Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

June 2023

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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# Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uZQodOyppzoiQnRwfvVuEJtEMUpKPUZPzg

Next Monthly Check-up: July 31st 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 in Hamilton, Ontario.

Minutes for our monthly check-up meetings 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 online.

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: info@SynapseConsortium.com

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

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

Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

Check out Synapse's online calendar

July & August

- July 10: TechTOgether (TechTO)
- July 13: Brampton Venture Expo 2023 (Venture Zone)
- July 19: Life Sciences CONNECTED Roundtable
- July 20: Status of IDEA in Canada's Life Sciences Sector Launch Event (LSO & AMCHAM)
- July 27: Business After Business @ The Art Gallery of Hamilton (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce)
- July 28: Forge FC Game with Hamilton Chamber Network & YEP (Hamilton Chamber of Commerce)
- July 31: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)
- Aug 17: Life Science Ontario Golf Classic (LSO)
- Aug 28: Hamilton Health Check-up (Synapse Consortium)

September & Beyond

- Oct 2: Next Great Big Idea – Canada's life sciences innovation summit (NGBI)
- Oct 9-11: Medtech Conference (AdvaMed)
- Oct 12: Canada Healthcare Innovation Summit (Bamberg Health)
- Oct 12-13: 5th Annual Innovations in Science of Cannabis Conference (CMCR)
- Nov 13-16: MEDICA Healthtech Conference 2023 (MEDICAlliance)
- Jan 8-10: Biotech Showcase 2024 (EBD Group)
- Feb: Investment Summit 2024 (OBIO)

Looking to engage the Hamilton Health Ecosystem?

HEALTHI
Hamilton Ecosystem to Accelerate and Leverage Trials of Health Innovation

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
Guest Speaker(s): • Maya Farha, Founder & CEO Synmedix [Slides used during the presentation can be accessed here]
Discussion *[the following is a synopsis of the discussion, and has been lightly edited for length and clarity]* Introduction: The Rise of Antibiotic Resistance Good morning, my name is Maya, and I am the new CEO of Synmedix, a biotechnology company based in Hamilton, ON. Our focus at Synmedix is on the worldwide crisis that is antibiotic resistance. As many of you may know, the rate of antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections is on the rise and undermines the practice of modern medicine. The solution to this issue is to develop new therapies, but there is a lack of innovation. Many therapies are based on technology over 50 years old, and it is time for a new generation of antibiotics. The Discovery: The Bicarbonate Effect We founded Synmedix on an observation I made in Dr. Eric Brown's lab at McMaster University. Bicarbonate is a dominant buffer in the human body that enhances the action of many antibiotics and components of the innate immune system. This observation indicated we should exploit the bicarbonate effect to develop the next generation of antibiotics. So our platform technology at Synmedix is simple and involves an antibiotic formulated with bicarbonate. The powerful combination not only enhances antibiotic activity but also extends activity. For example, azithromycin, part of our first product, is a macrolide antibiotic. The concentration of azithromycin required to kill 90% of methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) isolates, which are notoriously resistant to macrolide antibiotics, is 256 µg/mL (micrograms per milliliter), which is not a clinically relevant concentration. However, in physiological concentrations of 25 mM (millimolar) bicarbonate, the minimum inhibitory concentration of azithromycin against MRSA is 2µg/mL, a clinically relevant concentration and clinical breakpoint. We saw the same minimum inhibitory concentration enhancement with Pseudomonas aeruginosa. Pseudomonas aeruginosa is a gram-negative bacteria not susceptible to macrolide antibiotics like azithromycin, yet we saw this enhanced activity with bicarbonate. Therefore, we are reversing acquired resistance, as in the case of MRSA, and overcoming intrinsic resistance, like in the case of Pseudomonas aeruginosa. We have a lot of preclinical validation and animal models of skin infection, as well as ex vivo models of human skin, where enhancement of azithromycin bicarbonate is evident against some of the most troublesome resistant pathogens.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Patent Portfolio: Use of Bicarbonate for Synergistic Antibiotic Action

Our IP is strong. We have 2 granted U.S. patents for a composition of azithromycin and bicarbonate. We are growing our IP portfolio to include a vast list of antibacterial and antiseptics whose activities enhance the presence of bicarbonate. We also have an issued patent in Japan and a pending one in Europe.

