

Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

July 2021

Join our [mailing list!](#)

STANDING AGENDA TOPICS:

- **Guest Speaker Discussion:** insights around the experience and expertise of an invited speaker, focusing on a subject that may be of interest to the broader community
- **Communicate:** share recent successes, upcoming events, innovation pipeline and new products, health innovation trends, etc.
- **Collaborate & Accelerate:** welcome new members to community, partnership opportunities, discover programming and resources available to the community, discuss market gaps and challenges, learn about potential funding opportunities, new RFPs issued, etc.

Facilitator & Note Taker
Virtual Location

Alex Muggah, Director, Synapse Consortium
Join Zoom Meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/405351918>
Dial in: +1-647-558-0588,,405351918#
Register here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uZQodOyppzoiQnRwfvVuEJtEMUpKPUZPzg>

Next Monthly Check-up: August 30th 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 [Hamilton Health Ecosystem Directory](#) and the [Health Innovation Partnership Portal](#) (HIPP) to facilitate finding new partners within Canada's leading health research and educational ecosystem located in Hamilton, Ontario.

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.


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](#)

August

- Aug 12: [IP Bootcamp: Managing Risks, A practical Approach](#) (VentureLab)
- Aug 18: [10th Anniversary of Innovation & Growth](#) (LSO)
- Aug 19: [LSO Webinar: Biomanufacturing](#) (LSO)
-  Aug 30: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)

September and Beyond

- Sep 7: [Next Wave of Immune Engagers in Hematological Malignancies](#) (JLABS)
- Sept 9: [Raising Capital & Forming Strategic Partnerships with Industry in Medical Devices](#) (JLABS)
- Sept 15: [Building Better Teams by Fostering Equity in Early-Stage Life Science Companies](#) (JLABS)
- Sept 16: [Export Pitch Practice Workshop](#) (Government of Ontario)
- Sept 16: [Emerging Leaders Community Day](#) (ONEIA)
- Sept 20: [Health Venture 1](#) (MGD Health Innovation, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship)
-  Sept 27: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- Oct 5-6: [MedTech Conference 2021](#) (MedTech Canada)
- Oct 13-14: [FHIR North Conference](#) (Mohawk College)
- Oct 14: LSO [Celebration of Success – Annual Awards Presentation](#) (LSO)

Looking to engage the Hamilton Health Ecosystem?



In partnership with Innovation Factory and Synapse Consortium partners, leverage up to \$100,000 to work directly with an academic or hospital partner in the Hamilton ecosystem. Funding will support collaborative projects for Ontario-based life science firms requiring clinical/research expertise, evidence, or data to commercialize their innovation. Learn more about SOPHIE [here](#)



Leverage up to \$15,000 in funding to work directly with the Research Administration groups at Hamilton Health Sciences or The Research Institute at St. Joe's Hamilton to create the pre-trial protocols and documents required to undertake a commercialization project or clinical trial in one of Canada's leading research hospitals. Learn more about HEALTHI [here](#)

