

Hamilton Health Innovation Check-up: Meeting Minutes

September 2023

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: October 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 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

Hamilton Health Innovation: Calendar Highlights

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

October

- Oct 4-6: [BioFuture Conference 2023](#) (BioFuture)
- Oct 8-11: [HLTH Conference 2023](#) (hlth.)
- Oct 9-11: [Medtech Conference](#) (AdvaMed)
- Oct 10: [2023 Cannabis Research Conference](#) (MGD Centre for Medicinal Cannabis)
- Oct 11: [Grand Opening of Brock Validation, Prototyping and Manufacturing Institute](#) (Brock University)
- Oct 12: [Techtoberfest](#) (Communitech)
- Oct 12: [Canada Healthcare Innovation Summit](#) (Bamberg Health)
- Oct 12-13: [5th Annual Innovations in Science of Cannabis Conference](#) (CMCR)
- Oct 16 - Nov 20: [Fall Health Innovation Bootcamp](#) (Clinic @ McMaster)
- Oct 18: [Queen's Park Day](#) (LSO)
- Oct 26: [Knowledge & Networking Breakfast](#) – How AI is Transforming Life Sciences (LSO)
- Oct 26: [Digital Health Conference](#) (DocerApp)
- Oct 27: [Next Era of Healthcare in Canada](#): Cross-Sector Collaboration (Economic Club of Canada)
-  Oct 30: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)

November & Beyond

- Nov 2: [Annual Ideas to Action Forum](#) (LSO & Shift Health)
- Nov 4: [Health Research Conference](#) (WeSpark)
- Nov 7: [Driving the Future of Digital Health](#) (Digital Health Canada)
- Nov 8: [2023 Digital Health Innovation Conference](#) (HIMSS Eastern Canada Chapter)
- Nov 8-9: [CTO 2023 Conference](#) (Clinical Trials Ontario)
- Nov 8-9: [HardTech Summit](#) (VentureLab)
- Nov 9: [HardTech Pitch Competition](#) (VentureLab)
- Nov 13-16: [MEDICA Healthtech Conference 2023](#) (MEDICAlliance)
- Nov 15: [Data Effect Toronto: Healthcare's AI Revolution](#) (CityAge)
-  Nov 27: [Hamilton Health Check-up](#) (Synapse Consortium)
- Jan 8-10: [Biotech Showcase 2024](#) (EBD Group)
- Feb: [Investment Summit 2024](#) (OBIO)
- Mar 11-15: [HIMSS Global Health Conference & Exhibition](#) (HIMSS)
- Apr 15: [Early-Stage Life Sciences Companies and Investors Networking Event in Toronto](#) (Mintz)
- Apr 16-17: [Bloom Burton Healthcare Investor Conference](#) (Bloom Burton & Co.)

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

Looking to engage the Hamilton Health Ecosystem?



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">• Christina Yeh, VP Technology Commercialization, Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization (OBIO) [Slides used during the presentation can be accessed here]
<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 of Ontario Bioscience Innovation Organization (OBIO)</u></p> <p>My name is Christina Yeh. I am OBIO's Vice President of Programs and Strategic Partnerships. Today I'm going to give a little overview of our organization.</p> <p>OBIO was founded in 2009. We are a not-for-profit membership-based organization. We work closely with health science companies, and the focus of our programs is on working with companies at the seed- and series-A stages. However, we certainly work with more mature companies as well, and we will do our best to support you as your company grows and scales.</p> <p>Because our programs are focused on working with companies, this allows us to understand industry needs, and how we can best develop programs or initiatives or promote policy changes to support these companies.</p> <p><u>OBIO's Strategic Focus</u></p> <p>At OBIO, we have three key strategic focus areas: Workforce Development, Technology Commercialization, and Market Adoption. Together these areas work towards growing and building Ontario's health science industry. We run a variety of programs across these three areas.</p> <p>Workforce Development Programs</p> <p>I will start with H2BB (Health to Business Bridge) and Women in Health Initiative (WiHI)</p> <p><u>H2BB (Health to Business Bridge):</u></p> <p>Our Health to Business Bridge (H2BB) program began with a focus on working with interns, and then it evolved into a program for early career talent focusing on helping people looking to enter this industry become industry-ready, as well as helping to prepare people moving from another industry to the health industry. For companies, they receive training for industry ready talent; as we can support hiring and onboarding.</p> <p>For talent, what we do is to help build a solid foundation and understanding of this industry. We offer training programs to help them, and the topics can cover things like project management, business of health science. We have done training on quality and Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP), and so forth. There has been a wide range; sometimes we do very themed training such as one we did in the past on digital technologies, for example, which is also available.</p> <p>To connect companies and talent, we have a job board and a talent network. This is an online tool that allows companies to post jobs, and people looking for work to create a profile, and then we can help to match companies with a potential employee that is the right fit. On average, we have about 2,000 jobs a month on the job board, so please feel free to check that out.</p>

