

VITAL SIGNS



THE NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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Continuing Medical Education; should we make it a higher priority?



Dr. James Martin
Chair, Department
of Medicine

It seems that the topic of education is everywhere in the air. The *Collège des médecins* has been discussing CME with the *Fédération des spécialistes*. It seems inevitable that in the coming years the bar will be raised and the requirements for CME will intensify.

The Faculty of Medicine is preparing a new strategic plan on education led by Vice-Dean Annette Majnemer. The Faculty's mission is "to educate future and current health care professionals and scientists based on the highest standards of excellence and principles of life-long learning together with the pursuit of novel research and clinical innovation, to improve the health of individuals and populations worldwide." As important as it is to focus is on "the learners", i.e., our students and residents, we also need to ensure that faculty members are themselves up to date.

The Department recently completed another cycle of annual evaluations where we all (hopefully) reflected on what we had done to make ourselves better in the past year. There are many educational opportunities in our teaching hospitals, but do we take advantage of

them? Not everyone does.

Attendance at Grand Rounds is sporadic and generally regular attendance is reserved to the few. The median attendance at the MUHC is 1 round per annum! The Jewish General Hospital gets a better audience than the MUHC. But even then many of our members do not make the time to attend. Divisional rounds are better attended, but many do not manage to attend the majority of these rounds.

So there is room for improvement. Why not make a forward looking move and create more robust requirements for our Department? Why not challenge ourselves? There is room for novel ideas. Perhaps each division should offer a mini-certification program for its members, covering key pertinent areas of practice.

In the recent past the Department offered a number of CME opportunities for its members. We had an initiative to learn about how to improve our interactions with patients. The 4-hour CARE (**C**onnection, **A**wareness, **R**elationship, **E**ngagement) workshop, run by Dr. Tom Hutchinson explores the skills needed to relate effectively in a clinical context. The learning objectives of the workshop are:

- Reflection on clinical relationships in practice
- Experience of mindful awareness
- Clarification of the concepts of patient centered care, relationship centered care, and whole person care
- Communication stances in clinical practice
- Understanding the role of empathy in patient engagement

(Continued on page 3)

IN THIS ISSUE:

- * [My first 150 days, Dr. Vicky Tagalakis](#)
- * [New Course: Principles of Clinical Epidemiology, Dr. Mark Goldberg](#)
- * [Research Symposium](#)
- * [Promotions & Tenure](#)
- * [Awards](#)

- * [Louis and Artur Lucian Award](#)
- * [Thank you to Tutors](#)
- * [Promotion Ms. Caroline Alcaraz](#)
- * [Appointments and Renewals](#)
- * [Recruitment](#)
- * [Honours](#)



My first 150 days

Dr. Vicky Tagalakis

Associate Professor and Division Director, General Internal Medicine

In September 2016 I stepped into my new position of McGill Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine (GIM). Although I had a good appreciation of the Division's commitment to academic medicine - after all my tenure as Director of the General Internal Medicine subspecialty residency program had afforded me a unique vantage point into the academic fabric of the Division - I needed to know more to layout a realistic vision for the academic future of the Division. To describe what our successes would look like in the future, I would have to consult within the Division as a first step to planning. And so, in my first 150 days, I met individually with members of the Division to learn more about them and their visions.

The Division of GIM is the second largest division in the Department of Medicine with 51 faculty members spread across five sites. I met with an extremely varied, strongly committed and highly accomplished group of individuals and included newly hired recruits, associate deans, international leaders in medical education, directors of clinical and research units, past and current associate physician-in-chiefs, Canada Research Chairs, clinical division chiefs, undergraduate and postgraduate medical education directors, internationally renowned researchers, clinical innovators, clinical teachers, and quality improvers. Despite wide-ranging academic and clinical interests, commitments and career paths, members were unanimous in the shared core value of high-level patient care achieved through education, research innovation, and knowledge transfer of best practices.