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
<p>Guest Speaker(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Jones Program Manager Life Sciences and SOPHIE Program, Innovation Factory <p>[presentation slides used, and are available for download from the Health Check-up website]</p>
<p>Discussion <i>[the following is a synopsis of the discussion, and has been lightly edited for length and clarity]</i></p> <p><u>Introduction to SOPHIE</u></p> <p>Thank you for that introduction. Today I'm here to discuss with you the Southern Ontario Pharmaceutical and Health Innovation Ecosystem (SOPHIE) program that is based out of Innovation Factory, working in partnership with members of the Synapse Consortium.</p> <p>As many of you know, Southern Ontario is rich in academic expertise and has a strong pipeline of intellectual property, and talent emerging from our universities and colleges. In addition to this, our research hospitals have strong clinical trial capabilities. There is a strong desire on the part of these institutions to leverage this infrastructure and capabilities in support of life science companies.</p> <p>Through Synapse, we had several conversations between the consortium partners to identify some of the critical components that what was inhibiting SMEs from successfully scaling and commercializing their products and technology. Supporting these efforts was seen as an important part of enabling these companies to secure follow-up on investment to fund further growth.</p> <p>Some of the areas that we identified included: access to academic and clinical expertise, specialized data, and resources/space to complete some R&D activities. The SOPHIE program was developed to bridge the gap between companies and the institutions that could provide expertise and capabilities needed to resolve these issues and then to scale and commercialize their novel technologies or products.</p> <p><u>SOPHIE Objectives</u></p> <p>In terms of objectives, SOPHIE seeks to connect life science firms with one of four Synapse partners in the Hamilton region - world class organizations with specialized expertise and facilities.</p> <p>The intent is for successful applicants to work collaboratively with an academic or clinical champion on a commercialization project. The goal is to be able to identify and solve a problem through a collaborative project.</p> <p>Once they've completed this project, our hope is that they will have accelerated the commercialization of their technology and develop intellectual property. Ideally, the results of the project can be leveraged to secure further investment, and eventually hire additional employees as they grow their business.</p>

Guest Speaker Discussion

This funding program is supported through the Government of Canada, the Federal Development Agency of Southern Ontario (FedDev). Our four academic/clinical partners that we've partnered with are: Hamilton Health Sciences, St. Joseph's Healthcare Hamilton, McMaster University and Mohawk College

How does funding work

In terms of the amount of funding that is available, the maximum that each company can access is \$100,000 through the SOPHIE program. In order to unlock this funding, each company will need to provide a match of 1.25 x 1 (or \$125,000 if securing the max amount). The company contribution match has two components, a cash contribution (at least 0.35 x 1) and an in-kind contribution (0.90 x 1). Thus in the event that you are seeking the maximum allowed, a company will need to provide at least \$35,000 in cash to the project activities.

Some examples of what an in-kind contributions are things like employee salaries, consumables that are used to execute the project, or demo products that might be consumed during the project. In addition to the SOPHIE funding, the academic/clinical partner is expected to make an in-kind contribution of at least 0.35 x 1 (i.e., up to \$35k) to the project activities. In addition to this, we've capped the project overhead charges by our academic/hospital partners at 10%, so that more of the SOPHIE funds can be used to the collaborative project.

In summary, in terms of total project, a company can put in \$125k, the academic/clinical partner \$35k, which will be matched by \$100k from SOPHIE. Thus with each parties contribution taken into account, there is quarter million dollars that can be deployed against the commercialization project.

Company SOPHIE Eligibility

In terms of company eligibility, you do need to be a Canadian incorporated company with operations primarily based in Ontario. There is some flexibility if you're based in other Canadian locations – but we are trying to focus on the Southern Ontario region. Our focus is on life science companies, who are developing an innovative technology or service that is at the [TRL-6 level](#) or above.

All successful applicants will need to partner with a principal investigator / clinical champion at the academic or hospital partner institution where the project will take place. This is where the project will take place.

Companies that haven't identified a partner should reach out to me and the SOPHIE team, as it is part of our job to meet with applicants, learn a little bit about your innovation, and then determine whether there is a good fit with the SOPHIE program. Where there is alignment, part of our role at Synapse and Innovation Factory is to facilitate relationships and connections with the appropriate experts in the Hamilton ecosystem.

In terms of the types of projects that are eligible, we have said that companies need to undertake a "commercialization project" with an academic or hospital partner. We are being deliberately vague about defining specific activities, as there are many different possible ways for a company to catalyze and accelerate their commercialization efforts. That said, there are two types of projects that we have seen companies express an interest in undertaking: (a) clinical trials and (b) scaling projects.

Clinical trials would be an instance where companies are obtaining data from human subjects to evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of your technology on clinical outcomes. Scaling projects are those where a company will work with an investigator to develop methods to optimize (or increase efficacy) of its technology.