Prioritizing Target Indications: Diabetic Foot Ulcer Infections

We are excited to expand to a wide range of potential therapeutic indications. However, bicarbonate is present systemically everywhere in our bodies, so it is hard to modulate concentration. So we are looking at local therapy, specifically, topical treatment of chronic wounds that suffer from poor perfusion to deliver systemic antibiotics and bicarbonate. On the top of our list is diabetic foot ulcer infections. The medical need here is staggering, with half a billion diabetes patients worldwide, 100 million foot ulcers, and over half of the ulcers leading to infections, which can lead to amputation.

A diabetic amputee has a five-year mortality rate, second only to lung cancer. Despite this immense need, no approved antibiotic treatment for this indication exists. The International Working Group on Diabetic Foot recently called for validated topical antibiotics. We await institutional review boards (IRB) approval to start an investigator-led trial with a podiatry specialist in New York.

We aim to be the first treatment against this infection directly and spare patients from ill side effects. Synmedix is poised to deliver the first antibiotic approved for diabetic foot ulcer infections. We have potent efficacy against all the pathogens relevant to this chronic disease.

With topical treatment, we can reduce side effects and spare the microbiota. With safety profiles for known antibiotics like azithromycin and a benign substance led by bicarbonate, we leverage an accelerated approval regulatory pathway from the FDA known as the 505 (B)(2). We can also reduce treatment costs for patients. We anticipate premium pricing being first-in-class therapy and market exclusivity.

Other Indications: Chronic Wounds

We are also looking at other indications for chronic wounds, such as venous leg ulcers, where treatment remains a therapeutic challenge. There is still minimal adequate evidence that standard oral antibiotics improve ulcer outcomes.

We are also interested in burn wounds. We have gathered quite a bit of murine model preclinical data, and we hope to move into testing in pigs with Dr. Marc Jenske at Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS). We are also actively working with the U.S. Army. They are interested in our products regarding simple battlefield logistics and pre-hospital scenarios. So we are working with Dr. Daniel Zurawski at Walter Reed Army Institute of Research, who is testing our product on blast wound animal models.

Another exciting area is lung infections. Research shows aerosolized bicarbonates ameliorate many cystic fibrosis (CF) symptoms, such as mucus rheology. We believe direct delivery of azithromycin and bicarbonate could be game-changing for CF patients. So we have worked with engineers in Alberta to design an aerosolized formulation that would reach proper lung deposition. We are actively looking to work with local clinicians in these potential indications.

Guest Speaker Discussion

AI Design of Novel Drugs: Leveraging the Bicarbonate Effect

We are also doing some exciting AI work to design novel drugs that can leverage the bicarbonate effects systemically. We are trying to uncover the chemical logic of what is potentiated by bicarbonate. Our research could lead to a novel chemical entity that leverages bicarbonate systemically.

We have taken McMaster University's entire chemical file, close to half a million diverse synthetic compounds, and screened it to identify ones that bicarbonate enhances their activity. This process will form the training data for deep neural network models from which we can generate a blueprint for enhancement by bicarbonate. Then we can predict from these large databases compounds that might be viable systemic antibiotics.

There are a lot of exciting things on the horizon. As an R&D company, we understand that the ultimate destination is to work with a pharmaceutical partner. We are actively completing proof of concept studies and other Investigational New Drugs (IND)-enabling studies to prepare an IND. We hope to move towards a phase two clinical trial to show the success of our therapy in clinical settings.

Competition: Direct Competitors in the Topical Space

There are a lot of competitive products in the antibiotic space. One of the top companies in the topical antibiotic space is Amicrobe. The California-based company uses protein-based therapeutics to treat drug-resistant infections topically. So while the lead therapy for Synmedix is repurposing an existing and safe antibiotic, Amicrobe is working with a new chemical entity.