They pointed to the development and growth of innovative patient care clinical programs including medical obstetrics, perioperative care medicine, thrombosis medicine, cardiovascular prevention and vascular health, and complex care medicine. Several highlighted that patient care in our programs was increasingly being informed by the flow of knowledge across a continuum from our laboratory-based researchers to our clinical researchers to our population health researchers, and vice versa. This was a reflection of an increasingly strong research culture within the Division. Moreover, leaders in quality improvement research and assessment were spearheading the translation of new knowledge into better care and health outcomes for our patients. Finally, our medical educators and clinician teachers were impacting patient care and improving patient outcomes by innovating, facilitating and enhancing learning among our students, trainees, and faculty.

The faculty was unanimous - the Division was academically stronger than ever. Our academic successes were drivers of high-quality patient care, and vice versa. But, members also spoke of challenges, including silo driven academic and clinical initiatives, misalignment of clinical resources across the sites, scarce cross-site engagement, fewer academic resources, few division-focused faculty development activities including mentoring of new recruits, an increasingly difficult research funding environment, imbalances between clinical and academic roles, and possible loss of professional autonomy if bill 130 was realized. These challenges would have to be considered when describing what our future successes will look like. My sense is that we will have to consider the collective US, leveraging our unique strengths with the shared goal of sustaining our academic and clinical mission. Working together will be important. Collaboration across sites and engaging in cross-site planning can reduce fragmentation and duplication of efforts and potentially bring more resources to the table to conduct research, teach, and care for our patients. More specifically, a division-wide clinical recruitment and research and education strategy may potentially balance our academic commitments with clinical demands, address our clinical needs, and help fulfill our research and education mandates. In the end, this is what is best for our patients, and for US all.

However, this will not be easy. We work in a complex multi-institutional organization with many obstacles to collaboration, including limited access to cross-appointments and electronic records that cannot be shared between sites. But complexity is also a unique strength of our subspecialty and this Division. And so, as I look to the next 1,675 days, I am very hopeful that a major future success of our Division will be an appreciable increase of division-wide initiatives.

(Continued from page 1 /
CME by Dr. Martin)

This excellent CARE workshop has been attended by 100 or so members at the MUHC to date. Hopefully in the coming academic year, we will extend the CARE workshop to other sites. In November 2016 we held the first annual High Value Care Symposium, with excellent keynote speakers. On November 10th we will run our second High Value Care Symposium. Mark this date in your calendars and keep an eye out for the announcements for the CARE workshop. I encourage everyone to participate fully and if you have suggestions for new CME initiatives as well, we are open to novel ideas.

New Graduate Course in Clinical Research: Principles of Clinical Epidemiology

*Dr. Mark Goldberg, Professor of Medicine, MUHC
Division of Clinical Epidemiology*



As Dr. Anne-Marie Lauzon described in the December 2016 edition of this newsletter ([La division de médecine expérimentale rajeunit ses cours](#)), the Division of Experimental Medicine is offering a new graduate course titled: Principles of Clinical Epidemiology (EXMD 642) in the Fall 2017. This course serves as the foundation for the Department of Medicine's newly developing program in clinical research. The course, which provides an overview of key concepts and methods in clinical epidemiology, is under the direction of Dr. Mark Goldberg, and is taught by a team of instructors in the Department of Medicine: Drs. Susan Bartlett, Suzanne Morin, and Giada Sebastiani. It is designed as a "survey" course and the audience are non-epidemiologists interested in clinical research of human populations. We have selected the topics that we believe form the basis for understanding and appreciating the discipline.

The main learning objective is to understand the basic principles underlying clinical epidemiological studies and thus be able to critically interpret papers published in the peer-review literature. The main designs that are used in clinical epidemiology comprise observational studies (cohort, case-control, cross-sectional studies), and experimental studies (randomized controlled clinical trials), and these will be the focus of attention. Essential concepts in biostatistics, and issues in measurement, quasi-experimental designs (e.g., pre-post designs), and screening are also covered. The course will comprise lectures, discussions, papers, and presentations.

All students are welcome, but please contact Prof. Goldberg (mark.goldberg@mcgill.ca) for permission to register.

