



Centre for Evaluation of Medicines

Dr. Mitchell Levine – Director

INTRODUCTION

A multi-disciplinary resource since 1992, the Centre for Evaluation of Medicines (CEM) provides expertise in clinical pharmacology and toxicology, economics, health policies, behavioral sciences, information technology, research design and biostatistics.

The CEM is a neutral and objective source for information and leading edge analyses in the fields of therapeutics and health policy interventions.

DEVELOPMENT

The Centre for Evaluation of Medicines has been in operation since 1992. It is an academic research and educational unit. The CEM mission is to evaluate drug and technology use in the real world in order to improve patient health outcomes and policy decisions.

The Centre for Evaluation of Medicines is housed within the Research Institute of St Joe's Hamilton. Within the CEM there are three groups with special or focused research interests: Therapeutics group (THERAP); Program for Assessment of Technology in Health (PATH); Biostatistics group (BIOSTATS).

All CEM core faculty hold academic appointments at McMaster University in the Faculty of Health Sciences (in the departments of [Health Research Methods, Evidence, and Impact](#), [Medicine](#) or [Family Medicine](#)). The faculty are a multi-disciplinary group comprised of: physicians-clinical pharmacologists; pharmacists; health economists; health policy analysts; clinical epidemiologists; biostatisticians; health informaticists; social scientists.

RESEARCH PRIORITIES

CEM's members provide expertise in:

1. Evaluation
 - Clinical pharmacology studies
 - Health appraisal
 - Technology assessment
 - Health services research of traditional and complementary therapies
 - Adverse drug reactions and toxicology data
 - Health policy interventions on patient outcomes and health care costs

2. Policy Planning and Interventions
 - Data privacy and protection measures



- Academic consultation for government or industry
- Data linkage for utilization and cost forecasting
- Evidence-based practice guideline synthesis and promulgation
- Decision tools (educational and disease management aids)
- Medical informatics (applying computer-based technology to health data management and for the dissemination of knowledge)

3. Research Methods Development

- Creation of new evaluation methods
- Innovation in statistical methods for health research evaluation
- Pharmacist practice research methods
- Patient experience research methods
- Informatics in clinical practice

EDUCATION

Education forms an integral part of CEMs mandate as a Centre within an academic institution. The Department of Clinical Epidemiology and Biostatistics (CE&B), McMaster University, is the parent department for the Faculty.

Specific education goals of the Centre include:

1. Supporting the Health Research Methodology (HRM) Program through participation in teaching or supervision of graduate students;
2. Supporting the Bachelor of Health Science (BHSc) undergraduate program as instructors; and
3. Supporting the Drug Safety and Effectiveness Cross-Disciplinary Training (DSECT), a CIHR Training Program in Bridging Scientific Domains for Drug Safety and Effectiveness through mentorship of trainees.

SERVICES

CEM's areas of proficiency include:

- pharmaco-economics and health technology assessment
- pharmaceutical policy evaluation
- pharmaco-epidemiology and drug use evaluation
- evidence based therapeutic resource development and implementation
- health informatics

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