

## Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

June 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:** July 27 | 9:00 – 10:00am | McMaster Innovation Park  
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 [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 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](mailto:Alex.Muggah@SynapseConsortium.com). Updates will be reflected in a revised version of the monthly minutes.

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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](mailto:info@synapseconsortium.com)


## Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

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

### July & August

- July 9: [Family Offices Discuss Funding in Health Science](#) (TIAP)
- July 10: [Virtual LSO Networking Night](#) (Life Sciences Ontario)
- July 13: [Navigating Business Environment Post-COVID](#) (TechPlace & HalTech)
- July 19: [AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge – ON, QC & NU](#) (AGE-WELL)
- July 20: [eHealth 2020 Virtual PopUp](#) (Digital Health Canada)
-  July 27: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- Aug 3: [Business Incubator](#) (The Forge)
- Aug 9-22: [Emerging Leaders Program](#) (Health Leadership Academy)
-  August 31: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)

### September and Beyond

- Sept 17: [Startup School](#) (The Forge)
- Sept 17: Demo Day – Showcasing the Summer Startup Academy (The Forge)
-  September 28: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- Oct 5-7: [The MedTech Conference](#) (AdvaMed)
- 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**

Guest Speaker(s):

- Fraser Edward  
VP Partnerships & Business Development, St. Joseph's Health System
- Dan Perri  
Chief Medical Information Officer, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton
- Katie Porter  
Executive Director, Research Administration, Hamilton Health Sciences
- [presentation slides used, and are available for download in Health Check-up [drobox folder](#)]

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

**Discussion**

Introduction

I [Fraser Edward] work for [St. Joseph's Healthcare System](#), that supports the various organizations that make up our wider network – which spans from Niagara Falls to Guelph through Kitchener-Waterloo, Brantford and of course [Hamilton](#). The St. Joseph's System represents everything in healthcare, with the exception of primary care. We have long term care facilities, hospitals, palliative care, and mental health and addiction. It provides care for more than 2 million Ontarians, with an operating budget of \$2 billion, and is led by our CEO Tom Stewart.

This s my second last day at St. Joseph's and I've spent the time to foster collaboration across the broader region. What I would like to dive in today is one of the last things that we've brought in together. We saw the [CAN Health Network](#), a collection of Toronto hospitals, as a fantastic opportunity for our hospitals and the broader Hamilton ecosystem. Synapse was a leverage point to get into it.

Thriving in a New Environment.

I've been working in various parts of Canadian healthcare for 18 years. The challenge is the same: we create very cool technology but have difficulty selling into one of the 17 jurisdictions that operate independently around the country. This leads to many Canadian companies going to the United States (or further abroad) to sell their product. What the CAN Health Network is attempting to do is to bridge this gap between companies creating new technology and the care providers wanting to make it available to patients.

The key to the Can Health Network is to work with the "edges", a collection of healthcare providers who are committed to bringing healthcare across the technology. Working with these partners, Can Health Network is looking to surface real, tangible problems facing the healthcare system. Once identified, it provides funding to stimulate procurement. By working with Canada-based vendors, and fund those initial proof of concepts to help Canadian owned organizations meet those needs. Finally, healthcare organizations can then access solutions that have been tested and validated in other parts of the Network, expediting their own procurement process to the benefit of the company and patients. The national hub is out of Trillium Health Partners in Mississauga, with a western hub located in Saskatchewan.

## Guest Speaker Discussion

The participating healthcare organizations (i.e., Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare) are responsible for bringing forward specific problems, as "edges". A private sector partner is then selected to participate in a funded project, that arrives as two contributions. Total project funding is made up of a combination of dollars from the Network, contribution in kind from the private-sector vendor and from the healthcare provider. CAN Health Network funding for the initial projects totaled \$7 million. The vast majority of the first phase has been allocated, and the Network is working with FedDev and others to add additional funding rounds.

### What are we trying to accomplish?

The first task is to describe specific problems that the healthcare network is facing, and then identify entrepreneurial organizations that can meet those needs. If we've learned anything, it is really hard to determine a problem everyone in the organization wants to collaborate around, and that the healthcare system wants to pay for. It is critical that a combination of clinicians and physicians identify issues – rallying support around something that everyone agrees on it can be very challenging. But the CAN Health Network understands that is where you have to start – finding creative solutions to challenging problems that can scale.