Guest Speaker Discussion

Women in Health Initiative (WiHI):

Our Women in Health Initiative ([WiHI](#)) program launched in 2022. It is designed to advance the progression of women in their careers within this industry. To do this, we have offered a business leadership program. Last year, we awarded eight women \$50,000 in wage subsidies. These women – some of them are founders, some of them were employees at companies – all demonstrated some level of leadership and mentorship for other women. We also recently launched our [Women in Health Seed Program](#) which provides up to \$20,000 in non-dilutive funding to women-led companies, and we also provide advisory support. We are in the process of reviewing applications, so if you applied to the program, the applications are currently under review, and we will let you know soon.

We have also offered training that is specific for a female audience; we have offered entrepreneurship training for women just starting their companies or women thinking of starting a company in this industry. We run workshops specific to project management for women in this industry and we have also offered grants for women to take courses towards certification, or upskilling, so that they can continue to move up in their careers and develop their skill sets. On top of all of that, we run networking events across the province.

We were lucky enough to be in Hamilton in June and that was great; we worked with [Innovation Factory](#), [The Forge](#), [Synapse](#), and [McMaster Industry Liaison Office](#) (MILO). We also run a monthly Breakfast series for women leaders in health and it's usually founders or women in management positions at companies that attend.

Upcoming WiHi Events: We have a few events that we are participating in over the next month. Our team will be at the Elevate Women+ Pitch Day, presented by The Firehood. In October, we will be in Kingston for a networking event and a panel discussion. And then at the end of October, we will also have another one of our breakfasts which will be in Toronto. And we are also coming to Kitchener, Waterloo in November.

Capital Access Programs

Our next focus area, which is Capital Access, focuses on three programs: (a) HealthMINT, (b) Capital Access Advisory Program (CAAP), and (c) OBIO Investment Summit. These programs are focused on investment readiness, either at the seed stage or the series A stage or beyond.

HealthMINT:

Our [HealthMINT](#) program is primarily working with seed stage companies. MINT means Mentorship, Investors, Networking and Targeted advice. It is working one-on-one with each company and providing advisory support. We try to connect you with industry experts where we can, and companies can also have some access to market intelligence tools.

Capital Access Advisory Program (CAAP):

Our Capital Access Advisory Program ([CAAP](#)) is for companies working towards their series A in the next year or year and a half. There are some companies that have participated in the past few years. These companies also present to investors at our annual OBIO Investment Summit.

OBIO Investment Summit:

I recognize quite a few faces here that were in the audience who attended the OBIO [Investment Summit](#) last year. We hope you will all come again to our next event in February. We have a save the date; it's February 14-16 in Toronto.

For those of you who aren't familiar with it, our Investment Summit brings companies from across Canada together to pitch to investors. Investors come from mostly Canada and the US. We have had investors from Japan and Europe. We also have an early technology showcase that invites academic and research institutions to showcase some of their latest innovations or spinouts. Last year, we had +300 attendees and +500 Partnering meetings, and

Guest Speaker Discussion

we are really looking forward to the next one in February. So more to come over the next few months on this as well.