There is also Sanotize, a Vancouver-based company using a nonantibiotic approach with nitric oxide technology. Nitric oxide is a molecule that is not just antibacterial but also toxic to all living things. Synmedix's technology is selectively toxic to bacterial pathogens over host cells. Intralytix is a Maryland-based company developing bacteriophage-based products to treat bacterial infections. However, bacteriophage therapy is very targeted toward the nature of the infectious pathogen. We designed Synmedix's technology to treat polymicrobial infections, typical in chronic wounds.

Synmedix: Our Team and work within the Hamilton Ecosystem

Synmedix has a strong team, leadership, and background in antibiotic discovery with our CSO, Dr. Eric Brown, who has 25 years of antibiotic discovery research under his belt. We also have expertise in wound healing, AI, and chemistry at McMaster University. Our advisors include Damian Lamb, Amie Phinny, and Gay Yuyitung. Overall, we have a lot of expertise on our team.

The McMaster Industry Liaison Office (MILO) has played a big part in our journey with IP protection, advisors, investors, and seeding funding. Our legal counsel, Gowlings WLG in Hamilton, has been great, and we have a fantastic partner agent, Susan Tandan. We also received the SOPHIE grant through Innovation Factory, participated in the Synapse Pitch Competition and the McMaster Seed Fund.

We are on the verge of a post-antibiotic era, a world without antibiotics where over ten million people would die annually. We at Synmedix have a technology that tackles this issue in various ways and prevents this from happening. Working in Hamilton is great with its top-notch scientist at McMaster University. We have also had many conversations, consults, and discussions with clinicians at HHS that have validated the clinical needs of a product like ours.

Guest Speaker Discussion

Questions & Answers

Question: Is the relationship between bicarbonate and azithromycin unique, or can you apply it to other antibiotics? Thinking about the pKa and ensuring it is a neutral molecule helps the antibiotic permeate the bacterial membrane.

Answer: The relationship exists with antibiotics other than azithromycin. In our first publication, we sampled many cationic drugs that showed a lower minimum inhibitory concentration in the presence of azithromycin. However, bicarbonate also worsens the activity of some antibiotics.

Question: Has Synmedix had success pitching your technology to angel investors or venture capitalists? I imagine antibiotic discovery may be tougher to secure funding for.

Answer: Securing funding from venture capitalists is hard because they want to see proof of clinical success in patients. That is why we're trying to get our proof of concept efforts going. We do have interest from venture capitalists, but to get the ball rolling we require proof of concept data.

Question: What are some ways the Hamilton life science ecosystem could have supported Synmedix more?

Answer: As a company from McMaster University, I would have reached out to the ecosystem early on to connect with local clinicians and applied for more things, such as non-dilutive funding or programs. I do not think we took advantage of all the programs offered through the ecosystem. Although we received the SOPHIE funding for a commercialization project, other opportunities could have helped us move forward.

Question: Completing proof of concept studies can be expensive; how is your funding process going?

Answer: Conducting proof of concept studies does not require funds. If an interested clinical investigator is willing to try the technology in a clinical setting, you must gain Health Canada's approval to provide the technology to their patients. We used the funds we received through the SOPHIE program and McMaster Seed Fund to create a good manufacturing practices (GMP) formulation of the topical for patient use. If investigators are willing to provide patient data, you can present this data to investors and hopefully fundraise at that stage for the grand clinical trial.

Questions: What was your approach to collaborating with other teachers and clinicians?

Answer: Find a kind clinician that believes in your technology and is willing to try it out. It helps that we are working with a safe and known antibiotic, eliminating the stress of trying a novel product on patients. It is critical to pinpoint a priority indication and speak to clinicians working in that space. Widening our scope to include potential indications has also helped in finding more clinicians to help us. Overall, you have to hustle.

Question: Can you speak on any skepticism you may have encountered? Remarkably, a bit of bicarbonate can transform the activity of an antibiotic and lower the minimum inhibitory concentration. Did you find proving this effect difficult, or once you presented the scientific data, there was a light bulb moment?

