Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

November 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: January 25th 9:00 – 10:00am | McMaster Innovation Park (via Zoom)
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 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 access through a public Dropbox, using the following link.
For additional information on any subject, to contact a presenter directly, or should you have an adjustment to make to the notes made here, please contact: Alex.Muggah@SynapseConsortium.com. Updates will be reflected in a revised version of the monthly minutes.

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

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

Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

Check out Synapse's online calendar

December

- Nov 30: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)
- Nov 30 – Dec 4: MaRS Impact Week (MaRS Innovation)
- Nov 30 – Dec 8: Canada's Regulatory Medtech Conference 2020 (Medtech Canada)
- Dec 1: Start at the End; What to Show the Regulators (JLABS)
- Dec 3: The Art of the Pitch (Sunnybrook Medventions Program)
- Dec 3: Building New Leaders: An OBIO Fireside Chat (OBIO)
- Dec 3: Biomanufacturing for the Bio-Revolution: An International Opportunity (Ontario Genomics)
- Dec 7: 2020 VISTA Innovation and Technology Symposium (Innovation York)
- Dec 7: Networking in the time of COVID (Translational Research Program)
- Dec 7-8: Canada Regulatory MedTech Conference 2020 (Medtech Canada)
- Dec 8-10: Blue Knight Symposium (Johnson & Johnson Innovation)
- Dec 16: MILO Innovation Showcase (McMaster Industry Liaison Office)
- [nb: there will be no December Health Check due to holidays]

January and Beyond

- Jan 11: Health Ventures Certificate Program – Winter session (MGD Health ICE)
- Jan 13-16: 38th Annual JP Morgan Healthcare Conference (JP Morgan)
- Jan 20: MaRS and Merck Canada Lung Cancer Innovation Challenge Launch (MaRS DD)
- Jan 20-21: COVID-19: React, Recover, Rebound (PSG)
- Jan 25: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)
- Jan 28: The Transformation of Healthcare in a COVID and post-COVID Environment (McMaster)
- Jan 31: Innovation Nation Conference (CSii)
- Feb 24: LSO 2021 Celebration of Success Awards Presentation (Life Sciences Ontario)
- Feb 25-27: Ontario Life Sciences Export Business Mission to Medical Fair India (Government of Ontario)

On Demand

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

Time allotted | *30 Minutes*

Topic: **Guest Speaker Discussion**

Insights around the experience and expertise of an invited speaker, focusing on a subject that may be of interest to the broader community

Guest Speaker Discussion
Guest Speaker(s): • Ty Shattuck CEO, McMaster Innovation Park (MIP) [presentation slides used, and are available for download in the Health Check-up drobox folder]

Discussion

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

Thank you very much for inviting me to present on the McMaster Innovation Park (MIP). What Alex has asked me to do today is to present on the Park's future, as well as focusing on the tactical stuff that might be of interest to this group. At MIP our focus is on serving and support mid-market and growth-stage companies while advancing the Ontario ecosystem.

MIP Priorities and Focus

MIP is focused on the research priorities aligned with McMaster University as well as the economic pillars of the Hamilton region, which include: life sciences and biotech (which is what we'll be speaking about this morning), engineering and advanced manufacturing, and information and communications technology (ICT) and big data. These areas intersect and support one another. The focus of MIP in life sciences space is not just about research and discovery, but how we create capacity and graduation space. We are also interested in advancing big data and AI capabilities in life science space as a support area.

I will be talking about a bunch of buildings today, which is fine, but at the end of the day, it's not about the buildings – we're no more about our buildings than a hospital or university is about their buildings. We view buildings as an enabling infrastructure – its about what the people in those buildings are doing make it special. At a research park the enabling infrastructure is there to allow people to bring great ideas to life. MIP is the place where ideas come to life. These three areas of focus are all industries aligned with McMaster's research priorities and City's economic policies – but also where infrastructure matters.

We're thinking about the future of commercial real estate -- there are some industries where you don't need expensive buildings. A classic example, is that if you're building a smartphone app – you probably don't need to come to MIP. You need to go to a parent's basement. You need a computer, internet access, and a futon, you shouldn't be spending finite dollars on an expensive real estate at a research product. There are some thing you can't do in a basement – like nuclear medical research or setting up wet labs. The industries where MIP is focused on is where infrastructure really matters, and life sciences is one of those areas. You can do meetings in a virtual environment, but when you get into testing and experiments, the physical laboratory is really important.

MIP is a 58 acre campus that was originally an old Westinghouse factory. About one third (1/3) has been converted into buildings that house companies and innovators. We have the Atrium, Warehouse, and the NRC CanmetMaterials facilities. These facilities are home to companies and institutes like Fusion Pharmaceuticals, BEAM, MARC and supporting organizations like MILO, Innovation Factory, The Forge, and others.

Building Blocks for a Life Science Ecosystem

Guest Speaker Discussion

We have lots of room for growth. It's not about the buildings – its about developing the ecosystem that we are all part of. The challenge we have, is that we don't have a fully fledged ecosystem. We have about 800 people who come to the park on a daily basis – but that isn't enough to create an active and dynamic ecosystem. So how do we enhance the ecosystem, we thought of two things 1) we need more critical mass (more people), which led us to develop expansion plans that push us from 800 people to 4-5,000 people coming to the park on a daily basis, 2) we also wanted to add diversity – not just having lots of people, we want there to be complementary people. It is the mixture of different classes of people, competencies, different sizes of companies, and diversity in skills that create a spatial alchemy that allows for advancing things. We are strong on academic research, but we are not as strong on the finance and business side.