Guest Speaker Discussion

In terms of sectors of innovation that we are focused on, we are focused on innovations in the following spaces: medical device, pharmaceutical / therapeutic interventions, and digital health technologies. We are open to considering other sectors, where appropriate.

SOPHIE Application Process

I'd like to quickly walk through the application process.

The first step is to visit the SOPHIE website (you can visit either the [Synapse](#) or [Innovation Factory](#)) where you fill in the online application form. The application form is relatively straightforward, including questions about whether you already have a clinical/academic partner (which you should list). If you don't have a partner, don't worry, part of our job is to help make you make those connections within the appropriate institution (see step 2). You can also find additional information about the program on the websites, including a more detailed [program guide](#) that I've written. Hopefully this information will answer any questions that you might have.

The second step of the application process consists of the identification and matching of companies with a academic or clinical champion in one of our partner institutions. We work closely with the research administration teams at each of the four partner institutions. In some cases the relationship is very easy to establish, while in others there may simply not be the capacity (or interest) to undertake a commercialization project. In addition, all companies looking to access SOPHIE funding will be asked to become clients of Innovation Factory – which is free and involves completing a [simple intake process](#) with one of their client services managers.

The third step of the application process involves an assessment by the SOPHIE team. Once companies have applied, and have developed a relationship and the scope of the project that will be undertaken with the academic/clinical partner, applicants will be asked to complete a one-page project proposal form, which asks two questions: (1) what is expected scope of work that will be undertaken, and (2) what is the expected business impact of the proposed project. The project proposal (and the company's initial application) be assessed by an independent SOPHIE Review Panel – which should be done in about 2 weeks. We will do our best to provide feedback to companies, especially where we see opportunities to help improve the project.

Finally, companies that are approved for SOPHIE funding will work with their academic/clinical partner to draft a contract which outlines the budget, scope of work, ownership of foreground IP and other consideration required to stand up the commercialization project. The SOPHIE team, in partnership with our partners, has developed a contract template that will be used by all SOPHIE participants in order to facilitate and expedite the contracting process. Once each party has signed, then companies can begin working on the project.

Expected Outcomes

Our goal is to help companies to generate new IP that can be moved forward, supporting the commercialization of new products. In addition, we are extremely interested in supporting the creation of new jobs and increasing economic output in the life sciences sector within Ontario. These outcomes reflect our alignment with the objectives of FedDev Ontario – helping to support a growing and more prosperous Ontario.

Thank you so much for having me here today. I would encourage anyone to please reach out to me as the SOPHIE Program Manager (Michael.Jones@innovationfactory.ca) for more information or if you have any questions about the program.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Question & Answers

Question: What is the duration of a SOPHIE project?

Answer: We haven't put a specific time length on the projects. But I could imagine that they could be anywhere between 3 to 12 months. Companies will have access to a project budget of \$260,000, which might be a resource constraint that limits the amount of time that you have to do project work. However, there no specific timeline requirement. As well, companies (or hospital / academic partners) who bring additional matching contributions to the project may have a larger budget, and thus longer timelines.

Question: I'm interested in the academic partner and their contribution. Is that already funded and committed, or do they need to do some fundraising to provide that.

Answer: This funding pool is a mechanism to support match-making and relationship building between companies and our partner institutions. The goal of the relationship with the academic partner is to provide the expertise and space to do the research. Most likely the funding source will be an in-kind contribution from the academic partner. However, that funding is not committed prior to the start of the project and needs to be negotiated and agreed upon on a case-by-case basis.

The particulars around the budget will be done on a case-by-case basis. It will be driven by who the clinical champions are, and the particular capabilities and assets that they can draw upon. There isn't an additional pool of money that has already been earmarked to fund the partner contributions. But I can say that our four partner institutions do hundreds of collaborative projects each year (with both public and private partners)– and so are well accustomed to identifying and determining in-kind contributions needed to support the delivery and execution of the these types of projects. Each of our partners has indicated a willingness and capacity to engage in multiple SOPHIE projects – so we don't expect this to be a major obstacle to standing up SOPHIE projects.