Market Adoption

Our last focus area is market adoption. The focus here is really our [Early Adopter Health Network](#).

Early Adopter Health Network (EAHN):

[EAHN](#) is for commercial stage companies. We partner them with a healthcare organization to do an evaluation of the technology for potential procurement. It is really to evaluate the business case of the technology; how is it having an impact on workflow, savings, improving access to care, for example.

Companies can apply, they can receive up to \$250,000 in funding for evaluation and procurement. This is just an infographic sort of showing where the network members are so many of them are in the Ontario area, but we also have some in Quebec as well as in Western Canada.

Life Sciences Critical Technologies & Commercialization (LSCTC) Centre of Excellence

Lastly, some of you may have seen an announcement in July, we were happy that with the support of the Ontario government, we were able to launch our Life Sciences Critical Technologies and Commercialization Centre of Excellence ([LSCTC](#)). Our vision for the centre is to catalyze a globally competitive collaborative ecosystem to build on Ontario's existing expertise and capabilities and accelerate Health Science industries' use of the critical technologies. This is for companies that are working with or developing technologies related to 5G advanced networks, artificial intelligence, blockchain, cybersecurity, quantum computing and robotics. We will have programming that focuses on commercialization, adoption and workforce development.

More information will be coming very, very soon, so please keep an eye on our website. If you don't already have our newsletter, please also sign up there, you can find that on our webpage. I'm also happy to also answer any questions if any companies are attending today and you think you might fit into this.

Please feel free to reach out to me as well, I'm happy to start having a chat and getting to understand your technology sooner, as well.

How to Become an OBIO Member

If anyone is interested in becoming an OBIO member, please feel free to check out our website, or follow us on social media and here's my [email](#). That's sort of a high level of what I wanted to cover today, and would be happy to answer any questions.

Questions & Answers

Question: What informed the nature of OBIO's portfolio of programs? What programs do you see coming out in the next few years; what in the pipeline is OBIO excited about or that you think might be critical for companies or from a funding perspective??

Answer: I would say what has always sort of geared our programs is really feedback from companies; hearing from them – where they need help, where they could use more support, where more funding might be useful and in what areas. That has always been a part of it and what influences the shape of our programs.

Being a not-for-profit, of course, funding is also a factor, and I would say in terms of where I think things could be going, we would love to also have programming to support scaling and more mature companies. I think we are getting there with our Early Adopter Health Network (EAHN). Some of the companies here might be familiar with

Guest Speaker Discussion

our business development skills program, which I didn't get a chance to talk about today, but that program provided funds for companies to develop training programs to develop skills in-house.

So, it was really targeted towards training your senior management team to distill that knowledge internally on to your hires as your companies grow. More resources for companies that are already commercialized, that are growing and maybe need to scale manufacturing, or maybe need more wet lab space. There are lots of different challenges that companies will meet as they are growing, and I think more funding to be able to support those growth pains will probably be very welcome.

Question: What are the requirements for a talented researcher to join the OBIO talent pool (job board)?

Answer: I believe you can just go on and create a profile. If you have any issues with it, please reach out to me, and I can contact my colleague that manages the job board, but I am pretty sure that you can just create one there.

Question: The Early Adopter Funding Program that you have, we are discussing with an agency in northern Ontario pilot project with the technology we have done. I'm not so much concerned with our costs, but they are going to incur costs. Will that funding also include the partner organization, the healthcare organization, or is it just for the technology? Can you just give a sense of where that money can be applied to?

Answer: Some of the funding for an evaluation goes to a company and some of the funding also goes to the healthcare organization, because obviously, costs are incurred on both sides.

[Moderator follow-up: The EAHN program provides flexibility for companies to develop relationships. With the broad network that has been created, OBIO has established relationships with hospitals and care providers which companies can access that. It's a fantastic program for those who are looking to test products.]

Question: When are we expected to get an update for ventures who applied for WiHI?