The core building blocks of a life science ecosystem, we know we need the technology and IP portion (we're in good shape there), the technical talent (and between what we have at McMaster, Mohawk College and the region) we have access deep talent. But we also need leadership talent – where are the people with the experience and the scars that can bring ideas to life. We are starting to see a crop of Canadian leadership emerge, but we are still behind the United States. We need capital (we have strong early stage financing), but we're weaker on later stage – we often have to go to the United States for later stage or going public. We also need physical infrastructure, which is what I'm going to talk today.

Building the Ontario Life Sciences Corridor

We have a fledgling life sciences ecosystem in Ontario, but it is too focused on the early stage. That's not a bad thing, but we need to think about what comes after a company is formed. It's great to have start-ups, but if you're a Canadian startup, what happens when you have more than a dozen employees, or need more than a dozen lab benches. Unfortunately, it's a much harsher place to do business – which leads many companies heading to the United States.

I'll be talking about Hamilton, but it is my firm belief there is no one jurisdiction in Ontario that has all of the necessary building blocks to create a self-contained ecosystem. Toronto has great assets and research, but there is no space and you can't build any new manufacturing space which makes economic sense. We can't do the same in the Hamilton. So MIP is proposing a "**Ontario Life Sciences Corridor**" bookended by the two best medical schools in Canada (UofT and McMaster), and MIP and the MaRS discovery district, Hamilton at one end and Toronto at the other. And in between, we have a great deal of activity, including commercial manufacturing space in Mississauga.

Where we see a gap in the market is serving the challenge of going from start-up to full-size scale manufacturing. It is providing this graduation space where we see MIP closing this gap. It's for companies that are no longer a start-up, but are not yet ready to get a dedicated GMP-style facility in Pill Hill. For companies that have 100s of people, that are looking for 50,000-200,000 sqaure feet of operational space – that is the type of space that we're trying to build. In parallel, we're trying to work with other groups to build the capital and other building blocks to create the space. We're trying to be the graduation space for the region, whether you're coming from McMaster, Toronto or anywhere in the Canada.

Future of MIP: Developing a Life Sciences Megahub

In terms of total growth, we're going to be going from 700,000 sqft of space to 2.8 million sqft of new and renovated space, including 800,000 sqft that will be dedicated for life science scale-up companies.

Guest Speaker Discussion

The first phase is the Global Pandemic Nexus, which will be developed by McMaster University. The completed park will be a bookend for the Life Sciences Corridor, with two hotels, residential space, and lots of amenities. MIP will needs to create the amenities and spaces to make it an attractive place to work so that it's more than a bunch of buildings – MaRS had all of these amenities already, given where it was positioned. We want to create a place where people will want to live, work and play. That is why we're building restaurants, hotels, conference centres, restaurants and residential pieces to make it a more attractive location.

We think about capital in two forms: capital to expand the park, and capital to fund the venture. What is unique about MIP, is that we only fund the development of the park through private capital (we don't use donor or government funding). Since we are only using private capital, we need to make sure there is a strong business case before we proceed.

The total development cost for MIP will be $1.1 billion – a major development for Hamilton and the broader region. And when we combine it with what is happening in Toronto, Mississauga it is very complementary. As a result of this investment, the Ontario Life Sciences Corridor will further strengthen our ability to be a major player nationally, and globally.

MIP's Bench Strength

We've also brought in a few advisors, some of whom you will recognize. Our concern is that we avoid having a collection of buildings that doesn't encourage companies and people interact each other – we want to create synergies at the park.

The first is Ronald Soskolne, who was brought on as an advisor to make sure that MIP creates an urban space that is dynamic and has people collide and collaborate. He will be helping MIP develop a world-class park design that enables spatial alchemy, maximizes collisions, and makes economic sense to all Stakeholders. Ronald is a globally renowned developer, who worked on Canary Wharf in London, the NY Financial District, and also worked on Younge and Dundas Square.

Second is Dr. Sheila Singh, one of McMaster's stars, who will make sure MIP understands the unique ecosystem, needs of life science companies. While I've personally helped companies grow, I haven't been part of a life science company, which are a bit different.

Finally, David Gibbins is joining a global capital advisor. He will be helping MIP understand and address the needs of investors and capital markets in our effort to secure capital for the park's development and the ventures we are supporting. David was the first Canadian to sit as advisor to Bank of England and European Bank and also ran RBC Capital Insights. He has good insights into what makes an opportunity financially attractive.

Development Timelines

To give you a sense of the timelines, the main Atrium building at 175 Longwood Road – is available today, and there is some modest lab space available right now. The quickest thing that we're doing is opening up modular labs, which will be available in the next 6 months – spring of 2021. What we're seeing now is that there are companies that don't want to wait until 2022 or 2023, and we're trying to bridge them over with lab space by the end of next year. We expect there to be 3,500 sq ft of lab space in the Atrium and a few thousand in the modular facilities.

In 2022 we will be making available the next building at 44 Frid Street, which is the old Hamilton Spectator facility. That will be a 300,000 sqft facitliy, with 100k for data centre and 200k for life science facilities – this will be one of

