

Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

March 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: April 27 | 9:00 – 10:00am | McMaster Innovation Park
Please sign up to our [mailing list](#) to receive meeting minutes and other important updates.

Finding collaborative partners for health companies and researchers can be difficult. Synapse has created the [Health Innovation Partnership Portal \(HIPP\)](#) to facilitate finding new partners within Canada's leading health research and educational ecosystem located in 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 feel free to contact [Alex Muggah](#), Director of the Synapse Consortium. Separately, we've assembled links to information that has been compiled by organizations across 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

- 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](#)
- Centre for Disease Control: [COVID-19 Resources](#)
- World Health Organization: [COVID-19 Updates](#)

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 with more than 5 people have been cancelled. We're 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](#)

April & May

- April 6: Dialogue with Health Canada – Expedited Hand Sanitizer Licensing and Ethanol Guidance (by invite only, NRC-IRAP)
- April 7: [Update on the Impact of COVID-19 on Our Workplaces: Q&A for Employers](#) (Aird & Berlis)
- April 7: [Legal Considerations for Leading Your Company Through the Unexpected](#) (OBIO)
- April 16: [How Do You Build a Successful Health IT Company?](#) (iF)
- April 16: Collaboratorium Speaker Series: Coaching & Mentoring as Part of Leadership Journey (Health Leadership Academy)
-  April 27: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- April 28: [Embrace the Disruption – How Agile Managers Keep Their Teams Performing](#) (iF)
- May 21: Strategic Foresight, An Approach for Imaging Multiple Futures (Health Leadership Academy)
-  May 25: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)

June and Beyond

- June 8-12: [BIO International Convention \(Virtual\)](#) (BIO)
- Aug 9-22: [Emerging Leaders Program](#) (Health Leadership Academy)
- 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)

TIME ALLOTTED | **20 MINUTES**

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p><u>Focus of Hamilton Academic Institutions and Hospitals is on COVID-19</u></p> <p>In response to the extreme demands of the COVID-19, research and clinical institutions (e.g., Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph’s Healthcare, McMaster University, Mohawk College, etc.) across Hamilton are ramping up activities related to the tackling the pandemic</p> <p>However, this means that much of the non-COVID-19 related research at Hamilton institutions is being delayed or otherwise paused, where ethically permissible. Unless research can be done remotely, it will be delayed given access to facilities and laboratories are extremely limited given public health requirements.</p> <p>To that end, companies and other stakeholders are asked for patience when looking to engage the research expertise, clinical trial or other facilities and capabilities across the Hamilton community, as they may not be able to respond at this time.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><u>Forge and Innovation Factory Converting Events to Webinars</u></p> <p>All our in-person events have been converted to webinars until end of April.</p> <p>Innovation Factory space and the physical Forge Incubator are temporarily closing; no date confirmed yet but we’re closely monitoring the COVID-19 situation and will match health leaders’ and government officials’ recommendations.</p>	<p>Mariya Leslie (The Forge)</p>
<p>Hamilton has two COVID-19 Assessment Centres that are now open.</p> <p>These clinics will assess whether people need more medical care and/or testing for COVID-19 based on symptoms (cough or fever), travel history and/or exposure to known cases.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p><u>Bay Area Health Trust – Access to ISO Class 7 Clean Room</u></p> <p>Peter Kalra, CEO of BAHT wished to share that they have a Clean Room ISO Class 7 available ideally for packaging uses. In addition, they also have sophisticated distribution services that can be leveraged – with particular focus and expertise on the distribution of pharmaceuticals for clinical trials.</p> <p>To learn more, please visit their website, or contact John Hands at handsj@baht.ca</p>	<p>Peter Kalra (BAHT)</p>