Answer: I hope it's probably in the next one to two weeks. We had a good number of applications. We will be following up before the long weekend.

Question: OBIO seems focused on national programs, and pursuing collaboration work across borders – a testament to the maturing of the innovation commercialization space. Could you speak to whether that is a strategic focus going forward? Are you just going to be just taking advantage of opportunities as they arise or being more reactive?

Answer: Collaboration is key to building this ecosystem in Ontario, and across Canada. Working with our counterparts in the other provinces will allow us to build relationships to probably leverage different opportunities that are available to companies across Canada. So, I think that's something that we consider.

Our Investment Summit has always attracted companies from across Canada, and I think that's important because we really want to showcase that not just Ontario, but Canada as a whole is really an amazing place for health innovation; to give investors like a one stop place where they can meet these entrepreneurs, meet the academic and research institutions, meet our ecosystem partners, many of whom will come for this event. I think that just provides a great opportunity to showcase Canada as a destination for innovation in the sector.

Guest Speaker Discussion

We certainly have Ontario companies that want to take their products to other provinces. We have companies from other provinces who come to us and want to bring their products to Ontario, as well as internationally, and they do reach out to us for that purpose as well. So having a broad network and a collaborative plan is huge to help companies that we work with.

[Moderator follow-up: That OBIO acts as a bridge to other parts of the country is really important, because as OBIO develops those relationships, as you wave the flag and showcase Ontario's strengths, it helps companies that are that are looking to go outside. It also serves to expand the horizon outside of Ontario.]

Question: We have Ontario companies that want to take their products to other provinces, as well as internationally. We have companies from other provinces who want to bring their products to Ontario. So having a broad network and a collaborative plan is huge to help companies that we work with.

Answer: So, there's a few ways; like the networking piece, if you wanted to attend any events, just to sort of meet people and get the lay of the land, I think that that is always an option that's open to people. In terms of programming, I would say our Investment Summit is a great opportunity.

We work with the Tech Transfer offices of different research institutions. They select which companies or new research that they want to present, and they usually bring their scientists or researchers along with them to present this, so that's good opportunity. We are always happy to have a conversation with someone if they are thinking of starting a company. We can point you to resources that might be able to help you in terms of company creation. That's not our expertise, but we can certainly connect you with our partners who do that.

[Moderator follow-up]: I know that OBIO has worked closely with The Forge, Innovation Factory and with McMaster Tech Transfer office and others here in Hamilton to provide that support. We have a bit more tactile experience on the ground, but appreciate being able to pass companies back to you when they are hitting that nice growth curve.]

Question: In addition letting those within our networks know about OBIO's programming and sending them your way, is there anything that we as a Hamilton community can do to support specific programs or OBIO more generally going forward?



Answer: Absolutely. I know some of you work across industries, so if you are working with any companies that are seeking specific information or developing technologies in the health sciences, please feel free to connect us. I'm happy to have a chat with them to see if we can be helpful or connect them to the right resources.

Question: Is there an independent IRB here in Hamilton?

Answer: If you are working with McMaster, Hamilton Health Sciences, or St. Joe's, there is HiREB, but if you are not working with those entities, then you can use an independent REB of which there are many and they don't need to be based in Hamilton. Mohawk also has an ethics board, and I must declare a conflict of interest because I am on that ethics board, but yes, they all collaborate so they will function basically the same.