Guest Speaker Discussion
the largest regional data centres in the province, co-located with wet labs. This will not only create economic value from a real-estate perspective, but also creates synergies that will be important for the ecosystem. The Gowlings building (191 Longwood) is scheduled to be done at the end of 2022, and will also include some life science space – however, this will be more in the sphere of incubator and accelerator space rather than big manufacturing space. We do need to support the early stage, and that's what this facility is about. In 2023, the bio-manufacturing facility that will be set up. You may have already heard about the expansion of CCRM at MIP, and it is their CDMO that will be in this new build. For us, CCRM is a classic example of what we are talking about when referencing the Life Sciences Corridor. CCRM will be keeping their existing MaRS footprint, but the new CDMO manufacturing capabilities will take place on the other end of the Corridor at MIP. It is more than a facility, their mission is to build a biomanufacturing campus that supports the needs of their spinouts and the broader ecosystem. Finally, we are looking forward to welcoming the Global Pandemic Nexus into the Glass Warehouse (606 Aberdeen) near the end of 2024. I would like to draw your attention to our new website: www.miptoday.ca where you can see highlights on all of the buildings, what is available in terms of time and space. If you go through the individual properties, and find out what is available in that facility, and when it might be open. With that, I'm going to bring it to an end
Question & Answers *Question: Can you provide a sense of the kind of demand that you've been seeing from companies for this space?* Answer: We're using private capital to develop this, so based on what the market needs. What we've seen both locally and in the Hamilton ecosystem and the broader Corridor, there is a lack of growth/graduation space. Whether you're graduating out of UTM or UHN or BEAM, where can you go? That is the demand that we'd identified. There is a regular need for this, and what we're trying to address. This could be anything from "I need 20,000 square feet to 150,000 square feet". As well, people want things now, which is what led us to develop the modular lab space. There is more start-up space in Ontario (e.g. Velocity, MIX), but not the same dearth as you see in the graduation space. *Question: With the printing press facilities at the Hamilton Spectator building, that building would make a great data centre – can you speak to your plans?* Answer: You read our minds! If you look at a data centre, one of the scare resources is power – what else uses power; printing presses. That is where we're going to be putting the data centre. Currently its going to be 50,000 square feet, but given how big the space is, there is the ability to grow it up to 100,000 square feet. *Question: Who is building/operating the datacentre at 44 Frid Street?* Answer: that is currently confidential as that is under negotiation. *Question: What is your strategy to grow the supporting services that will help benefit the companies that are at MIP (e.g., knowledge to build and grow CROs, legal services to handle patents)?*

Guest Speaker Discussion
Answer: Absolutely yes. If we build a bunch of buildings but don't create the ecosystem then it's all for naught. We have to elements of our strategy: one is to create the density so there are more people. The other part is to change the diversity. Case in point, we're bringing Gowlings to the park – which is Canada's largest IP law firm. But you also don't have to be at the park – we're going to make those amenities/contacts available. We're also trying to work with others on the funding capacity to make that is available. We're also working with BMO/RBC to advance life science funding cycle. Right now it's a bit piecemeal – we need funding at all stages of growth. The leadership piece is something we need to grow – the CEOs who know how to grow companies. While I wish to attract expats to come home, but more important is being able to tap into their expertise so that they can teach the next generation. That said, this is a multi-decade process, and we're building on the next chapter *Question: Ownership of buildings? Does the park or building owners hold Certificates of Approval to allow faster startups times for bio/chem wet lab users?* Answer: The way we work, the park is structured as two land trusts. One owns the land and the other owns the buildings on top of it. McMaster University is the beneficiary of the park – MIP is a company with one shareholder. All of the deals are done through long-term land-leases – we'll never sell the land. But anything above the land (e.g., buildings) can be owned from 0% to 100% by MIP. So we're looking for capital and development partners to build those buildings. I would expect development partners would be majority owners of those new facilities (e.g., private parties, under some GPL structure). For example, we won't have a participation stake in a hotel, but as we move into laboratory space we'll take a more active role. But those are discussions that we'll have with our partners. As it relates to Certificates of Approval, MIP proper will not do it, but we would look to those operating the lab and bio-manufacturing facilities to take on that task. looking for people opeating labs to take on the task of getting certificates of approval

Time allotted | *15 Minutes*

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
Bay Area Health Trust Invests in "Startup to Watch" – VoxNeuro (Oct 29, Business Wire) Bay Area Health Trust (bayareahealthtrust.com), is a Hamilton based company that operates businesses in the life sciences and seeks strategic opportunities in new technologies in the health and life science fields. VoxNeuro (voxneuro.com) has been dubbed as one of Hamilton's "startups to watch" from leaders across the industry. For Bay Area Health Trust, whose goal is to return value to its beneficiaries including Hamilton Health Sciences, the investment in VoxNeuro is an investment that will extend well beyond the region, benefitting the health care systems across Canada. "VoxNeuro represents all that is right about the Hamilton life science cluster of companies and institutions and as a part of that, Bay Area Health Trust is excited to support them both financially and through our network," said Peter Kalra, President and CEO of Bay Area Health Trust. VoxNeuro's neurotechnology is the only cognitive assessment in the world today that uses objective, quantifiable neurophysiological data to inform healthcare providers & patients with the specifics of various cognitive brain functions. "Three years ago our team chose to start VoxNeuro in Hamilton due to our ties to McMaster University and the draw of the strong local healthcare ecosystem. Bay Area Health Trust is an integral investor in this region's life sciences community, connecting hospital networks and innovative technology. We're thrilled to have them in our corner." - James Connolly, CEO of VoxNeuro	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
'True champions' Charles and Margaret Juravinski come through again with $3-million health-care gift for Hamilton (Nov 2, The Spec) Hamilton philanthropist Charles Juravinski just celebrated his 91st birthday, but chose the occasion to give, not receive — and in a large way. Charles and Margaret Juravinski announced they are donating $3 million to health-care research in the city. This, in addition to the $3.3 million they donated last spring at the height of the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, to help fight the virus and fund brain health research. Among the projects that will benefit from their latest gift is one that will assess saliva-based COVID-19 testing for large asymptomatic populations, such as seniors in retirement homes. "Charles and Margaret are true champions," said Paul O'Byrne, vice-president of the Faculty of Health Sciences at McMaster University, in a news release. "They inspire us to be bold, collaborative and single-minded in the pursuit of finding answers to some of our most pressing health questions." The new money comes on the heels of the couple announcing last year what appeared to be their final donation: a $100-million legacy estate gift, to be activated upon their deaths, that	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
created the Juravinski Research Institute, a collaborative incubator for research between Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS), McMaster University, and St. Joseph's Healthcare. Read the full Hamilton Spectator article here	
Hacking SAS – SAS Health Hackathon Join the first biggest global hackathon on AI & Analytics and show the world your value, combining the power of SAS and Open Source on Microsoft power platform. Our goal is to educate and empower everyone to be involved in making the world a better place! For early stage start-ups that would like to use analytics and have prototype that they want to take to the market. We have a hackathon, more nurturing. We're going to put them in a three month incubator to create a prototype MVP. That will then be presented to major service integrators (e.g., Deloitte, KPMG). Important Dates: • Q4 2020: Define your challenge and prepare your team. • Jan-Feb 2021: Sign up for webinars • Mar 2021: Hack and Creative time • Apr 2021: Present to judges To learn more, reach out to Mark Morreale: Mark.morreale@sas.com	Mark Morrealse (SAS)
Innovation Canada's 50-30 Challenge has been launched The Government of Canada has stood up a new program to support companies achieve 50% representative on boards by gender and 30% underrepresented groups. A number of organizations have signed on and would like to see more sign up before we have a big launch. Learn more about the challenge here One of the reasons, we're reaching out is that we'd like to see organizations sign up early. Signing up as an early champion offers your company or organization the opportunity to partner with the Government of Canada to shape and co-develop this initiative, as well as to help raise the profile of your team and your community by publicly demonstrating your commitment to this high priority initiative. (50 – 30 Challenge Sign-up Form: https://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/icgc.nsf/eng/07708.html) To learn more, or to participate, please contact Joel Adams at: joel.adams@canada.ca	Joel Adams (Innovation Canada)
Connecting with McMaster University Co-op & Internship Program If anyone has an interest in reaching out to connect student talent, it's a good time to have this. There will be a lot of talent available in May. Good time to start identifying talent for student co-op or internship. Happy to connect you across campus, while my focus is BIOmed and Engineering, etc. If anyone has any interest about recruiting students, happy to have that conversation. Please reach out to Rachelle Ireson: iresonrl@mcmaster.ca	Rachelle Ireson (McMaster University)