This is where it gets hard. You must first identify a concrete problem, then an innovative Canadian company that can solve it. Once you have a project in hand, you have 6-9 months to test and validate the technology under consideration. The CAN Health Network put procurement at the back end. Once the project is complete, if it is successful then the provider agrees to initiate a procurement process for the solution. The healthcare provider commits to creating an open and transparent procurement RFP. However, the Canadian company that has been working on the problem should then be an obvious choice to provide a solution that the healthcare provider will have confidence in.

The most interesting innovation of the CAN Health Network is that the procurement process is meant to be open-ended for the entire Network. For example, if St. Elizabeth's runs a successful project, then other healthcare organizations in the network can take advantage of the technology. In effect, this establishes the Canadian company as a vendor of record. There is significant work for the provider to set everything up and the vendor to prove the concept works – but once complete it becomes an easier path for procurement, with the added benefit of enabling more jobs and production by Canadian companies in the future.

### Projects in the Hamilton Ecosystem

St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton is working with [PointClickCare](#). We're wanting to solve the challenge of sharing patient data between long term care and acute care facilities in our system. To that end, we're leveraging the integration engine that PointClickCare has created. In the midst of COVID, it has become increasingly clear that our LTC homes were under significant stress. This project moved from important to essential as a result of the pandemic.

The St. Joseph's System is the largest provider of LTC in Ontario. Working with the Villa and St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, we're connecting patients that go back and forth between the two entities. We've managed to secure \$427k worth of funding (including \$150k from CAN Health) which will enable St. Joseph's to allocate people and time on this. If it works, we'll move this solution forward into operations, and then through our procurement process.

Hamilton Health Sciences is also excited about participating in the CAN Health Network. We are partnering with a company called [Verto](#) to solve our problem. Like many hospitals, we face a backlog of non-essential activities (e.g., elective surgeries, routine patient visits, family visits, etc.) that we are in the midst of ramping up. However, COVID-19 requires those in the hospital to engage in social distancing and other safety precautions. Unfortunately, we're finding that it is hard to reactivate these non-essential activities while managing the physical

### Guest Speaker Discussion

flow of patient in, and around, our facilities. We want to have greater control of patient movement when we start up clinical activity, with social distancing in mind, and have the ability to throttle patient flow if we face a second wave. Verto provides a solution to this by providing a collaboration platform that allows us real-time population management (of both patients and our healthcare teams).

Verto is already working with several hospitals – providing a virtual solution that helps guide patients and care givers into the hospital. It acts like a virtual waiting room, where patients can receive messages and prompts to move to the next location / waiting area – allowing the hospital to keep track of people, while letting them move through and around open spaces where the risk of COVID-19 transmission might be higher. A backend solution that is encrypted, with strong privacy controls, Verto has demonstrated capacity to enable multi-site integration, something that is important across the network of locations that make up the Hamilton Health Sciences network.

Our project will explore how we can leverage this tool to manage patient flow and enables text/SMS communication with patients. We will test up it helps us to manage patient flow, track appointment statuses, and ensure patients know where they need to be – and are in the right place – for their appointments or surgery. As well, there will be a lot of virtualized engagement – satisfaction surveys, online registration, ability for patients to book their own appointments (a stretch goal for us and the health system). Finally, Verto will provide a virtual command centre dashboard that will give background information on patient demographics that are in our care.

An added feature that we will be testing is the ability to deploy surveys and allow for patients to complete registration forms. The integrated consent engine, which is especially useful for research hospitals such as Hamilton Health Sciences, will allow us to ask patients to participate in a research study and secure “consent to contact”.

All in all, the CAN Health Network project that we’re doing with Verto is aligned with our priorities areas and helps us solve a very specific problem that we’re facing and wish to procure – finding a way to increase patient safety, while also enabling better/more efficient ways to communicate and track patient movement throughout our care facilities.

### Question & Answers

*Question: Where do we send ideas – have a software company that is making production lines more efficient, and we’re working with a company in Nova Scotia to reduce wait times between?*

Answer: There are two ways in – work with a care provider (the “edges”) that is part of the Network, who will help you make the introduction to CAN Health Network team. Alternatively, you can reach out to the Can Health Network itself and see if they can connect you with a care provider. The Network has had +100 vendors that have come through the front door, selling themselves and their innovative technology.