Time allotted | 15 Minutes

Topic: **Communicate**

Discussion	Presenter
<p>Synapse & Innovation Factory publish 2nd annual Life Science Cluster Report</p> <p>We're delighted to share a profile of Hamilton's cluster, showcasing one of the most vibrant mid-sized life sciences cluster in North America. We've grown considerably in the last year, with 217 identified public- and private-sector institutions, that together employed 46,900 people. Take together, surveyed organizations in Hamilton had total operating budgets of \$5.6 billion.</p> <p>The 2022 Hamilton Life Science Cluster Report is now available online! Discover the life science activities that are driving economic growth and innovation in across Hamilton, Ontario, as well areas for improvement and future prospects.</p> <p>Check out the details, and highlights in the 2022 Hamilton Life Science Cluster Report: Canada's Leading Life Science Research & Education Cluster</p>	<p>Annie Horton & Jiayi Deng (Innovation Factory)</p> 
<p>Apply to the 2024 Synapse Life Science Competition</p> <p>Innovation Factory's Synapse Life Science Competition is Ontario's premier life science pitch competition, designed to help move your innovative life science products and services out of the lab and into the market – providing you with training, mentorship and resources to accelerate your business success.</p> <p>Innovator finalists receive training, mentorship, a \$5,000 grant and a chance to pitch and compete for BIG in cash and prizes. Student finalists gain first-hand entrepreneurship experience and a \$500 honorarium.</p>	<p>Kaitlyn Spivak (Innovation Factory)</p> 
<p>Natural breath serum takes top prize in Hamilton's Lion's Lair competition (Hamilton Spectator)</p> <p>A Toronto-based company that created an all-natural serum for fresh breath took home first place at the 2023 Lion's Lair entrepreneurship competition.</p> <p>The 13th annual pitch competition, hosted by Hamilton's Innovation Factory, saw 10 startups battle it out for more than \$60,000 in prizes in front of a panel of judges and an audience of more than 300 people last month.</p> <p>The top three winners of the competition were all female-founded businesses, according to a press release. Mintier, which won the top prize of \$35,000, has launched its first-ever, all-natural breath serum, according to a press release.</p> <p>In second place with a \$15,000 cash prize was Noa Therapeutics, a preclinical biotech company looking to use a systems biology approach to speed up the design of multimodal therapeutics for complex inflammatory diseases, according to a release. Bug Mars came in third place, earning a \$7,500 cash prize for its insect-based AI technology solutions that aim to improve farmers' abilities to grow insects without disease and at lower costs.</p>	<p>David Carter (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p>Fero Announces the purchase of key Modular Manufacturing Assets and the hiring of 55 Skilled Employees</p> <p>Effective September 1, 2023, Fero International Inc. (Fero), a volumetric modular manufacturer primarily focusing on healthcare infrastructure, has a new 300,000 square foot home at 950</p>	<p>Sabrina Fiorellino (Fero Int'l)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>South Service Road in Stoney Creek, Ontario, where it will build much needed infrastructure using off-site construction techniques. To achieve this, Fero has purchased key modular manufacturing assets and has hired approximately 55 skilled trade and administrative personnel.</p> <p>Fero's proprietary manufacturing technology and healthcare expertise, along with the years of modular manufacturing knowledge coming from the newly hired personnel, will secure Fero's position as the premier provider of best-in-class modular building solutions.</p> <p>Fero's Chief Executive Officer, Sabrina Fiorellino said "We are thrilled to enter this next stage of Fero's growth strategy, where we have significantly improved control, capacity and capability to deliver much needed healthcare and similar infrastructure solutions at home in Canada, including our remote and underserved communities, as well as abroad. Fero's modular solutions can significantly reduce delivery times and provide best-in-class quality. Fero's products are an innovative solution and approach to today's traditional construction challenges."</p>	
<p>Esphera SynBio has received \$256,000 in the third round of McMaster Seed Fund investments.</p> <p>Co-founded by associate professor of medicine, Brian Lichty, this biotech startup has developed a novel therapeutic technology designed to treat infectious diseases and cancer.</p>	<p>Leigh Wilson (MILO)</p>
<p>Hamilton startup, Allarta, awarded up to \$800k from JDRF create functional cure for type 1 diabetes</p> <p>Allarta Life Science, a Hamilton-based regenerative medicine company using novel hydrogels to enable cell-based therapies for type 1 diabetes (T1D), has received an award from JDRF, the leading global T1D research and advocacy organization, that could amount to US\$800,000 upon completion of research and development milestones.</p> <p>Allarta, co-founded in 2019 by McMaster Chemistry Professor Dr. Harald Stover and Maria Antonakos, uses polymer science to advance cell therapies for T1D. Founding investors include McMaster University, Mark Krembil and Ian Delaney. The award will directly fund Allarta's ongoing work to increase durability and avoid the need for systemic immune suppression in current islet and beta cell transplantations to cure T1D.</p> <p>Specifically, Allarta has developed a hydrogel platform that offers immune protection for transplanted beta cells. Allarta's competitive advantage lies in its synthetic hydrogels designed to allow good metabolic connection of transplanted cells while protecting them from the hosts' immune system. The goal of this program is to conduct key pre-clinical studies in porcine models using islets as well as stem cell-derived beta cells, both without systemic immunosuppression.</p>	<p>Maria Antonakos (Allarta)</p>
<p>CPDC and Triumpf receive \$35M to fund Canadian Medical Isotope Ecosystem (CMIE)</p> <p>The Centre for Probe Development and Commercialization and TRIUMF Innovations will create the new Canadian Medical Isotope Ecosystem (CMIE). CMIE will support advancements in Canada's medical isotope industry through funding of projects at TRIUMF, CPDC, Bruce Power, McMaster Nuclear Reactor, Canadian Nuclear Laboratories and BWXT Medical, as well</p>	<p>Owen Roberts (CPDC)</p>