Answer: We experienced skepticism. We received questions like " How come you did not know this before, and how did you suddenly come up with this discovery?" People also wondered why we are battling years of antibiotic research and discovery. For years, researchers have conducted antibiotic discovery research in a broth media that does not mimic the conditions of the human body.

Guest Speaker Discussion
We selected bicarbonate as our buffer system as it is a part of our innate immune system and helps antibiotics work. Research previously did not account for this, so the antibiotic discovery was a bit inaccurate. So we have had to defend our discovery efforts, but people are starting to see and understand. *Question: How do we know that adding bicarbonate to current antibiotics will not further contribute to antibiotic resistance?* Answer: We have completed resistance tests in the lab and conducted many studies to understand bicarbonate's mechanism of action and found that bicarbonate impacts bacterial membrane energetics, which is universal to all bacteria and hard to acquire resistance towards. Bicarbonate's mechanism of action and its universal nature make it an interesting compound to study and use with current antibiotics. *Question: As Synmedix has grown, has your attention turned to the U.S. or other markets outside of Canada? What advice would you give companies looking abroad for funding, partners, or expertise?* Answer: We have not looked abroad to secure funding but are searching for clinicians abroad. Working with clinicians in the U.S. is easier as the process is less regulated, offering a quicker data turnaround. We are working with a clinician in New York, and the work to start the process is minuscule compared to what we have to do to work with HHS clinicians. Ultimately, we want to work with local clinicians, and the ideal scenario is a multi-site sort of site study. We recently applied to the HEALTHI program, and I hope that outreach to those clinicians will help us secure a partnership with local Canadian clinicians.

Time allotted | *15 Minutes*
Topic: **Communicate**

Discussion	Presenter
New manufacturing facility at McMaster Innovation Park in Hamilton will advance next-generation cancer therapies Biotech company Fusion Pharmaceuticals has announced the opening of its new state-of-the-art radiopharmaceutical manufacturing facility at McMaster Innovation Park (MIP). The 27,000 square-foot facility is located next to Fusion's research and development labs at MIP and was designed with clinical- and commercial-scale manufacturing capabilities to support the company's growing pipeline of targeted alpha therapies (TATs). At full capacity, the custom-built space is expected to produce 100,000 doses of TATs per year for distribution to cancer patients in Canada and abroad. Fusion Pharmaceuticals is a spin out company of the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization (CPDC), hosted at McMaster and founded by chemistry professor and Fusion Chief Executive Officer, John Valliant. "Manufacturing and supply chain are critical components of radiopharmaceutical development and commercialization. Having spun out of a radiopharmaceutical manufacturer, this is a core competency for Fusion, and we believe we are well-positioned to scale production in support of our pipeline of TATs, which now includes five clinical stage programs," says Valliant.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
McMaster, University of Ottawa join forces to prepare Canada for future pandemics McMaster University will take a leading role in a new federal initiative designed to protect Canadians against future pandemics and emerging threats through the Canadian Pandemic Preparedness Hub (CP2H). CP2H — co-led by McMaster and the University of Ottawa — is one of five major research hubs and part of a $10 million investment announced March 2 by François-Philippe Champagne, minister of Innovation, Science and Industry, and Jean-Yves Duclos, minister of Health. The multidisciplinary research hubs — funded through Stage 1 of the integrated Canada Biomedical Research Fund (CBRF) and Biosciences Research Infrastructure Fund (BRIF) — will accelerate the research and development of next-generation vaccines, therapeutics and diagnostics and their commercialization, while supporting training to expand the pipeline of skilled talent. "This funding for research, talent development and infrastructure projects is the foundation that will help us build a stronger, more robust domestic biomanufacturing sector in Canada that responds to the needs of Canadians for years to come," Champagne said. CP2H brings together more than 45 strategic partners from academia, industry, non-profit and governmental agencies from across the country to ensure Canadian discoveries are turned into the medicines of tomorrow in a cost-effective and timely fashion.	Darren Lawless (McMaster)