<p><u>Mariner Endosurgery Stands up Hand Sanitizer Product Line to Support COVID-19 Response</u></p> <p>Mariner has been looking to find ways to contribute and decided to develop a consumer product: hand sanitizer. Working with the federal government, we’ve won a contract to supply hand sanitizer. At this time, the core distribution channel is going to the capital region.</p> <p>We’re working closely with Bay Area Health Trust (BAHT), to see how else we can support the Hamilton community. While balancing the needs of our existing contracts, I’m reaching out to surgeons and other administrators across Hamilton to explore how we can provide product.</p>	<p>Mitch Wilson (Mariner Endosurgery)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p><u>Two Online Sites – Buy Local in Hamilton and 3D Printing Resource for Medical Products</u></p> <p>Hometown Hub: one-stop solution for online, local shopping in the Hamilton Region. Our mission is to deliver a simple, easy way to connect amazing small businesses with the communities they help to enrich, bringing the care, quality and dedication of local business alive online! Offer a direct link to local businesses offering online services through delivery, e-commerce and gift cards!</p> <p>Maker Militia: was created with the simple intention to connect makers with groups in need of their support to fight the COVID-19 Pandemic. If you have a 3D printer or a laser cutter, we encourage you to support some of the active projects who have sorted out what files to use, delivery logistics and in some cases Health Canada regulations.</p> <p>For more information, or to get connected to the Hamilton innovation community, contact Innovation Factory</p>	<p>David Carter (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p><u>Mohawk Applied Research Still Open</u></p> <p>Mohawk is in the process of finishing up existing projects and are ramping up our engagement with the broader community to identify ways that we can assist going forward. In particular, the Institute for Applied Health Sciences (IAHS) facility is in a position to support the community, and the 3D printing lab may be activated. All physical sites are locked down, so there isn't any activity on campus.</p>	<p>Brian vanOosten (Mohawk College)</p>
<p><u>AngelOne Network Continuing to Support Companies (Virtually)</u></p> <p>Angel One is moving towards virtual investment meetings and will be doing so going forward including in April. We're also bringing in our portfolio companies twice a month to help them out. In particular, our focus is on ways that we can support companies respond to COVID-19, as well as those who are directly involved in providing a service/product relevant to addressing COVID-19.</p>	<p>David Wright (AngelOne Network)</p>
<p><u>BDO: Planning a Life Science Venture Capital Day (date TBD) & Navigating Tax Relief Measures</u></p> <p>Sharing that we're working on standing up a life-science VC day but haven't announced a date yet as timing may change. We are looking to line up funders and will open up a formal application process shortly. There are already 30 companies that are lined up to participate – though companies and funders interested in participating, should contact Jamie Barron (JBarron@bdo.ca) to learn more.</p> <p>Past VC Day hosted by BDO attracted +200 applicants from a diverse range of sectors and maturities (from early stage to Series A)– and so happy to speak with biotech, healthIT and medical devices firms. We're also looking to have some funders from different segments of the market, including angel groups.</p> <p>As well, BDO is also happy to provide companies with assistance in trying to navigate the various tax relief measures that have been announced at the Federal and Provincial Level. We're working with Innovation Factory to support their clients. BDO delivers assurance, tax, and financial advisory services to clients throughout the country and around the globe.</p>	<p>Jamie Barron (BDO)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>McMaster Engineering Co-op students available for work opportunities</p> <p>We are still moving forward with the co-op program for the next few semesters, including spring session in May or June. The full list of Co-op and full-time recruitment opportunities from the various faculties at McMaster can be found at https://hire.mcmaster.ca/</p> <p>The McMaster Engineering Co-op program has undergraduate and graduate students in the following programs available for Co-op opportunities with employers that have talent needs during this time.</p> <p>We have students starting every term (May, Sept, January). Length of placement can range from 4-16 months (4-12 months for graduate students) (this link provides examples of Co-op sequences).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For students working currently, many employers have been implementing flexible work arrangements (such as working from home, working on a rotational schedule, providing social distancing work environments) to practice social distancing and ensure health and safety of staff. • For Spring/Summer start Co-op opportunities, employers may start students as late as the first week of June 2020 with no impact to the co-op program requirements for students or employers. <p>If you are interested in learning more or hiring a Co-op student through this program, you can contact Nayelli Perez – Career Development & Relationship Manger at perezn3@mcmaster.ca</p> <p>Covid-19 updates from our office can be found at this link: https://www.eng.mcmaster.ca/co-op-career/co-op-program</p>	<p>Nayelli Perez (McMaster University)</p>