Discussion	Presenter
<p>supporting the commercial development of new medical isotope technologies from researchers and SMEs across Canada.</p> <p>CMIE is expected to launch three high-demand medical isotopes and related drug products into the marketplace. It will also advance two medical isotopes from early stage to pre-clinical evaluation. CMIE is also expected to attract more than \$75 million in investment, create or maintain over 600 highly skilled jobs for Canadians, and create 30 internship opportunities.</p> <p>The \$35 million in funding will be delivered through Innovation, Science and Economic Development’s Strategic Innovation Fund, which provides major investments in innovative projects that help grow Canada’s economy for the well-being of all Canadians.</p>	
<p>Innovation Factory partners with HaloHealth to bridge the gap between healthcare startups and clinical expertise</p> <p>In support of commercializing healthcare and life science companies, Innovation Factory is pleased to announce a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with HaloHealth to deliver a collaborative medical assessment and physician advisory service. Offered to Innovation Factory clients participating in the SOPHIE (Southern Ontario Pharmaceutical & Health Innovation Ecosystem) program, this new assessment service is designed to help them understand market conditions and the receptiveness of their novel technology.</p> <p>Healthcare startups across Canada often struggle to gain access to physicians with an entrepreneurial mindset who can provide medical feedback on their technology. These early-stage companies often miss out on valuable advice and product validation from the ultimate end users at a critical phase of commercialization that may negatively impact their downstream success. To help address this challenge and support high-potential ventures, Innovation Factory partnered with HaloHealth to complete 16 medical assessment and advisory projects for health and life science companies participating in the SOPHIE program.</p>	<p>David Carter (Innovation Factory)</p>
<p>FluidAI Medical Teams Up with Medtronic for Remote Monitoring via DIGITAL’s Continuous Connected Patient Care Project (Canadian Healthcare Technology)</p> <p>FluidAI Medical, a leading artificial intelligence (AI) startup and developer of the Stream™ Platform for post-surgical monitoring, has announced a strategic partnership with Medtronic Canada ULC, a prominent subsidiary of the global healthcare technology company, Medtronic PLC. Together, they are working to revolutionize Canadian healthcare through the Continuous Connected Patient Care (CCPC) project under Canada’s Global Innovation Cluster for digital technologies, known as DIGITAL.</p> <p>Hospitalized patients, particularly those with serious complications, often remain in the hospital longer than necessary after their condition has stabilized. This extended stay is mainly for continued monitoring during their recovery. Hospital care can average between \$1,000-2,000 per patient daily[1], utilizing resources like hospital beds, equipment, and healthcare workers’ time, potentially reducing a hospital’s capacity for new patients.</p> <p>The CCPC project aims to allow patients to continue their care at home after discharge through the development of new predictive analytics, AI, and home monitoring technology that integrates with current medical systems for uninterrupted care from hospital to home.</p> <p>Read the full story here</p>	<p>Amr Abdelgawad (FluidAI)</p>