Question: Two clients who might be suitable for this – but from different parts of the country. I'm curious about the cash contribution – which is relatively small. Because this is coming from federal funds, if they obtained cash from another federally-sourced program, what does stacking look like?

Answer: Matching is not allowed. Other sources of federal funding is not allowed to be stacked against the SOPHIE cash contribution requirement. Cash needs to come from a non-federal source.

Treasury board rules stipulate that the mechanism by which Innovation Factory receives the money, and Synapse executes it, the match is considered a full 100% match. So federal funds can't be used as part of the \$35k. However, provincial funds or other grants can be used. The activities that are funded by another federal program can be brought in. For example, a PhD supported through a federal MITACS grant could be brought into work on the project, but their time/effort can't be considered a cash or in-kind contribution from a budgetary perspective.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Question: Around eligibility, which involves collaborating with a PI or clinical partner in the system. What if this is a company that had licensed technology from, say, a PI from McMaster. And now want to build up the business and could continue their R&D efforts. Is that something that is eligible?

Answer: This shouldn't be a problem, though we will coordinate with both the company and the academic partner to avoid conflicts of interest where the project appears to be benefiting a research lab, rather than the company. We are speaking with one company founded by a PI, where the proposed project work would happen in a separate laboratory at the institution – obviating opportunities for conflict of interest in that case.

Question: Regarding the contribution amount. Can it be financed?

Answer: There are no specific rules in which a for-profit can raise the monies required to unlock the FedDev funding. I think that would be a relationship and discussion that would occur between entities that support financing and the company itself. The SOPHIE team doesn't have any particular opinion about this approach – the key is to make sure that those dollars are not being used to unlock other federal matching dollars. Participating in SOPHIE doesn't preclude you from accessing other federal resources.

Question: How long have you been funding companies – and do you have any data on this?

Answer: we just got the funding for this program in April 2021, and so we've just finished standing up the project. We have one company that is pretty far along – which we hope to be able to announce soon. We have about 5 additional companies that we are in discussion with, who are seriously interested in participating in the SOPHIE program. Our goal is to support 15 companies each year, over the next three years.

