The winner will be selected by a panel of judges and announced at the end of the event.</p> <p>Investors will have an opportunity to briefly introduce themselves during the event and will also have access to non-confidential investor materials from companies. OBIO will be happy to facilitate 1x1 meetings between investors and companies after the event.</p>	
<p>JLABs Events Going Virtual (various)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grow Your Biotech: Marketing Fundamentals, Online Presence & Content (Aug 26) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ This workshop is aimed to identify and develop a clear brand and marketing strategy, define what your online presence might look like and what social platforms could be right for your business. Shannon Carlson, President at Curator24 shares her best practices to build some serious momentum in this virtual age. • Got a Plan? Your Guide to Filing a Large or Small Molecule IND (Sept 2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whether your goal is to develop a pipeline through commercial launch or partner as early as possible, submitting an IND is a critical early milestone for every biotech company. With big Pharma and VC firms competing for the most promising solutions, it can be helpful to demonstrate a clear strategy for IND approval, hear the experts weigh in. Join us for a series of short presentations exploring the basic requirements and considerations that can be helpful for preparing a biologic and small molecule IND submission. • A Glimpse Into the Mind of the Investor (Sept 10) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In partnership with Silicon Valley Bank, we're gathering a lineup of top-tier VCs from across the globe to spill their secrets to what they think is necessary for a successful Series A fundraising. Experience their feedback firsthand as 6 high-potential JLABS companies present their pitches. Following the pitches, a panel of VCs will share insights on what makes them want to continue discussions, what a successful fundraising strategy might look like, pitch tips, major mistakes entrepreneurs make and more. <p>To learn more about upcoming JLABs events, click here</p>	<p>Amanda Raponi (JLABS)</p>
<p>Ontario Virtual Life Sciences Export Business Mission to DIGITAL RESI (Sept 14-15)</p> <p>Ontario remains committed to creating opportunities for our business community to help them remain strong and get back up and running during these unprecedented times. As a part of this commitment, the Government of Ontario is organizing a virtual life sciences trade mission to RESI to help reboot your export business.</p> <p>The Redefining Early Stage Investments (RESI) conference series, created by Boston-based Life Science Nation (LSN) to bring together startups with early stage investors and strategic channel partners, has moved from a one-day in person conference to a three-day digital conference.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>This event is part of a four-part conference series held around the United States. It will focus on business partnering and educational seminars. The investors attending DIGITAL RESI represent a huge pool of capital. RESI's Partnering system allows fundraising companies to find investors and strategic partners that are the best fit for their technology and stage of development. Investors will be drawn from a wide range of groups including: angel investors, venture philanthropy and endowments, venture capital and private equity, family offices, mid-size and big pharma. The Partnering system will stay online for one month following the event. DIGITAL RESI will be of value to early stage life science companies looking for investors and strategic partners.</p>	
<p>Health Leadership Academy's new Pathfinder Program (Sept 26 – Nov 21)</p> <p>The Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy - a joint venture between the Michael G. DeGroot School of Business, Faculty of Health Sciences and Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University – is launching the inaugural Pathfinder taking place Fall 2020 (Sept. 26 to Nov. 21).</p> <p>With the economy constantly evolving, there is no better time to begin a new leadership journey and chart a new course for yourself to become a leader that can adapt to a dynamic health landscape. Pathfinder offers a flexible, immersive, personalized leadership journey to gain skills suited to your individualized leadership needs. Work with an executive coach and apply what you learn within an engaged team of supportive peers in this eight-week program.</p> <p>Pathfinder is designed for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health professionals, administrators and educators • Undergraduate students, graduate students, post-doctoral students, medical residents & young professionals exploring opportunities or who are new to a position of leadership • Health entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs looking to lead change in the health sector <p>The online program combines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 live flipped classroom sessions scheduled on Saturdays • Flexible learning between live sessions through activities, readings, and assessments completed where, when, and how you prefer to work • Team-based activities to practice and apply your learning within a supportive peer group • Personal one-on-one sessions with an executive coach • Small class sizes to build close connections between classmates and faculty <p>To learn more and apply, visit the Health Leadership Academy website for more details or contact us at hlainfo@mcmaster.ca</p>	<p>Amanda Calzolaio (Health Leadership Academy)</p>