Discussion	Presenter
McMaster, Terumo and AtomVie Global Radiopharma Inc. partner to manufacture medical devices for cancer treatment McMaster University, Terumo and AtomVie Global Radiopharma Inc. (AtomVie) have partnered to produce two medical devices used for the treatment of cancer. Composed of radioactive holmium-166 microspheres, QuiremSpheres and QuiremScout are used in Selective Internal Radiation Therapy (SIRT) to treat liver cancer. Terumo is the legal manufacturer of both medical devices. Last month, McMaster manufactured its first patient dose on behalf of Terumo. The microspheres were irradiated in the McMaster Nuclear Reactor and then processed and dispensed in a hot lab at the McMaster University Medical Centre. The product was shipped to a hospital in Europe and successfully used in a patient procedure. The McMaster Nuclear Reactor will increase production capacity and expand logistics coverage for the devices, making the first patient treatment an important milestone in Terumo's mission to drive personalized patient care in oncology to patients globally. AtomVie is a spinout by the Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization – a McMaster-associated Centre of Excellence for Commercialization and Research (CECR) – and a world-leading Contract Development and Manufacturing Organization (CDMO) that specializes in the development, GMP manufacturing and global distribution of radiopharmaceuticals. AtomVie is collaborating with McMaster to operate and maintain a specialized cGMP-compliant dispensing laboratory designed for processing the microspheres.	Bruno Paquin (AtomVie)
PreOperative Performance Enters the SOPHIE Program to Fuel Collaboration with Ontario-Based Radiology Researchers A new partnership between PreOperative Performance and scientists at The Research Institute of St. Joe's Hamilton (RSJH) may help to solve a long-standing challenge for international brain imaging researchers and radiologists. Diffusion tensor imaging (DTI) is an MRI technology that enabled 3D visualization of the brain's myelin coating—the fatty substance that protects neurons. Since myelin can be affected by various diseases, diffusion-based brain scans have enormous potential for diagnostics and treatment. Participating in the SOPHIE program will help PreOperative Performance fuel a 12-month joint project with Professor Dr. Michael Noseworthy and imaging scientist Norm Konyer at The Research Institute of St. Joe's. Through the project, their team will test and evaluate PreOperative Performance's anisotropic diffusion phantom technology on their MRI systems. Their shared goal is to co-develop an optimized product to enable neuroradiologists to assess quality and consistency of their MRI systems' diffusion imaging protocols, which has never been achievable in the past.	Mackensey Bacon (RSJH)
$11-Million Program Supporting Ontario's BioTech Start-ups, including Hamilton's AIMA Labs	Jocelyn Wessels (AIMA Labs)

Discussion	Presenter
Eight Ontario start-ups in the health, food and agriculture and clean-tech sectors are the first round of recipients for Ontario Genomics' BioCreate program, an $11.6-million initiative providing financial and business support to help move the province's biotechnology scene forward. BioCreate is funded by Ontario Genomics and the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario) with the goal of moving the province's biotechnology scene forward by connecting each highly-vetted company with $150,000 in non-repayable funding, 18 months of business mentorship and access to critical infrastructure. They'll also get the opportunity to pitch to investors for further funding. AIMA Laboratories, out of Hamilton, is speeding up the diagnosis of endometriosis by creating a home test. This FemTech company is focusing on women's health and providing unique solutions to diagnostic and therapeutic challenges. Endometriosis is one of the leading causes of chronic and debilitating pelvic pain and infertility. Because of ambiguous symptoms and pain normalization, it can take 5-12 years for women with endometriosis to get a diagnosis. The first blood test for endometriosis that can be done from the comfort of home to give women and their physicians more clarity and a quicker path to diagnosis	
New OCI Program: Innovating Digital Health Solutions The Innovating Digital Health Solutions (IDHS) program is designed to encourage applications from Ontario Health Teams (OHTs), inclusive of Indigenous Health Care Organizations and other health service providers [HSPs] to work in collaboration with Ontario based technology vendors in evaluating, adopting, and implementing digital health technologies. The program provides $500,000 in funding to support the project from OCI and is matched by demonstration of spend from the SMEs and OHTs. A project could have multiple SMEs providing different areas of expertise on the project in collaboration with a single OHT. To register for the event, please click here.	Michael Jones (OCI)
Innovation Factory supports 21 companies with $630,000 through Cohort 2 of Government of Canada's i.d.e.a. Fund Meet the new cohort of i.d.e.a. Fund companies working with Innovation Factory that will receive financial and business advisory support to develop or redesign green products, services, processes and technologies that contribute to Canada's inclusive, equitable and sustainable economy.	Ryan Moran (Innovation Factory)
McMaster ranked 33rd in the world global impact At McMaster, researchers, students and staff are answering the United Nations' call to embrace change and work together to create a healthier, brighter world that leaves no one behind. As a result of their work, McMaster has ranked 33rd in the world for global impact in this year's Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. Read about stories and examples of McMaster's impact	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