Time allotted | 15 Minutes

Topic: **Communicate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p>VoxNeuro receives Health Canada Class II Medical Device designation</p> <p>VoxNeuro has received Health Canada Class II Medical Device designation for its proprietary Cognitive Health Assessment Management Platform™ (CHAMP). VoxNeuro will begin rolling out the software as a medical device across its Canadian Test Centers. This news comes hot on the heels of VoxNeuro’s FDA registration for the distribution of CHAMP as a Class II Exempt Medical Device in the US market this past May.</p> <p>VoxNeuro’s industry leading neurotechnology is elevating the evaluation of cognitive function. The CHAMP software works in tandem with VoxNeuro’s Cognitive Health Assessment™, a proprietary electroencephalography protocol. By analyzing electroencephalographic event-related potential (ERP) data gathered during the assessment, CHAMP provides rapid, objective and actionable scores of four key cognitive functions: memory, information processing, attention & concentration.</p> <p>Healthcare providers can use VoxNeuro’s cognitive scores to track cognitive health throughout aging, and to evaluate cognitive function when a brain disorder or symptoms related to cognitive dysfunction such as fatigue, memory loss or brain fog are suspected. Common types of brain disorders that can impact cognitive function include concussion, traumatic brain injury and dementia.</p> <p>Read the full Financial Post article here</p>	<p>Kim Elliot (VoxNeuro)</p>
<p>Mohawk launches 2021-2022 Interactive Visit Program for Canadian Health IT companies</p> <p>Access 20 hours of MEDIC @ IDEAWORKS Services for only \$250. The program connects small and medium-sized health IT companies with digital health solution architects and designers. Mohawk’s award-winning mHealth and eHealth Development and Innovation Centre (MEDIC) has launched the Interactive Visit Program, a new applied research service for Canadian companies that are in the planning stages for launching new digital health apps.</p> <p>The Interactive Visit Program is a flat-fee program that provides companies with 20 hours of applied research support from MEDIC – from helping refine a software development strategy to co-designing a roadmap for implementation. For clients of NRC IRAP, the \$2,500 fee for the applied research support is waived upon payment of a \$250 admin fee.</p> <p>MEDIC is a national Technology Access Centre (TAC) in Digital Health. Technology Access Centres (TAC) are specialized applied centres that are affiliated with a Canadian college. As a TAC, MEDIC helps companies to develop new applications or integrate their products with existing systems in the digital health space.</p>	<p>Andrea Johnson</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Learn more about MEDIC's expertise, the TAC Interactive Visits program (PDF). Book a meeting with MEDIC to learn more (for non-IRAP clients), or request an interactive visit (for IRAP clients)</p> <p>For more information, email MEDIC at ideaworks@mohawkcollege.ca</p>	
<p>Bay Area Health Trust is Hiring a new Product Manager</p> <p>We're hiring! We are looking for an energetic and customer obsessed Product Manager to join the Bay Area Health Trust Product team. Reporting to the Director, Business Development Office, you will be responsible for the development and execution of our product strategy, leading all areas of the product lifecycle from planning and design to road mapping and launch.</p> <p>If you are, or know someone meeting our needs for a product manager as described in our posting, please contact Catherine Winterburn or through the hiring platform.</p>	John Hands (BAHT)
<p>McMaster BDC Program looking for Companies Seeking Interns</p> <p>McMaster University's Master of Biomedical Discovery and Commercialization (MBDC) program is a multidisciplinary training program concentrated in the biomedical sciences. The program equips graduates with strong discovery research skills, business acumen and a meaningful internship experience in the Health Sciences sector.</p> <p>If you are considering hiring an intern to start in January, you will be eligible for a \$3,000 tax credit per semester, and support with applying for additional funding opportunities to help offset the cost. We consistently receive positive feedback from our employers who tell us that our students deliver fantastic results.</p> <p>We are currently looking for companies who are interested in hiring an intern to start in January 2022. For further information, please contact Jennifer Crane at cranej1@mcmaster.ca or Emily Taylor at tayloremily@mcmaster.ca. For further information on our internship program, please view our MBDC Internship Brochure.</p>	Jennifer Crane (BDC @ McMaster)
<p>Participate in Ontario Virtual Export Business Mission to The MedTech Conference, September 27-30, 2021</p> <p>Contact Patricia Cosgrove (Patricia.Cosgrove@ontario.ca) to learn more or register to be part of the Ontario Export Business Mission to the MedTech Conference 2021. While MedTech 2021 is in a hybrid format taking place in both Washington, DC, and Minneapolis, Minnesota, our program will be virtual.</p> <p>This event will be of interest to companies wishing to learn about what is required to do business in the United States. While the conference itinerary has not been finalized, you may visit the website for an overview of the topics that will be addressed at: www.themedtechconference.com.</p>	Patricia Cosgrove (MEDJTC)
<p>McMaster researchers, biotech firm team up to create vaccine strips that 'dissolve in your mouth'</p> <p>Researchers at McMaster University and a biotechnology firm in Burlington, Ont., are investigating the possible delivery of vaccines via a thin strip "that would dissolve in your mouth."</p>	Annie Horton (Innovation Factory)