Discussion	Presenter
Companies looking for MSc eHealth Student Interns – Job Postings Close Jan 29 Although virtual this year, we were excited and well-prepared to welcome 34 full-time MSc eHealth students into the program this fall. Within this year's cohort you will find students from various disciplines including Health Sciences, Life Sciences, Engineering and Business, as well as professionally trained nurses, kinesiologists, a pathologist and a dentist. This newest cohort has been preparing for their careers in the digital health sector and are eager to secure their internship scheduled for May – December 2021. I would like to invite you to meet these exceptional students during Phase 1 of our recruitment cycle. We are now accepting job postings. Here are the Key Dates for the 2 phases of our 2020/2021 Internship Recruitment Cycle: Dec. 7, 2020: Phase 1 - Job Postings Open Jan. 29, 2021: Phase 1 - Job Postings Close Jan. 11 – Feb. 8, 2021: Phase 1 - Interview Period Feb. 8, 2021 (end of day): Employer Rankings Due Feb. 15, 2021: Rank/Match Results Feb. 16, 2021: Phase 2 (Continuous) - Job Postings Open Please Note: Only Phase 1 recruitment will include a rank/match process. Phase 2 will be a continuous posting to offer round. Next Steps To participate in the internship program, simply email: 1) your job description and 2) your preferred interview date(s) to Marg Leyland @ leylanma@mcmaster.ca. I will take care of all the details including posting and promoting your role to students, gathering applications and scheduling your interviews. Resources Available for eHealth Internship Employers • Student Work Placement Program (SWPP) • Up to $5,000 for every student you hire through the program • Up to $7,000 for every student you hire that is in their first year or is from an under-represented group • Ontario Co-op Tax Credit Corporations can claim 25% of eligible expenditures (30% for small businesses). The maximum credit for each work placement is $3,000	Marg Leyland (McMaster)
Fusion Pharmaceuticals Announces Collaboration with AstraZeneca to Develop and Commercialize Next-Generation Radiopharmaceuticals and Combination Therapies (Nov 2, Business Wire) Fusion Pharmaceuticals Inc., a Hamilton-Ontario based clinical-stage oncology company focused on developing next-generation radiopharmaceuticals as precision medicines, today announced a collaboration with AstraZeneca to develop and commercialize next-generation alpha-emitting radiopharmaceuticals and combination therapies for the treatment of cancer.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
The collaboration leverages Fusion's Targeted Alpha Therapies (TATs) platform and expertise in radiopharmaceuticals with AstraZeneca's leading portfolio of antibodies and cancer therapeutics, including DNA Damage Response Inhibitors (DDRis). Under the terms of the agreement, the companies will discover, develop and commercialize novel TATs, which will utilize Fusion's Fast-Clear™ linker technology platform with antibodies in AstraZeneca's oncology portfolio. In addition, the companies will exclusively explore certain specified combination strategies between TATs (including Fusion's lead candidate FPI-1434) and AstraZeneca therapeutics, for the treatment of various cancers. Both companies will retain full rights to their respective assets.	
ClearToe Therapy Light by ToeFx is Approved by Health Canada ToeFX Inc., The Forge alumnus, has received approval from Health Canada for its non-invasive ClearToe Therapy Light, making it the only photodynamic therapy approved by Health Canada for the treatment of onychomycosis, a nail fungal infection. The ClearToe Therapy light is based on photodynamic therapy (PDT) technology and works together with a ClearToe Serum, without the use of lasers. "We are seeing huge patient demand for a safe, painless treatment," said Dr. Irit Van-Ham, CTO of ToeFX Inc. "Earning these approvals means that clinicians can buy with confidence. We are focused on creating an end-to-end solution for the treatment of this extremely prevalent infection."	Riley Moynes (The Forge)
Hamilton officials say trade zone will boost community's economy post-pandemic (Hamilton Spectator, Nov 11) Hamilton became the third municipality in Ontario to be designated a foreign trade zone in what officials say could prompt the area to rebound from the coronavirus pandemic slowdown. "Because of this designation this will actually attract investment and expand markets because of the advantage of doing business in this designation," said Hamilton West-Ancaster-Dundas Liberal MP and Labour Minister Filomena Tassi. The foreign trade zone, or FTZ, designation allows goods to flow into Canada, tax- and duty-free, where they can be used to manufacture products for export. If those products are sold to other countries and not in the Canadian market, no tax and duty are payable. The policy boosts export-oriented businesses by exempting them from tariffs and HST, which can be confounding for businesses. Hamilton's economic development executive director Norm Schleehahn said having the trade zone is another "strategic advantage" the city can use to attract companies to locate in the area. "The program offers white-glove, front-of-the-line service to dedicated government agencies that specialize in foreign investment," he said.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Hamilton-based HT Productions Inc. (Whitebird) receives $3.9M in FedDev funding (Hamilton Spectator, Nov 10) Hamilton-based packaging manufacturer and supplier HT Productions Inc. will receive close to $4 million in FedDev Ontario federal funding that will create nearly 50 new skilled jobs in the city. Speaking to The Spectator on Monday, Economic Development Minister Mélanie Joly said the company will be able to expand its facility and "adopt a more customer-centric online system"	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
with the money. They will also be able to secure new "cutting-edge" advanced manufacturing equipment while the online system will "better accommodate customer orders," according to a press release. Joly said amid COVID-19, where consumers have moved online, her department is looking to support businesses that have had to adapt and are following the need to "pivot." Amid the pandemic, the company also repurposed its die cutter to produce 100,000 face shields daily for major Ontario hospitals, according to the release. Read the full article here	
The Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats website launched Established by McMaster University, The Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats leverages collective strength and international networks, building an environment for the world's top experts across disciplines and sectors to work together. The collaborative efforts will ensure the world is better prepared to meet the challenges of future biological threats and will bolster the international recovery from the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative will be based in a purpose-built building designed to foster collaboration among connected experts across scientific, medical, social, economic and political dimensions. The new environment will provide space and infrastructure for pharma-grade drug screening platforms, ambulatory clinical space and biosafety level 3 facilities.	
New stem cell unit opens at Hamilton Health Sciences Ron and Nancy Clark Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapies Unit opens at Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre After months of construction and preparation, Hamilton Health Sciences' (HHS) Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre (JHCC) has officially opened a newly expanded unit for patients needing treatment for blood cancers. The new Ron and Nancy Clark Stem Cell Transplantation and Cellular Therapies Unit was unveiled at a virtual event on October 30. Physicians and staff at the unit will start providing patient care in November. The expansion was made possible through $25M in funding provided by the Government of Ontario, and through $5M raised by the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre Foundation through its Tomorrow Stems from You® campaign. The new unit is named in recognition of the late Ronald Clark and his wife Nancy Clark of Caledonia. The agri-business owner gifted more than $1M to the campaign. Ron, who died in 2019, was a patient at the Juravinski Hospital and Cancer Centre.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
St. Joe's Hamilton launches COVID-care at home (Healthcare Technology, Nov 18) Starting at St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton and Niagara Health, with rapid expansion to Kitchener, a new model of care for COVID patients will provide 24/7 access to high-quality care from one integrated team in the home and in community settings like retirement homes, shelters and hospices. COVID Care @ Home is a uniquely designed program intended for those with a confirmed COVID diagnosis who do not require hospitalization. Complimenting existing local COVID initiatives, the	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
program will support integrated care at home, early discharge from hospitals with supports and help to prevent hospitalization. It will also help to prevent outbreaks by providing Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) and coaching support for community congregate settings. Patients will be assessed to determine what level of service will be provided. Vulnerable patients who are at risk of hospitalization and who require additional supports and services will have access to an integrated clinical care team, remote monitoring and at-home and virtual visits to support a safe recovery at home. This same model of care will be available to patients discharged from hospital so they can safely return home sooner. This innovative, flexible model will provide COVID patients access to services that may not typically be within the scope of traditional home and community care supports. Patients will be cared for by one integrated team representing a variety of providers whose using a single electronic patient record to support patients	
HHS goes ahead full-force with Epic (Healthcare Technology, Nov 18) Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) confirmed that it is taking the next step toward digital transformation by renewing its hospital information system (HIS) using the Epic solution. This multi-year project will enable significant advancements in the safety and efficiency of health service delivery at one of the province's largest hospital networks. "Today's hospitals must transform to keep pace with a changing society where technology, demographics and patient expectations are constantly and rapidly evolving," said Rob MacIsaac (pictured), president & CEO, HHS. "The expansion of Epic software to inpatient care will usher HHS into a new era that prioritizes digital over paper and enables greater connection between hospital and patient." The decision follows an extensive, 18-month consultation and assessment process involving hundreds of hospital staff, physicians, patients, and community partners. The hospital is following the vision established by St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton's (SJHH) through a competitive procurement of its enterprise hospital information system in 2015, which provided for other organizations within the Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network to also deploy Epic, and is implementing its own instance using the SJHH RFP. The new system will put HHS on a common platform with many world-leading healthcare organizations, including regional hospital partner, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton. A common platform will be an important enabler of integrated healthcare in the Hamilton region. Healthcare providers will have a single, interwoven picture of the patient's medical record, including medications, problems, allergies, lab results, imaging, previous visits, and medical history. Provincially, HHS' McMaster Children's Hospital will benefit from greater integration with children's hospital partners already on the Epic platform.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
The expected two-year implementation process marks the largest investment in IT infrastructure in HHS' history. The HIS renewal project is part of HHS' broader plan to modernize its digital and technological assets.	
ToeFX wins BMO Celebrating Women Grant Program Congratulations to ToeFX for being BMO Celebrating Women 2020 Grant Recipients! Over 1000 women business owners across Canada applied for the grant to receive one of ten $10,000 grants to celebrate their innovation and resilience with their business in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. To determine the 10 grant recipients, BMO engaged our key strategic partners and established an advisory committee and judging panel consisting of leaders from GroYourBiz, Women Presidents' Organization (WPO), Women Get On Board, Women Business Enterprises Canada, Women Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, and Deloitte. About ToeFx: Millions of people suffer from the embarrassment and discomfort of toenail fungus. ToeFX provides a safe, effective solution based on photodynamic therapy, developed in collaboration with a research laboratory at McMaster University. The ClearToe Therapy Light is approved by Health Canada and is clinically proven to be a pain-free treatment for toenail fungus. ToeFX Inc. was founded in 2016 by Dr. Irit Van-Ham, a toxicologist and formulation chemist who immigrated to Canada about 15 years ago. Irit's interest in treating toenail fungus began after her mother developed toenail fungus as a side-effect of the chemotherapy she was receiving for breast cancer. Thankfully, Irit's mother recovered, but Irit's passion for helping others "show off their toenails" persists to this day.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Nominations Open: President's Awards for Community Engaged Research (deadline Jan 29) Nominations are now open for the President's Awards for Community Engaged Research. The awards recognize and celebrate teams of campus and community representatives who are either leading, or involved in community-campus research partnerships that are having an impact in the Golden Horseshoe and southwestern Ontario. The awards include a $10,000 grant towards furthering a specific community-engaged research project. The awards will be available to teams with a minimum of one faculty member and one community representative who have demonstrated a commitment to initiating and supporting excellence in community-campus research initiatives.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
Biotech campus at McMaster Innovation Park billed as job creator, pandemic fighter (Hmailton Spectator, Nov 19) Seventeen years ago this month, The Spectator quoted a consultant who predicted it would take decades for Hamilton to develop a bioscience technology sector, due to a lack of available land, and because companies weren't knocking down the city's door to be "anchor tenants." But news out of McMaster Innovation Park suggests it's anchors aweigh for biotech in the city, with a new star tenant coming to the 14-year-old technology and research hub off Longwood Road. CCRM, a not-for-profit organization that develops regenerative medicine and cell and gene therapies, is partnering with MIP to build a "biomanufacturing campus."	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
Ground will break on the project sometime next year in a brownfield site at the corner of Aberdeen Avenue and Longwood where a Westinghouse plant facility once stood. Michael Israels, CCRM's chief financial officer, says the campus will be the first of its kind in the world, creating hundreds of jobs in Hamilton, and also will develop medicines that will strengthen Canada's ability to combat future pandemics. MIP CEO Ty Shattuck said the initial building — called a contract development and manufacturing organization (CDMO) — will be 100,000 square feet, leading to construction employment but also ultimately 300 to 500 permanent jobs. Israels cautioned that it is still early days in the partnership; a news release from CCRM highlighted that a "letter of intent" between the parties to go forward with the vision has been signed. MIP needs to secure funding from private sources, and CCRM from federal and provincial levels of government. The total development is projected to cost upwards of $250 million.	
Mohawk College Opens Centre for Entrepreneurship during Global Entrepreneurship Week Global Entrepreneurship Week 2020 is being marked at Mohawk College with the launch of The Centre for Entrepreneurship, in response to increasing demand for education and training by a growing number of aspiring entrepreneurs. Global Entrepreneurship Week is November 16-22 this year. During that week, Mohawk is launching the Centre for Entrepreneurship, building on the existing stand-alone student experiential learning hubs (SURGE, the Agency, and the Collective). With these areas collected under one umbrella, The Centre for Entrepreneurship will introduce a number of new programs that will impact students, alumni, and the community, in response to the demand for training for new entrepreneurs. This year, despite having fewer students enrolled at the college and remote and virtual learning keeping students from gathering, the number of students engaged at SURGE, Mohawk's student entrepreneurial hub, has doubled. It's a trend that has been building for a number of years – and the pandemic hasn't slowed it down. The new Centre for Entrepreneurship is going to open up many more programs and opportunities for education and collaboration for students, for members of the public and for local businesses.	Neil Wilkinson (Mohawk College)
Early-Stage Ventures for Clinical Health Innovation Program @ McMaster Are you a start-up making waves in the health innovation space? Would your solution benefit from valuable clinical insight and feedback? The Clinical Health Innovation Program (CHIP) at the Michael G. Degroote School of Medicine is inviting early stage health ventures to share their early-stage technologies during "clinical advisory" sessions in the program. Selected startups will have the opportunity to speak with medical students, residents and practicing clinicians to discuss challenges, opportunities, and solicit feedback for their solutions. Sessions will take place in 2021: on February 23, March 16, April 6, or April 27 from 8-9:00 pm on Zoom. If your startup is interested, please fill out this form by December 31, 2020. We are excited to get to know you and thank you for your interest! For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Sarrah Lal, Education Director of Clinical Health Innovation Program (sarrah@mcmaster.ca)	Sarrah Lal (McMaster University)