Discussion	Presenter
Why Hamilton is a Hotspot for Business Success Hamilton, Ontario, is quickly becoming a hotspot for startup success with its vibrant innovation ecosystem, anchored by McMaster Innovation Park (MIP). The region is also home to other resources tailored to entrepreneurs and growing businesses, including the Innovation Factory and The Forge. This article explores Hamilton's innovation ecosystem and what it offers to entrepreneurs seeking success.	Jonathan Hunt (MIP)
How McMaster Innovation Park Is Advancing Cell and Gene Therapy The cell and gene therapy (CGT) sector in Ontario is rapidly gaining momentum with the transformative potential of CGT for healthcare and medicine and McMaster Innovation Park (MIP), the pulse of Hamilton's life sciences ecosystem, is accelerating the growth of life sciences and biomanufacturing ventures through purpose-built space and venture support. "Every innovator, researcher, entrepreneur, and venture has slightly different requirements depending on their background and where they are in their journey," says Ty J. Shattuck, Chief Executive Officer of MIP. "There's no one-size-fits-all solution. We're that one door that they can knock on to get whatever they need for whatever stage of growth they're in." The research park's focus on building a CGT cluster is a testament to its commitment to partnerships and collaborations. By leveraging the strong relationships it shares with neighbouring academic institutions McMaster University and Mohawk College, world-class healthcare facilities, and renowned life sciences and biomanufacturing companies like Fusion Pharmaceuticals that already reside at the park, MIP is building a community for business success.	Jonathan Hunt (MIP)
Justin Trudeau calls Doug Ford's for-profit health plans 'innovation' (Hamilton Spectator) Justin Trudeau has decided — at least for now — to see Ontario's moves toward for-profit medical care as "innovation" by Doug Ford's government to resolve the health-care crisis gripping the country. Trudeau has been conspicuously quiet about the Ford government's announcement to allow more medical procedures to be done by for-profit health-care providers. "I have been saying for years that delivery of health care is the business — is the responsibility — of the provinces," Trudeau said when I asked why he's been so quiet in the wake of Ontario's recently announced measures — which some have said is a door opening to two-tier health care in Canada. "I have penalized provinces that have strayed too far from the Canada Health Act and gone too far into private delivery." However, Trudeau added, "I recognize we're in a moment of crisis right now, but we need to build a stronger system for the future, and that's where my focus is. I'm not going to comment on what Doug's trying to do on this one … We're supposed to say a certain amount of innovation should be good as long as they're abiding by the Canada Health Act." The prime minister says he doesn't mind if the health-care system looks different from province to province — and says, in fact, that this loose federation may be a bonus.	Alex Muggah (Synapse)

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
Want to Connect with your Ecosystem: Check out the Synapse Health Ecosystem Directory 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. Learn more about what others are up to, and identify potential collaborative partners at: www.synapseconsortium.com/directory	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
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 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	Andrea Johnson (Mohawk College)
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)

Discussion	Presenter
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)
Hamilton-based technologies available for licensing 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. 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	Glen Crossley (MILO)
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/	Alex Muggah (Synapse)
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.	Annie Horton (Innovation Factory)