Discussion	Presenter
<p>It would be similar to a Listerine breath strip, but would be infused with a COVID-19 or another vaccine. The team at McMaster and Rapid Dose Therapeutics say right now, COVID vaccines such as Pfizer and Moderna must stay within their recommended temperature ranges, from –15 C to –80 C, at all times. That means they rely on a complicated supply chain of freezers and temperature-controlled shipping methods. Read the full CBC article here</p>	
<p>FedDev launches new Jobs and Growth Fund</p> <p>The Jobs and Growth Fund provides funding to businesses and organizations to help create jobs and position local economies for long-term growth. The fund, delivered by Canada's regional development agencies (RDAs), provides \$700 million nationally over three years, which includes up to \$70 million dedicated to businesses created after January 2020 that meet eligibility criteria. For Southern Ontario, FedDev Ontario is investing \$224 million for companies and the organizations that support them.</p>	<p>Joel Adams (Innovation Canada)</p>
<p>Looking for innovators for the second Praxis SCI Incubate program</p> <p>The Praxis Spinal Cord Institute is recruiting for the second cohort of our Praxis Spinal Cord Injury Incubate program primes entrepreneurs for success by advancing their health technologies to the next level with resources and \$25,000 in funding, targeted SCI consumer and research mentoring, and commercialization expertise.</p> <p>Praxis is currently arranging calls with potential applicants, so companies wishing to learn more should contact the Praxis team to learn more. Additional information about Praxis SCI Incubate.</p>	<p>Andrew Forshner (Praxis Institute)</p>
<p>TechPlace Reopening July 26th</p> <p>The TechPlace team is excited to announce that a of July 26, 2021, TechPlace will be open for all LaunchPad businesses, Co-location Partners and Endorsed users, operating at 50% capacity. Learn more about protocols in place here.</p>	<p>Izabela Goclik (TechPlace)</p>
<p>‘What We Heard’ – Update on Government Consultations Regarding Creation of New Biomanufacturing Capacity for Canada</p> <p>The Department of Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) has published a summary of contributions from public consultations held on “Considering the Creation of New Biomanufacturing Capacity for Canada”. Interested parties are invited to review the “What We Heard” report, which has been published online and summarizes the feedback received during roundtable sessions, as well as from written submissions.</p>	<p>Brian Kelly (MIP)</p>
<p>COVID-19 Challenge: Transparent medical grade mask (Innovative Solutions Canada)</p> <p>A COVID-19 challenge related to the development of transparent medical grade masks has been posted – and is open until September 7. Interested companies are encouraged to apply.</p>	<p>Joon Kim (NRC-IRAP)</p>
<p>mHUB’s Accelerated Incubation – MedTech Program (applications open until Aug 23)</p> <p>MEDJTC sharing opportunity for Canadian start-ups on behalf of local partner mHUB, a manufacturing incubator and innovation center in Chicago with a \$6M prototyping lab, hardtech innovation programs, and a strong network of industry partners. Applications are open until August 23, 2021 for medtech companies to apply to mHUB’s Accelerated Incubation – Medtech program, which will select 10 companies (US & international) to participate in a 6 month intensive incubation program, with full 2 years of support, per the below details:</p>	<p>Patricia Cosgrove (MEDJCT)</p>