Discussion	Presenter
Residency @ The Clinic Adds 14 New Health Innovation Teams In October, The Clinic welcomed 14 new teams to its Health Innovation Residency Program. The selected teams are emerging health innovators from a variety of disciplines. Teams use the program's innovation coaches, the network of mentors, market and patent databases, and exclusive learning opportunities to progress their projects.	Leigh Wilson (McMaster)
TELUS launches new $100 million social impact fund to invest in new sustainable businesses with bold ideas to drive social change TELUS announced the launch of a new TELUS Pollinator Fund for Good, a $100 million social impact investment fund created to power the biggest, boldest, bravest ideas in new responsible and sustainable startup businesses. The fund will invest in entrepreneurs building solutions aimed at improving healthcare, furthering social and economic inclusion, ensuring sustainable food production, and reducing our environmental footprint. The TELUS Pollinator Fund for Good will fuel greater social innovation in Canada through investments in companies that generate both financial and social returns benefiting our society.	Darren Lawless (McMaster)
Canada's Regulatory Medtech Conference 2020 (Nov 30 – Dec 8) Medtech Canada's not to be missed regulatory conference for the medical technology industry. Attendees will hear from and engage with Health Canada and other stakeholders as well as have opportunities for networking. Virtual Event Dates, November 30, December 1, 7, and 8 Medtech Canada's Regulatory Conference Planning Committee is working hard to ensure the most important aspects of the in-person conference that you have come to expect are offered virtually. Below are just some of the features of Medtech Canada's 1st Virtual Conference: Multiple Networking Opportunities with Health Canada, including: Book virtual meetings, Chat with Health Canada live, Ask questions in advance & live Register and learn more here	Katharine Ashford-Smith (MedTech Canada)
Building New Leaders: An OBIO Fireside Chat (Dec 3) On Dec 3rd, OBIO will be hosting a fireside chat with four innovative health science companies, discussing the talent and skills they look for to support the growth of their businesses. Featuring Baylis Medical, Conavi Medical, Custom Biologics and Microbix Biosystems, this unique event will include discussion about these companies' strategies for finding the right talent as they grow and thrive. The event will also launch a new OBIO report addressing talent development, 'Building New Leaders: Developing the Health Science Workforce of Tomorrow.' Following the fireside chat, attendees can also register for breakout room discussions on a first-come first-served basis directly with the company speakers. Space in the breakout discussion rooms is limited, so register today	Andreea Norman (OBIO)