<p>COVID-19 Microsite for Business Continuity & Recovery Information</p> <p>The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, in partnership with the City of Hamilton, Hamilton Economic Development, and the Flamborough and Stoney Creek Chambers of Commerce, have developed a one-stop microsite to assist Hamilton businesses navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Here, you'll find: up-to-date information on COVID-19, government assistance resources, support for small businesses, employment and legal resources, and much more.</p> <p>We've also included a Contact Us section where you may leave a detailed note on any challenges your business is facing during the outbreak. Our team will respond within 24 hours to guide you towards the appropriate resources.</p>	<p>Keanin Loomis (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce)</p>
<p>Juravinski Family Donates \$3.3 million to Tackle COVID-19 in Hamilton</p> <p>Philanthropists Charles and Margaret Juravinski have donated millions to health care in Hamilton, but never has it been directed at such an immediate crisis.</p> <p>The couple announced they are giving \$3.3 million toward fighting COVID-19.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>“Nobody anticipated this pandemic and we are pleased to help. Hopefully it’s a catalyst for others to give as they are able, whether it’s a buck or ten,” said Charles Juravinski in an interview with the Spectator. “We have to pull together and we can beat this thing. You can bet we have every researcher worth their salt working on it.”</p> <p>Among the projects funded by the investment is one to determine whether N95 respirators or medical masks are the safest option for health-care workers; another aims to develop rapid virus testing using robotics.</p> <p>While the projects are intended to have impact locally and internationally in the COVID-19 campaign, Juravinski hopes the research will assist in coping with future outbreaks as well.</p> <p>Read the full article here</p>	
<p>McMaster receives \$1.8M in funding for COVID-19 research</p> <p>Two senior researchers of McMaster’s Faculty of Health Sciences have received a combined \$1.8 million in funding to support new research projects to help combat COVID-19. Gerry Wright and Karen Mossman have two of 49 projects across Canada that have been allocated a total of \$25 million in funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).</p> <p>Wright, the director of the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research (IIDR), has a therapeutics project focused on targeting genetic and chemical vulnerabilities of novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. His team will apply genomics-based tools and drug-screening platforms to rapidly pinpoint new targets for antiviral agents and to identify potential therapeutic compounds.</p> <p>Mossman is a professor of pathology and molecular medicine, and also Vice-President of Research at the University. Her project focuses on SARS-CoV-2 pathogenesis in human and bat cells, and development of in vitro and in vivo infection models. Her group has extensive experience studying coronaviruses in bat and human systems. It’s significant because the virus that causes COVID-19 shares 96 per cent similarity with a coronavirus found in bats, states a description of the research.</p> <p>Earlier this month, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau announced a \$275 million investment in Canadian research and development, as part of the country’s COVID-19 response. This includes research on medical countermeasures, including antivirals, vaccine development and support for clinical trials. To date, the federal government has distributed \$51.8M to 96 research teams from across Canada.</p> <p>Read the full Hamilton Spectator article here McMaster Brighter World press release here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>Local researchers aim to test COVID-19 treatment in Hamilton</p> <p>Facing projections that Hamilton's health-care system could be stretched to the limit in a matter of weeks, a group of this area's top researchers are working together to test a promising COVID-19 treatment here.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>It led them to turn their attention to a promising combination of two drugs, the antibiotic azithromycin taken with a malaria medication called chloroquine. A similar drug called hydroxychloroquine can also be used.</p> <p>Racing against the clock, researchers from a variety of fields have come together to create a randomized clinical trial that they hope to launch in Hamilton in a matter of weeks. And they hope it will spread to other parts of Ontario with invites going out to 25 hospitals on Tuesday.</p> <p>To read the full Hamilton Spectator article, click here</p>	