*Question: What’s your sense of the value from the CAN Health Network?*

Answer: This is a great program, in no small part because it gets hospitals away from “pilot-itis”. The procurement issue is the easiest barrier to kill anything involving the adoption of innovative technology. The CAN Health Network has great potential to move us forward. That said, the challenge has been around focus (particularly in the middle of a pandemic). However, if a technology solves immediate needs, it’s worth putting in the effort to get it deployed. The hard part is prioritizing what is important. For vendors, picking the right “edge partner” is critical – picking one that is aligned with your business solution to their problem.

### Guest Speaker Discussion

*Question: do you have a sense of when the next round of funding is available?*

Answer: I don't have any ideas of the specifics around the timing. However, the time to get started and get involved is now. By way of example, St. Joseph's Healthcare started in November talking with our vendor partner and the CAN Health Network about a project. The press release was just released, in middle of June. So this is a process that can take a while. There are promising and positive noises about expanding funding, since CAN Health has taken solutions to procurement. My belief is that they'll be well aligned to find additional funding, and to that end would be investing time now to get a project in the pipeline.

Time allotted | 20 Minutes

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">Hamilton’s Fusion Pharmaceuticals Launches +\$212M IPO</a></p> <p>Fusion Pharmaceuticals Inc., a Hamilton-based cancer-treatment company, is seeking to be listed on the Nasdaq exchange, part of a surge of Canadian biotech companies going public in the United States. Fusion filed its registration statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission for an initial public offering of US\$100-million worth of common shares.</p> <p>Fusion’s IPO “reaffirms Canada’s leadership in precision medicine,” said Jean-François Pariseau, the co-founder of Amplitude Ventures, a Montreal-based biotech investment firm. Mr. Pariseau attributed the surge to government programs to reignite the sector in the early 2010s – policies that were enacted after several major pharmaceutical companies pulled their research and development out of Canada.</p> <p>These efforts to “support Canadian innovation are starting pay off and we are starting to see the emergence of companies competing at a global scale supported by more experienced entrepreneurial talent,” Mr. Pariseau said.</p> <p>Although Fusion is part of a trend, it is exceptional in another respect: It is one of the only Canadian biotech companies that has attracted a Canadian institutional investor from outside of Quebec.</p> <p>Read the full Globe and Mail article <a href="#">here</a>. Other articles can be found <a href="#">here</a>, <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">McMaster Start-up Empirica Therapeutics Acquired by Century Therapeutics</a></p> <p>McMaster start-up Empirica Therapeutics was acquired by Philadelphia-based Century Therapeutics, a leader in curative cell therapies for cancer. Now known as Century Therapeutics Canada, the new subsidiary will also be based at the MIP complex, not far from campus on Longwood Road South. The deal is expected to result in additional staff being hired to perform work in Hamilton. Financial terms of the deal have not been disclosed.</p> <p>Empirica was co-founded in 2018 by Sheila Singh, professor in the Department of Surgery at McMaster, and Jason Moffat, professor at University of Toronto’s Donnelly Centre, focusing on developing immunotherapies for aggressive and treatment-resistant forms of cancer, including glioblastoma (GBM) and brain metastasis.</p> <p>Its focus is on developing immunotherapies for aggressive and treatment-resistant forms of cancer, including glioblastoma (GBM) and brain metastasis. Using powerful integrative multi-omics platform, combined with unique patient-derived, therapy-adapted models of recurrent GBM, they’ve discovered and validated novel brain tumor targets.</p> <p>Singh, who holds the Canada Research Chair in Human Cancer Stem Cell Biology and served as Empirica’s CEO, said the acquisition means great promise for advancing treatments for GBM patients.</p> <p>Read more <a href="#">here</a>, <a href="#">here</a> and <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>



Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">NGen announces investment in project to create rapid response test kits to help fight COVID-19, working with McMaster Health Science Centre</a></p> <p>Precision Biomonitoring has received almost \$5 million in funding to work directly with Canadian manufacturers to increase production of its TripleLock™ SARS-CoV-2 Go-Strips, a rapid response test that will allow for the early identification of COVID-19.</p> <p>Rapid, accurate and available testing for COVID-19 is critical to the measures being undertaken by health authorities in Canada as they work to control the spread of the virus and move towards reopening the economy, ensuring the safety of Canadians as they head back into the workplace. Testing capacity has been an ongoing issue as global demand for test kits coupled with limited domestic supply has created shortages.</p> <p>Leveraging the capabilities of Canadian manufacturers and partners such as Evik Diagnostics, the Canadian Food Inspection Agency, Shared Value Solutions, McMaster Health Science Centre, Sunnybrook Health Science Centre and the Canadian National Microbiology Lab, Precision Biomonitoring anticipates a production rate capacity of 10,000 units per day or greater.</p> <p>The funding for the project comes from NGen’s commitment to invest \$50 million to support companies as they rapidly respond to the COVID-19 pandemic by building a Canadian supply of critically needed technologies, equipment, and medical devices.</p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (McMaster)</p>
<p><a href="#">Epineuron Technologies secures financing</a></p> <p>Epineuron Technologies Inc. has closed a round of financing led by several prominent medical technology investors including support from the Ontario Centers for Excellence (OCE) and the Ontario Brain Institute (OBI).</p> <p>Mississauga, Ontario based Epineuron Technologies intends to use new funding to support production development and clinical validation for its neuroregenerative technology – designated a breakthrough device by the FDA.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">NanoPhyll Receives NSERC Grants to Focus on COVID-19 Solutions</a></p> <p>The Forge alumnus, NanoPhyll Inc. is looking into nanoparticle empowered coating solutions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. NanoPhyll Inc. announced that they have received two Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) Grants totaling \$100K to address pandemic related research.</p> <p>Additionally, TriPhyll Inc. (a joint venture between NanoPhyll Inc. and Trillium Meditec Inc.) has shown positive results for their MAAC™ proprietary coating formulation. The proprietary nano-composite coating has shown antiviral properties against human coronavirus 229E in their lab. The application of an antiviral and antibacterial coating on the high touch public surfaces or on Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) would reduce the risk of spreading viruses and microbes. This demonstrates the broad application of TriPhyll’s coating, taking it one step closer to develop a solution for self-sanitizing surfaces against COVID-19.</p>	<p>Mariya Leslie (The Forge)</p>
<p><a href="#">Hamilton-based Stryker’s tool triples life cycle of critical N95 masks</a></p> <p>The alarm was sounded as early as March: Canada had a supply problem when it came to procuring N95 respirators. The frenzy over personal protective equipment, as concerning as it</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>was and still is, prompted a question from one Waterdown-based company: What if the solution wasn't to secure more N95 respirators, but to use more of those we have — and safely?</p> <p>Stryker, a medical technology company that supplies equipment to hospitals across the country, is one of a handful of manufacturers who were approved by Health Canada amid the pandemic to ship sanitization equipment out to front-line workers.</p> <p>Using a production facility in Quebec, Stryker has shipped 56 sterilization units as far as British Columbia and the Yukon. “We’re only at 70 per cent of our order (approved by Health Canada), and we plan on shipping to all seven provinces and three territories,” said Stryker president Scott MacNair.</p> <p>While Stryker primarily produces surgical, orthopedic and neurotechnology equipment, MacNair said the company was inspired to diversify when federal and provincial governments called on the private sector to help with COVID-19 supplies.</p>	
<p><a href="#">Hamilton Ecosystem – Making Discoveries Available for Licensing or Further R&amp;D Collaboration</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 the McMaster Industry Liaison Office (<a href="#">MILO</a>) can help companies 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>, to learn more about the technologies currently available for licensing or further R&amp;D</p>	<p>Glen Crossley (MILO)</p>
<p><a href="#">Innovation Economy Council formed to drive Canada’s technology economy post-pandemic</a></p> <p>The founders of the newly established Innovation Economy Council (IEC) — <a href="#">MaRS</a>, <a href="#">OCE</a>, <a href="#">Communitech</a>, <a href="#">DMZ</a>, <a href="#">Invest Ottawa</a> and <a href="#">CCRM</a> — have published the group’s first white paper: <a href="#">The post-viral pivot: How Canada's tech startups can drive the recovery from COVID-19</a>.</p> <p>The IEC was formed as an informal coalition of industry leaders advocating on behalf of startup ventures at the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, and is looking at how Canada’s established companies should work with innovators to navigate a post-COVID-19 world. Going forward, the new council will produce white papers and host events to help shape a new industrial innovation policy for the country.</p> <p>The IEC’s inaugural report examines how Canada’s startups are best positioned to lead Canada’s post-COVID-19 recovery, well beyond the bounds of the startup ecosystem itself — and the consequences if they aren’t adequately supported. The report findings show that all sectors of the Canadian economy depend on a vast supply chain of technology companies to meet needs in such areas as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data privacy, e-commerce, clean technology and advanced manufacturing. These companies also have some of the highest rates of productivity and generate more economic output for every hour worked. A disproportionate share of job losses in these advanced industries would damage productivity nationwide.