Discussion	Presenter
MILO Innovation Showcase event is happening on December 16th McMaster's Industry Liaison Office (MILO) is highlighting COVID related research that's happening at the university. Innovation Showcase provides the opportunity to connect the innovative research of faculty and students to industry and entrepreneurs who are equally passionate about transforming research into products and services. McMaster's 11th Innovation Showcase focuses on McMaster's research expertise applied to the COVID-19 pandemic spanning across all industries – ranging from development of products to support widespread testing, vaccine and treatment options to validation and manufacturing of protective equipment to how to deal with the digital new world of teaching and education. Expert Panelists & Breakout Rooms (Session 1): • Vaccine Development (Karen Mossman & Matthew Miller) • Personal Protective Equipment (CEPEM) (Ravi Selvaganapathy & Alison Fox Robichaud) • Tracing and Mutations around COVID 19 (Andrew McArthur & Hooman Derakhshani) Expert Panelists & Breakout Rooms (Session 2): • COVID-19 Testing and Sample Transportation (Yingfu Li & David Bulir) • COVID-19 Protective Immunity (Donald Arnold & Ishac Nazy) • NEXUS : Global Nexus for Pandemics and Biological Threats (Gerry Wright & Eric Brown) Click here to register	Gay Yuyitung (McMaster)
Ontario Life Sciences Export Business Mission to Medical Fair India (Feb 25-27, 2021) The Ontario government is organizing an export business mission to Medical Fair India for export-ready Ontario companies supplying technology, medical devices and medical equipment to the healthcare market. The trade show and conference are a platform for industry, regulators and policy makers to discuss the latest digital technologies and new approaches shaping health care in India. Medical Fair India has featured special events such as Clin Lab India, an exhibition and conference on laboratory medicine, point of care testing, molecular medical diagnostics and clinical chemistry; and FTR4H - Future for Health focused on big data, artificial intelligence, mobile technologies and IT. The event is organized by Messe Düsseldorf. Last year's trade show included 500-plus exhibitors, 17 countries, and nearly 15,000 visitors from hospitals and medical centres, medical schools and government health departments. The mission will offer delegates a clear understanding of the opportunities in the Indian health care sector. Ontario companies participating in the mission will receive targeted assistance from the Ontario government, including B2B meetings with Indian companies, hospitals and organizations; market intelligence and briefings on the health care industry in India; introductions to decision-makers in the Indian health care market; and access to networking events and potential speaking opportunities at Medical Fair India	Carolynn Reid (City of Hamilton)