<p><u>Donations of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) & Sales to Hamilton’s Hospitals</u></p> <p>Hamilton Health Sciences: 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 PPEdonations@hhsc.ca and provide:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Product description 2. Product code (if applicable) 3. Identify if the boxes are opened or sealed (if applicable) 4. Contact name, email and phone number <p>St. Joseph’s Healthcare: has established a method for that to happen, and are encouraging anyone wanting to give supplies to send us a note to donations@stjoes.ca. You can also find more information on the Foundation’s website: www.stjoesfoundation.ca/supplydrive</p>	<p>Prathiba Harsha (HHS)</p>
<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 	<p>Innovation Factory & Synapse Consortium</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>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.</p> <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. • 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>McMaster Engineers to provide health care workers with critical gear</p> <p>McMaster Engineers are offering help to combat COVID-19 by building ventilator prototypes and creating masks and other necessary protective gear for frontline health care workers.</p> <p>At the frontlines of this are McMaster mechanical engineers, professors in engineering physics and chemical engineering, technicians and others who are answering the urgent call from medical professionals. They’ve spent this week scouring the web, joining online forums, and planning how to convert campus labs and institutes to help health care workers.</p> <p>At the McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI), researchers have been studying wartime ventilators circa the 1960s and working with a world-wide online community called Helpful Engineering to look at prototypes. As well, MMRI researchers have been collaborating and consulting with experts at Hamilton Health Sciences on ventilator efficacy and functionality.</p> <p>MMRI researchers say they hope to start building a prototype early next week, and to begin testing on artificial lungs soon after.</p>	<p>McMaster Engineering</p>
<p>Yordas Group – Online Training for Companies Switching Production to Disinfectants/Sanitizers</p> <p>We have been very grateful for the various informative webinars and resources that many of you have provided over the past weeks. To contribute where we can, we have put together an online training course aimed at helping companies who are switching their production to make things like disinfectants and sanitizers in response to global need.</p> <p><i>COVID-19: Special Measures to Increase Availability of Disinfectant Products on the Market</i> is a course is designed to answer these questions and give people the information they need at this time.</p>	<p>Giselle Vincent (Yordas Group)</p>
<p>Hamilton Doctors and Tech Team Create COVID-19 Tracking App</p> <p>Local software development team in Hamilton, lead by Jamie Harsevoort has designed an app to be used by the public to track Covid-19 trends before they affect our health care system. It can</p>	<p>Anthony DiValentino</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>help identify 'hotspots' where the virus may be actively spreading, and assess how Covid-19 is impacting our community as a whole.</p> <p>Dr. Richard Tytus, Dr. Simon Oczkowski and the Hamilton Academy of Medicine, helped us develop the initiative</p> <p>This only works if as many people contribute as possible. Any support, feedback, promotional assistance would be greatly valued and appreciated, I connected with David Carter yesterday, he seemed excited as well.</p> <p>You can learn more about it here: www.covid19app.ca</p>	
<p>Talent-Minded: Helping quickly find talent to respond to COVID-19</p> <p>We are mobilizing services and offerings to help companies respond quickly to COVID-19. If there are companies needing assistance increasing their recruiting capability or capacity we can deploy some of our resources quickly.</p> <p>We've got a lot of experience recruiting and ramping up for emergencies like SARS, etc. and we're offering services by the hour and at cost. We can also provide free advisory for anyone trying to manage it on their own – we're here to help however we can.</p>	<p>Kim Benedict (Talent Minded)</p>