Department of Medicine Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS)

The next Department of Medicine Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) course will be **October 14 and 15, 2017**. If you are not currently certified, please save this date in your calendar. Registration information will follow at a later date.

McGill University Department of Medicine 2016 Annual Report

We encourage you all to take a moment to consult our [2016 Annual Report](#).

McGill Department of Medicine Research Symposium

By: Dr. James Martin

This year's symposium, held on May 3, 2017 at McGill New Residence Hall, drew an excellent attendance of 107. The attendees were not disappointed as the presentations were a reflection of excellent research performed by members of our department. As always, it was uplifting to consider these successes in the face of the challenges that all investigators are facing. Twenty two posters presented by our trainees gave this future generation of investigators an opportunity to interact with Faculty members. The following is a brief summary of the highlights, with apologies if I have misinterpreted any of the material presented.

Dr. Lorraine Chalifour: Escape of bisphenols and phthalates from medical devices; Identification, quantification and impact

Exposure results from their presence in soft plastics. Epidemiological data show associations with pathology such as diabetes. Early exposure of rats results in premature death and cardiac events. Dr. Chalifour measured exposure levels in the urine of patients undergoing cardiac surgery, demonstrating very high levels. Similar exposure of animals was performed and hearts were found to be dilated and EF was lower in post-myocardial infarction model apparently mediated by an estrogen receptor.

First keynote speaker - Dr. Darrell Kotton: Pluripotent stem cells to model and treat lung disease

Dr. Kotton discussed the reprogramming of induced pluripotent stem cells and the aim of regenerating lung tissues. He reviewed the transcriptional programming determining the fate of cells that become lung epithelium. A futuristic view of bioengineered lungs was illustrated. Induced pluripotent stem cells from patients with monogenic diseases have been repaired and are available for further study. The potential of genetic editing was described. Finally the predictive modeling exercise was demonstrated through identification of an effective drug regimen for repeated ventricular fibrillation. Overall this was a most exciting and inspiring talk.

Dr. Kristian Filion: Incretin-based drugs and the risk of heart failure

The talk discussed the risks associated with the use of drugs that are DPP4 antagonists and GLP-1 analogs based on data from the Canadian Observational Studies on Drug Effects. Using 6 databases he showed that the drugs were not associated with increased risk of heart failure, resolving a previously uncertain question.

Dr. Don Vinh: Human genetic susceptibility to infectious disease

Dr. Vinh presented his work on the identification of specific genetic abnormalities that lead to susceptibility to CS candidiasis. He led us through the identification of a newly recognized mutation in Card9 that explained the particular susceptibility. Impaired GM-CSF was implicated in the mechanism, opening up the possibility of specific therapy.

Dr. Michael Reed: From strain variation to antibiotic resistance in Mycobacterium Tuberculosis – What's the connection?

Dr. Reed taught us that strains of TB are highly conserved. However there are some variations in genome and determined important characteristics such as drug resistance. Differences in the expression of a stress sensor, DosR between strains results in markedly altered expression of a panel of genes that may affect antibiotic resistance with the so-called Beijing strain showing evidence of resistance.

Dr. Evelynne Vinet: Serious infections in rheumatoid arthritis offspring exposed to TNF inhibitors

Dr. Vinet described the use of TNF-alpha inhibitors in pregnancy and the fact that they are transported

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4 / Research Symposium)

across the placenta and may even be in higher concentrations in the cord blood. Her studies addressed the presence of serious infections in offspring of patients with rheumatoid arthritis thus treated. Her assessment led to the conclusion that the trend for increased risk of serious infection was not statistically significant.

Dr. Alexis Baass: Familial hypercholesterolemia and cardiovascular disease

Dr. Baass described the clinical characteristics of cases of the genetically determined disease FH which is one of the most common genetic diseases world-wide. In Canada 140,000 persons suffer from this disease with high prevalence among French Canadians. He presented his work on the development of a predictive score for cardiovascular disease. He also described some of the polymorphisms affecting risk.