<p>FHIR Without Borders: Accelerating Change During a Global Pandemic (Oct 14 - 15)</p> <p>Established in 2014 by Mohawk MEDIC, Gevity, Smile CDR and Canada Health Infoway, FHIR North is the only Canadian conference focused on building awareness, knowledge and experience around HL7® FHIR healthcare interoperability standards in Canada. FHIR North is more than just a developer's conference: our sessions can help build understanding and knowledge for anyone in your organization that wants to understand how this standard can improve patient care and the clinical experience.</p> <p>Globally Focused: Explore how FHIR and interoperability can play a role in the response to a global pandemic and what it means for healthcare innovation.</p>	<p>Andrea Johnson (IDEAWORKS)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Coast to Coast: Join attendees from across the country to learn how FHIR is being used to build a more resilient and responsive healthcare system.</p> <p>Virtual: Attend more sessions and connect with more speakers thanks to our new virtual format which allows you to network 1:1 and face-to-face with fellow attendees.</p> <p>To learn more, or to register, visit the FHIR North site</p>	
<p>Biotech Canada Webinar Series – 13 Sessions Available to Watch</p> <p>BIOTECanada is pleased to draw on our community's expertise to bring practical business advice during this global crisis. Presentations are recorded and uploaded to BIOTECanada site for later viewing. Click here to view past sessions.</p> <p>To see upcoming events, check out Biotech Canada's website here</p>	Andy Donovan (LSO)
<p>Ontario Website for PPE Suppliers to Post Products for Sale</p> <p>Review a list of companies that sell personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to keep your employees and customers safe from COVID-19.covid 19</p> <p>Apply to be added to the workplace PPE supplier directory</p>	Joon Kim (NRC-IRAP)
<p><u>Government Calls for Innovative Solutions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call for Suppliers (Federal): In support of the Government of Canada's whole-of-government response to Coronavirus disease (COVID-19), they are asking suppliers about their ability to provide a variety of products and services. • Call for Suppliers (Ontario): request for information from companies able to supply emergency products to help fight Coronavirus • Federal Government Call to Action for Canadian Manufacturers 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 product specifications and requirements for Canada's medical supply needs. • Health Canada will facilitate earlier access to a vaccine, or therapeutic product for COVID-19 to expedite the review of COVID-19 related health product submissions and applications. • 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 expediting access and authorization for diagnostic devices for use against coronavirus (COVID-19). • Government of Canada will launch specific challenges through the Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC) 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. • The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) 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. 	Innovation Factory & Synapse Consortium

Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DISRUPT COVID-19, 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. • Next Generation Manufacturing (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 full bulletin, review the project guide, and share your capabilities in the form below. <p>The Digital Technology Supercluster 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 | 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
<p>Forge Hiring Incubator Manager (19 month contract)</p> <p>A 19.5 months contract and ideal start date would be mid September but we're flexible. The successful candidate is the main broker between the entrepreneurs and the programming and resources provided by The Forge.</p> <p>As such, the ideal candidate is an experienced professional with strong organization and communication skills to manage and support 10-15 start-up companies at a time, and credibility to interact knowledgeably with a network of service providers, investors, and business advisors / mentors.</p> <p>The Forge is the business incubator for McMaster University and the Hamilton region, supporting early-stage, technology-based, scalable startups.</p> <p>Since its launch in 2015, over 140 companies have gone through The Forge, raising over \$30 MM in funding. The Forge works hands-on with early-stage entrepreneurs to help them build successful startups offering three main programs and events: The Business Incubator, Startup School, and The Forge Student Startup Competition.</p>	<p>Mariya Leslie (The Forge)</p>