<p>Communitech Update re. Government of Canada Response</p> <p>The Government of Canada is also creating a list of companies that can provide goods and services to support the effort. There is a predefined list of needs but also room for companies to add their own capabilities:</p> <p>How is government funding being affected by the outbreak?</p> <p>As Canadian start-ups need funding now more than ever, HockeyStick has created a great page of resources, including non-dilutive and private funding sources</p> <p>From the federal government, here are some links to measures being put in place by Canada to support businesses and workers through COVID-19. Detailed information continues to be added, but these links should remain working even as the content changes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find COVID-related supports for businesses – get more information on specific programs and services being offered to businesses • Pandemic Preparedness for Business – learn more about preparedness from the Canadian Chamber of Commerce • Canada's federal response to COVID-19 – find overall information about Canada's response to COVID-19 <p>Innovation.canada.ca is being updated as new supports become available. There is now a special COVID-19 tab that filters results to those programs that have been created, updated, or changed in response to the pandemic. Companies can also sign up for notifications feature. That way, you'll receive an email whenever new programs are introduced that meet your needs, including those directly related to COVID-19 measures.</p>	<p>Amanda Green (Communitech)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Hamilton and Toronto among researchers develop COVID-19 care guidelines</p> <p>A team of international experts, including medical specialists from Hamilton (McMaster University, St. Joseph’s Healthcare’s GUIDE research methods group, and the Population Health Research Institute) and Toronto universities and research institutes has produced guidelines on how to care for COVID-19 patients in intensive care.</p> <p>The recommendations released by the Surviving Sepsis Campaign COVID-19 panel hopes to better guide frontline workers as they tackle the increasing demand within the intensive care unit (ICU).</p> <p>The full set of guidelines were co-published online Friday in the Critical Care Medicine and Intensive Care Medicine journals.</p> <p>Read the full CBC article here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>McMaster researchers find new antibiotics that kill superbugs 'caught in a cage'</p> <p>Researchers at McMaster University discovered a new group of antibiotics that will shock bacteria like the MRSA superbug and snuff out other bacteria that cause infections like staph.</p> <p>"The drugs we found are active against infections resistant to all these other antibiotics," Culp says. The researchers merged two compounds — the newly-found corbomycin and the lesser-known complestatin — to examine how they would beat up bacteria and prevent them from growing.</p> <p>They expected to see the antibiotic compound block the cell wall's construction, foiling bacteria before they even have a chance. But what this compound does is sinister. They let the bacteria build a cell wall, but don't let the wall break down again, leaving the bacteria cells trapped and helpless, unable to divide and grow. Once it becomes more of a drug, it'll enter clinics and be the newest weapon against bacteria.</p> <p>Read the full CBC article here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>McMaster develops tool for isolating coronavirus</p> <p>McMaster University researchers have developed a tool to share with the international health sciences community which can help determine how the virus that causes COVID-19 is spreading and whether it is evolving.</p> <p>Simply put, the tool is a set of molecular ‘fishing hooks’ to isolate the virus, SARS-CoV-2, from biological samples. This allows laboratory researchers to gain insight into the properties of the isolated virus by then using technology called next-generation sequencing.</p> <p>“You wouldn’t use this technology to diagnose the patient, but you could use it to track how the virus evolves over time, how it transmits between people, how well it survives outside the body, and to find answers to other questions,” said principal investigator Andrew McArthur, associate professor of biochemistry and biomedical sciences, and a member of the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research (IIDR) at McMaster.</p> <p>Read the full article here</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Congratulations to BISEP for Winning the First Virtual Synapse Competition!</p> <p>On March 25th, Innovation Factory hosted a virtual Synapse Competition. We had +300 active participants, and according to feedback, everyone enjoyed it. There were lots of interactions between Competition participants, sponsors and the finalists who were competing for the grand prize.</p> <p>Going forward, Innovation Factory is still working on ensuring that we have the right tools to engage participants (e.g., breakout rooms to networking in a virtual event). But we know the bar is going to be kept high.