</p>	<p>Nicole DeLong (OCE)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">The post-viral pivot: How tech startups can drive the recovery from COVID-19</a></p> <p>The Innovation Economy Council’s inaugural report examines how Canada’s startups are best positioned to lead Canada’s post-COVID-19 recovery, well beyond the bounds of the startup ecosystem itself – and the consequences if they aren’t adequately supported.</p> <p>The report findings show that all sectors of the Canadian economy depend on a vast supply-chain of technology companies to meet needs in such areas as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, data privacy, e-commerce, clean technology and advanced manufacturing.</p> <p>The IEC recommends that governments work together to design a new industrial innovation policy that supports the leading startups and industries that can help fuel the economic recovery post-pandemic.</p> <p><a href="#">Read it now.</a></p>	<p>Innovation Economy Council</p>
<p><a href="#">The Forge Cohort is Now Open – Apply Now</a></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 manufacturing, and consumer products companies. Full-time founders based in Hamilton are preferred but all applicants are welcome. 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>Click <a href="#">here to apply</a></p>	<p>Mariya Leslie (The Forge)</p>
<p><a href="#">Hamilton Health Sciences Deploys MyChart to Enable Patient Access to Records</a></p> <p>MyChart is a free, secure online tool that gives patients easy access to their health information, any time, from anywhere. Patients can view test results and other clinical records, enter personal health information, share their records and securely message their physician or healthcare professional.</p> <p>Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) is leading the deployment of MyChart™ not only at our various sites but also at dozens of other hospitals across southwest Ontario. It’s the largest regional deployment of a patient portal platform in Ontario.</p> <p>For a full list of available data within the portal visit <a href="https://healthrecordsonline.ca/patients">https://healthrecordsonline.ca/patients</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse Consortium)</p>
<p><a href="#">St. Joe’s surgeons in training use virtual reality to sharpen skills</a></p> <p>Through virtual reality technology, St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton, a teaching hospital affiliated with the world-renowned McMaster University, continues to provide cutting-edge educational experiences that are allowing orthopaedic surgeons in training to sharpen their skills during the pandemic.</p> <p>Dr. Vickas Khanna, Orthopaedic Surgeon at St. Joe’s and Orthopaedic Surgery Residency Training Program Director at McMaster University, says the virtual technology is filling a void in training residents while restrictions imposed by COVID-19 are in place, including limitations on elective surgeries.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse Consortium)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>“Pilots do much of their training in a simulator before actually flying a plane,” Dr. Khanna says. “This technology is similar. Residents can become adept at doing a surgery virtually before doing it in real life with confidence.”</p> <p>With a head set and two controllers that act as surgical tools, the unique technology simulates elbow, knee, and hip replacements. The platform allows the residents to perform surgery on realistic, life-like patients – from implant to positioning to drilling and hammering.</p>	
<p><a href="#">TechPlace and Haltech: Navigating Business Environment post-COVID</a> (July 13)</p> <p>Need help navigating the changing business environment post COVID-19? This Virtual Panel Discussion will offer practical tips for entrepreneurs to manage strategic, financial, IP and operational business risk, and advice on how to strategically navigate opportunities that can unfold after a crisis. Our spotlight speaker will also share expertise on navigating new regulatory risk.</p> <p>Panelists include experienced sector professionals from: MNP LLP, Bereskin and Parr LLP, RBC, BrantTel. Panelists will offer advice from past crisis management, share relevant business resources, and discuss surfacing opportunities for start-ups and innovators to transition to the new-normal post-crisis. Focus: Crisis Management, Financial and Operational Business Risk, Post-Crisis Business Opportunities</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse Consortium)</p>
<p><a href="#">eHealth 2020 Virtual Popup Registration</a> (July 20)</p> <p>This year marks the 20th anniversary of the e-Health Conference and Tradeshow. Let's virtually celebrate 20 years of getting together to share ideas on improving the health of Canadians through technology.</p> <p>e-Health Virtual PopUp presenters and panelists come from public and private sectors in jurisdictions across Canada. Join us online to benefit from their shared insights on the digital health topics that matter to you.</p> <p><a href="https://www.e-healthconference.com/">https://www.e-healthconference.com/</a></p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><a href="#">Emerging Leaders Program (Aug 9-22)</a></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 <a href="#">Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy</a> 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 <a href="#">Canadian College of Health Leaders</a> Members (CHE/Fellow) to 20 category II credits towards their maintenance of certification requirement.</p> <p>Core sessions include topics like <i>Characteristics &amp; Qualities of Leaders, Effective Teams, Decision Making &amp; Problem Solving, Mentorship &amp; Coaching, Foresight &amp; Innovation, Design Thinking, Change Management, Presentation &amp; Persuasion, Management &amp; Finance Essentials, Cultural Impact and Its Dynamic Role in Leadership</i>. A playlist of student testimonials <a href="#">can be viewed here</a>.</p>	<p>Victoria Mazarolo (HLA)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Questions or would like to keep in touch with Health Leadership Academy, <a href="#">subscribe</a> to the mailing list.</p>	