<p>Haltec's Beyond Boundaries Women's Accelerator Program - Cohort 2 & 3 now open (application due Aug 21)</p> <p>Haltech Regional Innovation Centre have launched a business accelerator program aimed to support female entrepreneurs to grow, scale and expand their business through networking, peer learning circles and 1:1 mentorship. The program covers 4 key topics: Think Big and Scale, Sales Excellence, Financial Acumen for Scale, and Technology Strategy. The program fee is \$495, and consists of 10 sessions spanning 5 months.</p> <p>Eligibility Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In business for at least 2 years - Incorporated within Ontario - Have initial sales as a minimum <p>Cohort 2 will begin September of 2020 and applications close on August 21st</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>SCI Accelerate - \$50K in funding & SCI Incubate - \$25k in funding</p> <p><u>SCI Incubate:</u> Early stage ventures (TRL 2-4) - \$25K CAD in funding + targeted SCI consumer and research mentoring. Applications to open September 2020. Virtual program to run from November 2020 - April 2021, 1 day/week commitment max.</p> <p>Venture criteria + application requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-prototype companies at the TRL 2-4 level preferred • 1 minimum full-time founder/research lead preferred 	<p>Arushi Raina (Praxis Institute)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Application to impact SCI outcomes with a focus on addressing: • Neuropathic pain, neuro-restoration, bladder+bowel complications, pressure injuries • Ability to participate in bimonthly sessions, tasks, info sessions and activities (max 1 day per week, usually lower) • Submit pitch deck (5-10 slides) <p><u>SCI Accelerate</u>: post prototype ventures (TRL 5+) - \$50K CAD in funding + targeted SCI consumer, research mentoring, entrepreneur in residence, legal coaching, regulatory + reimbursement expertise. More details here. Applications to open by November 2020. For 2021, the program will be a 6 month virtual program beginning in April 2020.</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"> • 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. • Other areas of expertise are on a case by case basis, especially this year, with a number of our faculty committed to teaching and revamping courses • 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 • We recommend working with us on projects that aren't mission critical but can help the company explore an innovative idea. <p>What about start-ups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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). • 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. <p>Contact Andrea Johnson for more information: andrea.johnson4@mohawkcollege.ca</p>	<p>Andrea Johnson (Mohawk College)</p>
<p>The CONNECTION - McMaster University Online Partnerships Portal!</p> <p>The Connection 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>Canadian Technology Accelerator – San Francisco</p> <p>Recruitment for the Canadian Technology Accelerator for Health program and applications are open. More information can be found online here. In response to COVID-19, the CTA Health 2020 program will be run virtually to start, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • advisory meetings • masterclasses • opening and closing events. <p>As opportunities to visit the Bay Area and meet in person become possible, the CTA Health closing showcase will be re-evaluated on a continual basis.</p> <p>If there are any companies that could benefit from the program encourage them to apply. If they have any questions please contact the following: Iraina Miles, Trade Commissioner, Life Sciences (iraina.miles@international.gc.ca)</p>	<p>Carolynn Reid (Hamilton EcDev)</p>
<p>Collaborating with McMaster Institute for Infectious Disease Research (New Intake Form)</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"> • BSL2 cell culture infection with representative human coronaviruses; • Testing of methods or products that are designed to inactivate the virus; • Biochemical/enzyme studies with anti-viral agents. <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 reach out to us through the online form. 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>Hamilton Innovation Partnership Portal</p> <p>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.</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: http://synapseconsortium.com/partner/</p>	
<p>Submit Community Events on the Innovation Factory Calendar</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>MGD-HICE Educational Webinars & DevTank Meetings</p> <p>Operating out of the Michael G. DeGroot School of Medicine at McMaster University, the Michael G. DeGroot Health Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship (MGD-HICE) aims to accelerate the exploration of health innovation opportunities and creation of socioeconomic impact.</p> <p>Check out the full suite of programming here</p>	<p>Sarrah Lal (MGD-HICE)</p>