</p> <p>We would like to thank the great community support that we received – and while we know we missed the buzz around the poster presentations and the networking portion of the evening, we feel the event was a success.</p> <p>To watch the a replay of the virtual event and learn more, click here</p>	<p>Shannon Graszat (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p>Ontario’s Firestone Institute (FIRH) Improves Treatment Options for Pulmonary Fibrosis</p> <p>30,000 Canadians suffer from pulmonary fibrosis, a chronic respiratory disease that creates scarring in lung tissue and, over time, results in shortness of breath and deprives vital organs of necessary oxygen. While there is currently no known cure, ground-breaking research completed at the Firestone Institute for Respiratory Health (FIRH), part of St. Joseph’s Healthcare Hamilton, is providing new hope for patients with pulmonary fibrosis.</p> <p>FIRH is driving the future of pulmonary fibrosis care through its participation in an international study that trialed a pharmaceutical treatment for patients with pulmonary fibrosis. The results of this clinical trial led by Dr. Martin Kolb, Respirologist at St. Joseph’s and Professor of Medicine at McMaster University, were published in the New England Journal of Medicine in October 2019.</p> <p>Read the full article here</p>	<p>Clinical Trials Ontario (CTO)</p>
<p>Hamilton’s Innovative Ecosystem profiled in Invest Ontario Spotlight Feature</p> <p>Located less than an hour’s drive from Toronto – as well as five major border crossings with the United States – is the rising city of Hamilton, Ontario. It’s a part of Canada’s most densely populated and economically advanced regions, offering diverse perspectives from a population that is 25 per cent foreign born. With its world-class universities and colleges, Hamilton has a renowned pipeline of skilled talent and the city’s quality of life and affordability make it easy for companies that locate here to attract and retain the very brightest.</p> <p>In particular, Invest Ontario, highlighted a few key players in the Health Ecosystem, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Innovation Factory (iF), which has been at the centre of tech innovation in Hamilton. • Biotechnology company Mariner Endosurgery utilizes machine learning, robotic assistance and advanced visualization to augment surgeon performance on its platform LaparoGuard. • The McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) has been Hamilton’s one-stop spot for business research and start-up support. A part of the internationally recognized McMaster University, MIP provides a space for collaboration, ideation and tech acceleration that has helped spark the creation of hundreds of new businesses. 	<p>Allison McConnell (MEDJCT)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fusion Pharmaceuticals Inc., a biopharmaceutical company revolutionizing radiation therapy through its use of targeted alpha therapeutics. Fusion recently received a second round of funding of \$105 million USD, the largest pharma series A in Canadian history 	
<p>LSO Issues Life Sciences Ontario Annual Policy Forum Report</p> <p>Digital transformation has played a substantial role in the life sciences sector and it continues to play a central role in its current and future success. Digital transformation is revolutionizing health care and in order to fully appreciate the economic benefits of our sector, meaningful policy measures need to be put in place in order to bring our nation forward. This year’s policy forum examines what key lessons we can learn from our international partners on digitalization in healthcare, the policy landscape in Canada post-federal election, and finally how we can facilitate advancement and adoption through public policies. LSO will continue to advocate for a coordinated provincial life sciences strategy to capitalize on the economic potential of Ontario’s diverse sector to drive job growth and create world-leading companies</p>	Andy Donovan (LSO)
<p><u>By Invite Only: IRAP NHP COI Initiative: A Dialogue with Health Canada – Expedited Hand Sanitizer Licensing and Ethanol Guidance for use in alcohol-based hand sanitizers (April 6)</u></p> <p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and current shortage of hand sanitizers, many Canadian companies intend to adapt their facilities to manufacture, package and distribute the alcohol-based hand sanitizers. Health Canada is thus simplifying and expediting the application and review processes for both Site Licences and Product Licences to facilitate the safe production of alcohol-based hand sanitizers.</p> <p>Guidance documents on the interim process for manufacturing the hand sanitizers and ethanol for use in the sanitizers have been released and posted in the HC website in the past week. It is the intent of this teleconference to allow our Canadian businesses to have a live dialogue with the experts from Health Canada on the new interim processes and related concerns /questions. Two Q&A sessions will be set up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A – Session 1: HC interim expedited licensing (site & product) and guidance on production and distribution of alcohol-based hand sanitizers • Q&A – Session 2: HC Interim guide on Ethanol production and other ingredients for use in hand sanitizer manufacturing 	Joon Kim (NRC-IRAP)