<p><a href="#">JLABs Events Going Virtual (various)</a></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Strategic Collaborations: Setting Up for Success</a> (July 7) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Entering a strategic collaboration as a startup can be enormously beneficial to get your innovation to the next level, whether it is around product development, distribution, testing and validation. But the size of the partner and your preparation can make or break your growth strategy. Join JLABS, Allen &amp; Overy and O'Melveny to learn more and discuss key questions Advancing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Meet With...adMare BioInnovations</a> (July 15) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Let's get more solutions to patients. The Johnson &amp; Johnson Innovation, JLABS (JLABS) Meet with... Series helps life sciences entrepreneurs, as well as the academic community, connect with potential partners including corporate venture, VC's, Angels and other investment entities. Mounia Azzi and Frédéric Lemaître Auger from adMare Bioinnovations will present an overview of their business model, and how they partner with academic &amp; biotech innovators throughout Canada.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <a href="#">Best Ways to Protect Your Innovation</a> (July 16) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Join JLABS, Allen &amp; Overy and O'Melveny for a crash course in patent law and relevance of trade secrets for the life sciences industry. This webinar aims to bring you up to speed on everything you need to know about:</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>To learn more about upcoming JLABs events, click <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Amanda Raponi (JLABS)</p>
<p><a href="#">Biotech Canada Webinar Series – 13 Sessions Available to Watch</a></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. <a href="#">Click here to view past sessions.</a></p> <p>To see upcoming events, check out Biotech Canada's website <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Andy Donovan (LSO)</p>
<p><a href="#">Donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) &amp; Sales to Hamilton's Hospitals</a></p> <p><a href="#">Hamilton Health Sciences</a>: working to ensure donations meet national standards for PPE use in a health care setting, and align this equipment to our current products. Anyone looking to donate or supply products (PPE and otherwise, including baby monitors and food/drink), please email <a href="mailto:PPEdonations@hhsc.ca">PPEdonations@hhsc.ca</a> and provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Product description</li> <li>2. Product code (if applicable)</li> <li>3. Identify if the boxes are opened or sealed (if applicable)</li> <li>4. Contact name, email and phone number</li> </ol> <p><a href="#">St. Joseph's Healthcare</a>: has established a method for that to happen, and are encouraging anyone wanting to give supplies to send us a note to <a href="mailto:donations@stjoes.ca">donations@stjoes.ca</a>. You can also find more information on the Foundation's website: <a href="http://www.stjoesfoundation.ca/supplydrive">www.stjoesfoundation.ca/supplydrive</a></p>	<p>Prathiba Harsha (HHS)</p>
<p><a href="#">Government Calls for Innovative Solutions</a></p>	<p>Innovation Factory &amp;</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<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> <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> </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>	<p>Synapse Consortium</p>
<p><a href="#">Synapse Competition Winner BISEP – Working to Develop 3D Printed Face Shields</a></p> <p>Dan Bordenave, founder of Niagara Falls company Bisep Inc., is part of a fundraising project where 3D-printed face shields are being created for Niagara’s frontline workers. After starting to print face shields to protect front-line workers across Niagara in early April, Bisep founder Dan Bordenave said he recognized the growing demand for comfortable, washable personal protective equipment to keep workers safe from the spread of COVID-19.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>To meet demands, Spark Niagara — a startup business incubator in downtown Niagara Falls — connected Biseop to another of its members, Civiconnect. Together, they've launched a fundraising campaign to cover the cost of equipment for creating face shields.</p>	
<p><u>MITACS + McMaster's DeGrootte Launch Business Strategy Internship Program (Funded 75%)</u></p> <p>DeGrootte has partnered with Mitacs to launch a new summer internship program to connect DeGrootte students and faculty with small businesses and not-for-profits in the Hamilton, Burlington, and Greater Toronto communities.</p> <p>DeGrootte's Business Strategy Internship Program will provide much-needed paid internship opportunities for skilled undergraduate and graduate students through short-term job placements with small to medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and not-for-profit organizations.</p> <p>The internship will provide a \$10,000 award per student, putting their skills to work on strategy-focused projects to help organizations adapt and grow their business during the COVID-19 pandemic. With Mitacs and DeGrootte shouldering 75% of the cost, the employer investment in this work is greatly reduced. Chosen projects may address one or more business strategy problems related to marketing, operations, finance, accounting, or any other business field.</p> <p>To succeed in your application you they require the employer partners with strategic business challenges and volunteer academic supervisors to guide student work and oversee projects.</p> <p>For more information contact - <a href="mailto:cynthia.bishop@mcmaster.ca">cynthia.bishop@mcmaster.ca</a></p>	<p>David Wilson</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><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><u><a href="#">The CONNECTION - McMaster University Online Partnerships Portal!</a></u></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. 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>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>