Discussion	Presenter
<p>Vessl Prosthetics Joins Techstars Physical Health Fort Worth 2023 Class</p> <p>Vessl Prosthetics is excited to announce they will be joining the second class of Techstars Physical Health in Fort Worth, Texas.</p> <p>Building on a great first year with stellar founders and companies who have seen great growth since the end of the first cohort, our second class is definitely holding up the tradition of incredible founders and entrepreneurs who are addressing some outstanding problems and opportunities in the world of Physical Health.</p> <p>The program has grown significantly since our first year looking at more than 3500 companies from all over the world and receiving four times the number of applications that we received last year. This year we again welcome entrepreneurs from across the globe and our founders have traveled far and near to participate in this one-of-a-kind whole health focused program.</p>	<p>Sydney Robinson (Vessl Prosthetics)</p>
<p>Insight Medbotics Announces World’s First FDA-Cleared, MRI-Compatible Robot</p> <p>Insight Medbotics, a Hamilton-based medical device company combining the accuracy of MRI with the precision of robotics, today announced a successful 510(k) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the IGAR system, the company’s MRI-compatible robot. The clearance applies to breast biopsy indications.</p> <p>IGAR is the first and only robotics system designed to work inside an MRI bore to achieve this regulatory clearance. The MRI suite is among the most challenging hospital environments because the MRI device uses strong magnetic fields and has a confined working area for physicians. The IGAR technology platform may be adapted for future products that could move seamlessly across different care environments, such as from an MRI to a standard operating room or into a physician’s office.</p> <p>Insight Medbotics has demonstrated IGAR’s safety and efficacy through published clinical studies in breast biopsy. The technology’s other possible applications include targeting other organs and disease indications, along with therapeutic delivery and device placement.</p> <p>Read the full article here</p> <p>Insight Medbotics announced a successful 510(k) clearance from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for the IGAR system, the company’s MRI-compatible robot for use in breast biopsy. Co-founded by professor of surgery, Mehran Anvari, the company was one of the first to receive support from the McMaster Seed Fund.</p>	<p>Fazila Seker (Insight Medbotics)</p>
<p>MedStack gears up to help digital health startups in Europe navigate GDPR compliance</p> <p>Toronto (and Hamilton)-based healthtech startup MedStack has announced that it is compliant with Europe’s General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and able to help customers meet GDPR standards.</p> <p>To date, MedStack has largely operated in Canada and the United States, where it serves hundreds of companies. GDPR compliance and MedStack’s recent product adjustments now pave the way for it to bring its data-security and privacy-compliance platform to more digital health startups across Europe.</p>	<p>Simon Woodside (MedStack)</p>


Discussion	Presenter
<p>Report: Status of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility in Canada's Life Sciences Sector</p> <p>Have you read our groundbreaking report on the Status of IDEA (Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility) in Canada's Life Sciences Sector, which was collaboratively developed with Shift Health, with support from Pfizer and adMare BioInnovations?</p> <p>The report uncovers where life sciences organizations have made progress in IDEA, how IDEA initiatives have impacted individuals working in the sector, and, importantly, immediate opportunities and recommendations to guide organizations to make progress IDEA across in four key areas: Talent development; community and culture; knowledge, and leadership.</p>	Andy Donovan (LSO)

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. 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><u>Engaging Mohawk College's IDEAWORKS</u></p> <p>IDEAWORKS projects in general (of which, MEDIC is one area) which was provided and may help with identifying if Mohawk College can support our companies with projects. This might be a refresher for some or all of us, but highlighting nonetheless:</p> <p>Tips for Innovation Factory Referrals to IDEAWORKS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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>What about start-ups?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <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>

Discussion	Presenter
<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 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:</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>Gay Yuyitung (MILO)</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. 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>Alex Muggah (Synapse)</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>