<p><u>Collaboratorium Speaker Series: Coaching & Mentoring as Part of Leadership Journey (Apr 16)</u></p> <p>Accelerating leader’s growth through mentoring and coaching Moderated by: Dr. Greg McQueen (Co-Director, M.G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy, McMaster University)</p> <p>Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy Collaboratorium Speaker Series serves as a forum for faculty, administrators, students and industry professionals to share innovations in teaching leadership content, pedagogy and practices developed at McMaster University. In person attendance and networking reception are by invitation only.</p> <p>To attend online via livestream, please email us at hlainfo@mcmaster.ca</p>	Health Leadership Academy

Discussion	Presenter
<p><u>Collaboratorium Speaker Series: Strategic Foresight, An Approach for Imaging Multiple Futures (May 21)</u></p> <p>Introducing foresight and future thinking into curriculum; its purpose, methodologies and benefits Moderated by: Dr. Sean Park (Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, Innovation and Education, McMaster University)</p> <p>Michael G. DeGroot Health Leadership Academy Collaboratorium Speaker Series serves as a forum for faculty, administrators, students and industry professionals to share innovations in teaching leadership content, pedagogy and practices developed at McMaster University. In person attendance and networking reception are by invitation only.</p> <p>To attend online via livestream, please email us at hlainfo@mcmaster.ca</p>	<p>Health Leadership Academy</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>NSERC Alliance, \$50,000 COVID-19 grants</p> <p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, NSERC is leveraging the expertise of researchers in natural science and engineering and their partners across Canada to address this unprecedented crisis.</p> <p>NSERC is providing up to \$15 million in total support to stimulate collaborations between academic researchers and the public and not-for-profit sectors, and industry to address pandemic-related research and technical challenges. Support for up to \$50,000 for one-year projects is being made available immediately.</p> <p>NSERC will process these applications in an accelerated fashion. Partners do not need to provide cash contributions to participate, but must be engaged throughout the research process, from input in design to using the expertise and/or the research results.</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>AGE-WELL Emerging Entrepreneur Award in Technology and Aging COVID-19 Countermeasures</p> <p>The 2020 Emerging Entrepreneur Award is part of AGE-WELL’s effort to address the public health challenges associated with the novel coronavirus pandemic. The rapid spread of COVID-19 has highlighted especially the vulnerability of Canada’s older adults and the potential impact of technological innovations to mitigate the spread of disease and minimize its disruptive impact on health and fulfillment of psychosocial needs.</p> <p>This \$25,000 award is designed to give a new entrepreneur the financial resources to focus on making their ideas viable and rapidly deployable in service to our stakeholders.</p> <p>Applicants to this call of the AGE-WELL Emerging Entrepreneur Award must clearly communicate their innovation’s relevance as a COVID-19 countermeasure. For example, but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social isolation solutions for older adults and caregivers • Telehealth or remote care and relevant digital health innovations (e.g. tools that assist caregivers and/or the overall circle of care with remote care) • Solutions related to in-home rehabilitation or physical fitness • Serious games • Smart homes and home monitoring 	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p>