Discussion	Presenter

JLABs Events Going Virtual (various)
 	
• Is it All Genetic? The Role of Biology and Driver Genes in Childhood Cancer (Nov 5)
  ○ Is it really all genetic? Join JLABS on November 5 to hear experts in this field discuss work being done to more deeply understand the gene-disease relationship of childhood cancers, the development of novel strategies and therapeutics that target pediatric-specific driver genes, and how bedside, rapid tumor genetic testing can improve identification at diagnosis and relapse.
• Meet with ... BioGeneration Ventures (Nov 13)
  ○ On 24 June 2020 BioGeneration Ventures announced1 they closed their BGV IV fund of €105 million. The investments will focus on entrepreneurial innovation in therapeutics in Europe. Join JLABS virtually on 13 November, where Edward van Wezel, Managing Partner of BioGeneration Ventures, will elaborate on the firm's aim to build new companies around either single assets or technology platforms with the goal of creating transformational new medicines.
• Medical Device Startup: The Path from Academia to Company (Nov 19)
  ○ Every entrepreneur knows that the road to innovation can be filled with unexpected turns and many bumps along the way. For many medical device innovators, the path from ideation to production is constantly rerouting, making it especially hard to succeed. Coming from within the trenches of a large academic institution is often times considered as a roadblock itself. So… where do you start? Where do you turn to find the best pathway from the inside out? How do you drive your idea into disruption? JLABS as they welcome experts in the space who share their views on how to tackle the roadblocks along your path
 	