Dr. Nicole Bernard: Investigating how natural killer cells protect against HIV infection

Dr. Bernard described the properties of natural killer cells and their role in protecting from infection with HIV. Certain highly exposed persons do not develop seropositivity linked to natural killer cells and the specific receptor on NK cells responsible for preventing HIV infection. Secretion of specific chemokines mediated this inhibition, at least in part.

Dr. Vidal Essebag: Perioperative management of anticoagulation for cardiac implantable electronic devices

Dr. Essebag reviewed the increasing use of implantable devices and the concomitant use of anticoagulants. He described the major trials studying the issues of bridging with anticoagulation at the time of device placement. His data showed that not stopping warfarin was the preferred strategy. He also introduced the topic of the approach to the management of novel anticoagulants.

Second keynote speaker - Dr. Samy Suissa: Observational trials and randomized tribulations in clinical research

Dr. Suissa provided a critique of several major pharmacoepidemiologic studies. He explained the consequences of immortal time bias for the interpretation of major trials. He also described the consequences of immeasurable and time-window biases for interpretation of published studies. The limitations of observational studies were detailed. The conclusions with regard to the validity of major studies were hair-raising.

Poster presentations: Again this year, we had excellent presentations by residents and research trainees and the Department wishes to thank them all for their active participation:

**Wusiman Aibibula
Anne-Sophie Brazeau
Robert Battat
Amine Benmassaoud
Julia Chabot
Alexandra B. Cooke
Shubhabrata Das
Aparna Dintakurti**

**Antonios Douros
Michael Fein
Mellissa Gaudet
Geneviève Genest
Mina Girgis
Necola Guerrina
Kathryn J. Jacob**

**Adi J. Klil-Drori
Toby McGovern
Placide Ntwali Nsengiyumva
Alice Panariti
Kim Phan
Laura Pillozzi-Edmonds
Huaïen Zheng**

In conclusion, the symposium this year was a great success. Once again we had top-notch keynote speakers, excellent short presentations covering a broad range of topics and showing the great depth and breadth of research within the Department. Our thanks to the presenters and to Ms. Caroline Alcaraz for the work done in organizing the event.

PROMOTIONS & AWARDING OF TENURE

Congratulations to our Faculty members for their achievements !

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR WITH TENURE

Dr. Maziar Divangahi: A member of the Respiratory Division and Associate Director of the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, Dr. Divangahi is recognized as one of the leading scientists in macrophage responses to respiratory pathogens.

FULL PROFESSORS

Dr. Sasha Bernatsky: A rheumatologist and clinical epidemiologist based at the MUHC, Dr. Bernatsky is a highly regarded researcher in the area of cancer risk in autoimmune rheumatic diseases, in particular systematic lupus erythematosus.

Dr. Volker Blank: Based at the Lady Davis Institute of the JGH, Dr. Blank is an expert in the area of oxidative stress and gene regulation in cancer cells.

Dr. Chen Liang: Dr. Liang is an accomplished scientist who works in the field of HIV and host response to infection. His laboratory is situated at the Lady Davis Institute of the JGH.

Dr. Judith Therrien: A cardiologist based at the JGH, Dr. Therrien has made important contributions in the area of congenital heart disease in adults.

FRQS SALARY AWARDS

Congratulations to our members !

Chair

◆ **Dr. Donald Sheppard**

Chercheur Boursier Senior

◆ **Dr. Simon Rousseau**

Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Senior

◆ **Dr. Stella Daskalopoulou**

◆ **Dr. Brent Richards**

Chercheur Boursier Junior 2

◆ **Dr. Kristian Filion**

Chercheur Boursier Junior 1

◆ **Dr. Ivan Litvinov**

Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Junior 2

◆ **Dr. Marta Kaminska**

◆ **Dr. Yves Longtin**

Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Junior 1

◆ **Dr. Cecilia Costiniuk**

◆ **Dr. Todd Lee**

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's recipients !

JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL Department of Medicine Staff and Residents Year-End
Party held Wednesday, May 31, 2017

Dave Feder Award

Resident who practices medicine with most compassion and sensitivity

- ◆ **Dr. Julian Huertas Garcia**

Sheldon Zemelman Memorial Award

For academic excellence and outstanding contribution to patient care

- ◆ **Dr. Jill Pancer**

Dr. Allen Spanier Internal Medicine Award

Resident who exhibits an enduring passion for the practice of medicine.

- ◆ **Dr. Nan Zhao**

Teacher of the Year voted by the residents

- ◆ **Dr. Errol Stern**

Fellow of the Year Award

- ◆ **Dr. Jessica Thom**

JGH Auxiliary Academic Enrichment Award

- ◆ **Dr. Valérie Leclair**

MUHC Departmental Annual Dinner held Monday June 5, 2017

Please click here for our [photo gallery](#)

Physician-in-Chief Award

For highly distinguished service to the MUHC
Department of Medicine

- ◆ **Dr. Joyce Pickering**

Department of Medicine Physicianship Award

Exemplary Physician

- ◆ **Dr. Gordon Crelinsten**
- ◆ **Dr. James Gruber**

Outreach Award

Attending Staff, Teams or Residents who enhance links between the MUHC and the community

- ◆ **Dr. Ines Colmegna**

Department of Medicine Award

For Innovation in Clinical Care or Quality

- ◆ **Dr. Natasha Garfield and the MUHC Diabetes Transition Team (accepted by Dr. Garfield & Dr. Sarah Meltzer)**

Department of Medicine Award

For Research by a Subspecialty Resident

- ◆ **Dr. Kashayar Esfahani**
- ◆ **Dr. Ramy Saleh**

Department of Medicine Staff Research Award

- ◆ **Dr. Sabah Hussain**

Department of Medicine Early Career Staff Research Award

- ◆ **Dr. George Thanassoulis**

The Louis G. Johnson Award

For excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident
- selected by RVH Residents

- ◆ **Dr. Louis Antoine Mullie**

The Lorne E. Cassidy Teaching Award

For Excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident
- selected by MGH Residents

- ◆ **Dr. Jean-Frédéric Leblanc**

The Douglas G. Kinnear Award

Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC
- selected by MGH Residents

- ◆ **Dr. Amal Bessissow**

The W.H. Philip Hill Award

Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC
- selected by RVH Residents

- ◆ **Dr. Ahsan Alam**

ST. MARY'S Family Medicine Annual
Physicians' dinner held Friday, June 9, 2017.

Physician-in-Chief Award

Family Medicine Resident (R2) who
demonstrates excellence in Internal Medicine

♦ **Dr. Geneviève Bois**

Mervyn James Robson Memorial Award

For Excellence in Internal Medicine during first
year of residency

♦ **Dr. Shiva Javeshghani**

**MCGILL RESIDENCY TRAINING
PROGRAM AWARDS**

Residency Research Evening Award

For Research by a Core Internal Medicine Resident

♦ **Dr. Corey Miller**

The Harold Frank Prize

For Excellence in a Clinical Case Presentation
(Clinical Vignettes)

♦ **Dr. Corey Miller**

Louis and Artur Lucian Award



Photo credit: C. Alcaraz

Dean Eidelman, Dr. James Martin and Dr. Brian Kobilka

This year, the **Louis and Artur Lucian Award** was given to **Dr. Brian Kobilka** for his Nobel prize winning work on G-protein coupled receptors. He spent a week interacting with various scientists at McGill, the MUHC, JGH and the University of Montreal. The Award Committee looks forward to welcoming Professor John J V McMurray in the coming year. Pr. McMurray has made major contributions to cardiovascular care through a large body of clinical research. Keep your eyes open for the date of his visit in the coming year.

The Louis and Artur Lucian Award for Research in Circulatory Diseases was established when Dame Olga Leibovici bestowed a \$2 M USD gift on McGill University in memory of her brothers in her 1965 will. Dame Leibovici honored her brothers, both engineers who passed on early and whose ashes remain in the cimetière Père Lachaise in Paris. After meeting with Ronald V. Christie, MD, then Dean at the Faculty of Medicine at McGill, the terms of her donation stipulated that the award be given for work related to diseases of the cardiovascular system. The first Lucian Award was bestowed in 1978.