<p>\$20k in Prizes @ AGE-WELL Startup Competition (deadline: Apr 17)</p> <p>Startup competition returns to recognize top innovators in Canada’s technology and aging Sector. Winners will receive \$20,000 in cash plus in-kind prizes</p>	<p>Michael Chrostowski (AGE-WELL)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Are you an entrepreneur or Startup with a technology-based solution that can support the health and quality of life of older adults and/or caregivers? The AGE-WELL National Impact Challenge is back for another run in 2020. This competition recognizes top start-ups and supports entrepreneurship in Canada's technology and aging sector.</p> <p>Finalists will pitch their innovative technologies and services to a panel of expert judges. Regional competitions will be held in Halifax, Toronto and Whistler, British Columbia. The winner at each competition will receive \$20,000 in cash, plus in-kind prizes and a future opportunity to pitch to regional investors.</p> <p>Michael Chrostowski, PhD is the Business Development and Industry Relations Manager at AGE-WELL NCE, Canada's technology and aging network. Michael often looks to help entrepreneurs on their startup journey and has a particular interest in technology as a tool to improve the health and wellbeing of others. His own startup was founded in Hamilton and initially resided at the McMaster Innovation Park.</p> <p>The deadline to submit an application is April 17, 2020.</p>	
<p>Code-Life Ventilator Challenge, Montreal General Foundation</p> <p>The Montreal General Hospital Foundation, in collaboration with the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre (RI-MUHC), is launching a global innovation challenge, backed by a prize of \$200,000 CAD</p>	Joon Kim (NRC)
<p>Ontario Genomics + SynBio Landing Pad Program</p> <p>The Ontario Genomics Landing Pad Program seeks to provide financial and in-kind support to start and scale genomics and engineering biology companies in Ontario. Ontario Genomics is partnering with Ontario's leading incubators and support organizations, such as Velocity and Synapse, as well as the international accelerator IndieBio (San Francisco, USA), which is backed by global venture capital firm SOSV.</p> <p>Through this program, successful teams will be awarded \$100,000 CAD from Ontario Genomics in addition to lab space and mentorship through our incubator partners in Ontario. This support is dependant upon successful acceptance and completion of the IndieBio program.</p> <p>The intent of the program is to provide genomics and engineering biology companies with an incentive to return to Ontario after attending a world-renowned international accelerator program. Ontario Genomics will leverage our broad network within the Ontario innovation ecosystem, internal expertise and an external network of advisors where appropriate to support you.</p> <p>Contact Britney Hess, bhess@ontariogenomics.ca, for more information on how to apply</p>	Britney Hess (Ontario Genomics)
<p>Ontario Genomics Applications Partnership Program (deadline, May 7)</p> <p>The Genomic Applications Partnership Program funds downstream research and development projects that address real world opportunities and challenges. The GAPP aims to:</p>	Ontario Genomics

Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Accelerate the application of Canadian genomics-derived solutions from academia to real-world opportunities and challenges defined by industry, not-for-profit and public-sector Receptors. Channel Canada's genomics capacity into sustainable innovations that benefit Canadians. Enhance the value of Canadian genomics technologies by de-risking and incentivizing follow-on investment from industry and other partners. Foster mutually beneficial collaboration and knowledge exchange between Canadian academia and technology receptors. Total project size: \$300,000 to \$6 million. Co-Funding: Up to 1/3 investment from Genome Canada; Receptor co-funding (cash and/or in-kind) that is equal to or greater than Genome Canada's contribution; and any remaining co-funding from other eligible sources. Project term: 2 – 3 years. Shorter or longer terms will be considered only if strong rationale is provided. Project stage: Small-scale proof-of-concept / pilot projects through to large-scale projects will be accepted. Projects should not be in discovery phase. 	
<p>Roche \$100k Innovation Challenge (April 10 deadline)</p> <p>Individuals or teams are asked to submit a proposed innovative solution to a challenge or issue that they have identified as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic by April 10, 2020. Some examples are listed above but you are not limited to only these. All submissions will be reviewed by a Roche Canada Steering Committee based on the following criteria, and winning submissions will receive funds to support the development of the innovative solution.</p> <p>Winning submissions from individuals are eligible for funding of up to \$50,000* per program, and team submissions are eligible for funding of up to \$100,000* per program.</p>	<p>Andy Donovan (LSO)</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>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>Andrea Lee (HHS)</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>

Discussion	Presenter
<p><u>MGD-HICE Educational Webinars & 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 & 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>Sarra Lal (MGD-HICE)</p>