To learn more about upcoming JLABs events, click here
	Amanda Raponi (JLABS)

MGD-HICE Educational Webinars & DevTank Meetings Operating out of the Michael G. DeGroote School of Medicine at McMaster University, the Michael G. DeGroote Health Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship (MGD-HICE) aims to accelerate the exploration of health innovation opportunities and creation of socioeconomic impact. Check out the full suite of programming here	Sarrah Lal (MGD-HICE)
Government Calls for Innovative Solutions • 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.	Innovation Factory & Synapse Consortium

Discussion	Presenter
• Government of Canada is speeding up the importation and sale of medical devices used to diagnose, treat or prevent COVID-19. Here is information about expediting access and authorization for diagnostic devices for use against coronavirus (COVID-19). • Government of Canada will launch specific challenges through the Innovative Solutions Canada (ISC) program and will rapidly select the best projects to accelerate development and testing of promising innovations that can have a direct impact on our health care response. Also use the ISC Testing Stream to become the first customer of these innovative products. • The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) will organize an NRC COVID-19 Challenge Program, composed of teams of government, academic and private sector partners to address a range of medium term PHAC and HC needs, including personal protective equipment, sanitization, diagnostic and testing, therapeutics, and disease tracking technology. The most promising solutions will be selected for procurement, working with Innovative Solutions Canada. • 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. • Ontario Website for PPE Suppliers to Post Products for Sale: Review a list of companies that sell personal protective equipment (PPE) and other supplies to keep your employees and customers safe from COVID-19. Apply to be added to the workplace PPE supplier directory 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.	

Time allotted | *15 Minutes*

Topic: **Collaborate & Accelerate**

Partnership opportunities, programming and resources available to the community, market gaps and challenges, learn about potential funding opportunities, discuss new RFPs issued, etc.

Discussion	Presenter
Praxis SCI Accelerate 2021 Program (Applications close Dec 10th) A six-month commercialization program geared towards healthcare companies with a product ready to launch into market that will transform the lives of people living with SCI. We're looking for post-prototype companies creating care/cure solutions that benefit people with SCI and beyond. Application Link and 2020 Cohort Testimonial Video	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
MMRI Industrial Training Program The McMaster Manufacturing Research Institute (MMRI) invites participation in our new industry training program. The goal of this program is to build problem solving skills so participants can be proactive contributors in a rapidly changing workplace environment. This educational program uses a problem-based learning approach to address a wide range of topics of direct importance to advanced manufacturing. Three streams of study are offered through the program: Advanced Manufacturing Materials, Advanced Manufacturing Processes, and Industry 4.0. Starting with a problem or performance improvement opportunity, learners generate a project, take a series of courses to build their background and then apply those skills to complete their project. Courses are structured around real industry challenges and build applied knowledge by covering the fundamentals, using demos and case studies to make it real. Upon completion participants earn a certificate of completion from McMaster University in one or more streams. For more information, feel free to reach out to our team at mmri-ed@mcmaster.ca. We are happy to answer any further questions you may have and look forward to partnering with you on this new learning initiative. Courses are being offered starting in October 2020, and you can apply anytime, as courses will be repeated. By taking one course per week, you can obtain a certificate in one stream in 3 months. You can obtain certificates in all three streams in 6 months.	Stephen Veldhuis (McMaster MMRI)
Engaging Mohawk College's IDEAWORKS 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: Tips for Innovation Factory Referrals to IDEAWORKS • Our four innovation centres (MEDIC for Digital Health, AMIC for 3D printing, EPIC for energy efficiency related projects and MTIC for Medical Technologies related challenges) are active during this time- but note that due to existing commitments, are often looking at projects one month to three months in the future. • Other areas of expertise are on a case by case basis, especially this year, with a number of our faculty committed to teaching and revamping courses • The ideal applied research partner is one that is in the scaling stage; they have some revenue and can meet a lot of the funding agencies criteria for funding or want to	Andrea Johnson (Mohawk College)

Discussion	Presenter
self-fund a research project. Typically what we look for is 2+2; two years in business with two employees • We recommend working with us on projects that aren't mission critical but can help the company explore an innovative idea. What about start-ups? • If they require a few tips or advice, we can normally chat with them (or if there is a critical mass -like five or six companies in a space-, we can do a webinar type discussion). • They can see about the availability of capstone projects, where students generally work on projects for a four month period, for free, in order to get course credit. It may help with MVPs. Contact Andrea Johnson for more information: andrea.johnson4@mohawkcollege.ca	
The CONNECTION - McMaster University Online Partnerships Portal! The Connection is a new program offered by McMaster's Office of Community Engagement (OCE) designed to facilitate online, mutually beneficial partnerships between campus and local Hamilton community organizations. As communities look for ways to adapt and rebuild in response to COVID-19 The Connection will make the process of addressing Hamilton community and University identified needs easier by providing online tools and resources. 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	Gay Yuyitung (MILO)
Collaborating with McMaster Institute for Infectious Disease Research (New Intake Form) In addition to our ongoing COVID-19 research initiatives at McMaster, the Michael G. DeGroote 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. 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: • BSL2 cell culture infection with representative human coronaviruses; • Testing of methods or products that are designed to inactivate the virus; • Biochemical/enzyme studies with anti-viral agents. 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. If you have a product or innovation that you are interested in pursuing further and feel that we could be of assistance to you, please reach out to us through the online form. Each project will be evaluated to determine if McMaster has the capabilities and capacity to perform the required testing.	Gay Yuyitung (MILO)

Discussion	Presenter
Hamilton Innovation Partnership Portal 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. 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. Portal is online through the Synapse website: http://synapseconsortium.com/partner/	Andrea Lee (HHS)
Submit Community Events on the Innovation Factory Calendar 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.	Riley Moynes (Innovation Factory)

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)