Discussion	Presenter
<p><a href="#">Canadian Technology Accelerator – San Francisco</a></p> <p>Recruitment for the Canadian Technology Accelerator for Health program and applications are open. More information can be found <a href="#">online here</a>. In response to COVID-19, the CTA Health 2020 program will be run virtually to start, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• advisory meetings</li> <li>• masterclasses</li> <li>• opening and closing events.</li> </ul> <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 (<a href="mailto:iraina.miles@international.gc.ca">iraina.miles@international.gc.ca</a>)</p>	<p>Carolynn Reid (Hamilton EcDev)</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 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/">http://synapseconsortium.com/partner/</a></p>	
<p><a href="#">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><u>MGD-HICE Educational Webinars &amp; DevTank Meetings</u></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.</p> <p>Check out the full suite of programming <a href="#">here</a></p>	<p>Sarrah Lal (MGD-HICE)</p>
<p><a href="#">AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge</a> (June 18 and July 9)</p> <p>Sharing update regarding upcoming pitch competition where five top start-ups will compete in this edition of the AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge, highlighting the best start-ups in AgeTech.</p> <p>About the event: Demographics are shifting and, with that, come both challenges and opportunities for innovators and entrepreneurs. Atlantic Canada has felt the effects of these shifts and is making strong efforts to address them. With this in mind, AGE-WELL, InnovaCorp, Innovation PEI, the New Brunswick Innovation Foundation and Aging2 Halifax are coming together to spotlight Canada's entrepreneurs and start-ups in the technology and aging sector.</p> <p>Prizes will include \$20,000 in cash, in-kind prizes and a future opportunity to pitch to regional investors. Registered audience members will have an opportunity to win a Kobo eReader.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Competition #1 (Atlantic Canada) – June 18, 2020 – Sign up for the live stream <a href="#">here</a></li> <li>• Competition #2 (ON, QC, NU) – July 9, 2020 – Sign up for the live stream <a href="#">here</a>.</li> </ul>	<p>Michael Chrostowski (AGE-WELL)</p>