Discussion	Presenter
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic assistance in the areas of Entrepreneurial & Technical Training; Product Design & Engineering; Industry Networking & Marketing • Industry partner/sponsor is Baxter, global med device company headquartered in Chicago • Dedicated program Executive Director from the medtech industry • Participating start-ups will receive up to \$150,000 in initial funding as part of mHUB's Product Impact Fund in exchange for a 5% equity stake • Participating start-ups are expected to largely be physically in Chicago for the majority of the 6 month program, starting in Q4 2021. Although physical attendance is preferred, mHUB is flexible to arrangements that are not on-site 100% of the time, with company participants that can travel back & forth. • Program is intended for typically pre-seed (definitely pre-Series A) start-ups in the early prototyping stage with a medtech product • mHUB successfully launched their first Accelerated Incubation cohort focused on Industrial IOT in 2021, and this Medtech cohort will be their 2nd in an anticipated series of 10 sector-specific programs. <p>Please see the Online Application here and full program info here. Contact Molly.Banuelos@international.gc.ca or Julien.Rosan@international.gc.ca with any questions.</p>	
<p>Life Sciences Export Business Mission to Medical Fair India 2021 (Aug 19-21)</p> <p>The Medical Fair India focuses on medical products and medical technology, laboratory technology and diagnostics, equipment and furniture for clinics and health centres, and products for physiotherapy and rehabilitation.</p> <p>To participate, or for more information, contact Fanny Mendez: fanny.mendez@ontario.ca</p>	Fanny Mendez (MEDJCT)
<p>Biotechgate hosting free B2B matchmaking event (Aug 30 – Sept 3)</p> <p>Ontario Trade and Investment Office can work with Ontario life science companies looking to register to participate Biotechgate Digital Partnering will host three more virtual business development events in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • November 29, 2021 – December 3, 2021 • February 7 – 11, 2022 • May 9 – 13, 2022 <p>If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Raina Allen (Ontario Trade & Investment Office) raina.allen@international.gc.ca</p>	Patricia Cosgrove (MEDJCT)
<p>MGD-HICE Educational Webinars & DevTank Meetings</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Check out the full suite of programming here</p>	Sarrah Lal (MGD-HICE)

Time allotted | 15 Minutes

Topic: **Collaborate & Accelerate**

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

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Want to Connect with your Ecosystem: Check out the Synapse Health Ecosystem Directory</p> <p>Synapse has created a Director of +200 private- and public-sector organizations in the Hamilton (and regional) health innovation ecosystem which work alongside the Synapse Consortium to support of the commercialization of health innovation.</p> <p>Learn more about what others are up to, and identify potential collaborative partners at: www.synapseconsortium.com/directory</p>	<p>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</p> 
<p>Engaging Mohawk College's IDEAWORKS</p> <p>IDEAWORKS projects in general (of which, MEDIC is one area) which was provided and may help with identifying if Mohawk College can support our companies with projects. This might be a refresher for some or all of us, but highlighting nonetheless:</p> <p>Tips for Innovation Factory Referrals to IDEAWORKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our four innovation centres (MEDIC for Digital Health, AMIC for 3D printing, EPIC for energy efficiency related projects and MTIC for Medical Technologies related challenges) are active during this time- but note that due to existing commitments, are often looking at projects one month to three months in the future. • Other areas of expertise are on a case by case basis, especially this year, with a number of our faculty committed to teaching and revamping courses • The ideal applied research partner is one that is in the scaling stage; they have some revenue and can meet a lot of the funding agencies criteria for funding or want to self-fund a research project. Typically what we look for is 2+2; two years in business with two employees • We recommend working with us on projects that aren't mission critical but can help the company explore an innovative idea. <p>Contact Andrea Johnson for more information: andrea.johnson4@mohawkcollege.ca</p>	<p>Andrea Johnson (Mohawk College)</p>
<p>The CONNECTION - McMaster University Online Partnerships Portal!</p> <p>The Connection is a new program offered by McMaster's Office of Community Engagement (OCE) designed to facilitate online, mutually beneficial partnerships between campus and local Hamilton community organizations. As communities look for ways to adapt and rebuild in response to COVID-19 The Connection will make the process of addressing Hamilton community and University identified needs easier by providing online tools and resources. It's a way for everyone who sees themselves as part of a collective community-campus effort to connect and respond to COVID-19 locally</p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>
<p>Collaborating with McMaster Institute for Infectious Disease Research (New Intake Form)</p> <p>In addition to our ongoing COVID-19 research initiatives at McMaster, the Michael G. DeGroot Institute for Infectious Disease Research is mobilizing its strong research</p>	<p>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</p>

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

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

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

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

Learn More About COVID-19: Online Resources

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

Hospitals and Research Centres

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

Hamilton Community Partners

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

Government and Agencies

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

For Companies Making COVID-19 Related Medical Products

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