THANK YOU TO OUR TUTORS!

Department of Medicine Tutors 2016 – 2017

Teaching clinical skills to the next generation of physicians is one of the key functions of an academic medical department such as ours. We have a particularly large contribution in teaching clinical skills in the second year of medicine, a very time intensive endeavour.

We would like to acknowledge the following members of our Department
who acted as Tutors this past academic year.

Review, Assess, Consolidate Course

Jewish General Hospital	Royal Victoria Hospital	Montreal General Hospital	St. Mary's
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Dr. Polymnia Galiatsatos	Dr. Emily McDonald	Dr. James David Shannon	Dr. Domenic Ferrarotto
Dr. John Brent Richards	Dr. Stéphane Beaudoin	Dr. Laurence Green	Dr. Margaret Hughes
Dr. Genevieve Gyger	Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman	Dr. Sushmita Pamidi	Dr. Todd McConnell
Dr. April Shamy	Dr. Julie Okapuu		Dr. Benjamin Schiff
Dr. Andre Dascal			Dr. Burce Campbell
Dr. Hoi Yun Oriana Yu		<i>Residents & Fellows</i>	Dr. Eric Tremblay
	<i>Residents & Fellows</i>	Dr. Christopher Reid	Dr. Michael Bonnycastle
	Dr. Marnie Wilson	Dr. Patricia Lecca	Dr. Robert Diez d'Aux
<i>Residents & Fellows</i>	Dr. Natascia Anastasio	Dr. Marie-Lie Cadieux	Dr. Zoe Mamalingas
Dr. Howard Gerson	Dr. Barry Burstein	Dr. Elie Aki	Dr. Angelo Fuoco
Dr. Anh Tram Tran	Dr. Mehdi Afshar	Dr. Douglas Slobod	
Dr. Milad Modabber	Dr. Ketaki Rawal	Dr. Dennis Ho-Wo Cheong	
Dr. Teresa Cafaro	Dr. Guillaume Butler-Laporte	Dr. Moez Tajdin	
Dr. Michael Wodkowski	Dr. Ewa Rajda	Dr. Tricia Peters	
Dr. Rachel Spevack	Dr. Leighanne Parkes	Dr. Amr Telmesani	
Dr. Vikas Srinivasan Sridhar	Dr. Christos Galatas		
Dr. Arif Awan	Dr. Micheal Fein		

(Continued on page 10)

Transition to Clinical Practice Course

Jewish General Hospital	Royal Victoria Hospital	Montreal General Hospital	St. Mary's
<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>	<i>Staff</i>
Dr. Ruxandra Bunea	Dr. Ken Flegel	Dr. James David Shannon	Dr. Gail Goldman
Dr. Gershon Frisch	Dr. Shaifali Sandal	Dr. Laurence Green	Dr. Jeffrey Steven Segal
Dr. Jason Scott Agulnik	Dr. Emily McDonald	Dr. Constantine A. Soulellis	Dr. Suzanne Morin
Dr. Sabrina Anne Fallavollita	Dr. David Dawson	Dr. Catherine Weber	Dr. Eric Tremblay
Dr. Nathalie Saad	Dr. Henry Jay Biem	Dr. Ratna Samanta	Dr. Todd McConnell
Dr. Hoi Yun Oriana Yu	Dr. Nessrine Sabri	Dr. Denis Cournoyer	Dr. Benjamin Schiff
Dr. Lama Sakr	Dr. Sameena Iqbal		Dr. Michael Stein
Dr. Michael Tamilia	Dr. Ning-Zi Sun		
Dr. Maral Koolian	Dr. Nadeem Ahmed	<i>Residents and Fellows</i>	
Dr. Carmela Pepe	Dr. Charith Sairam	Dr. Joelle Mardini	
Dr. Luc Trudeau	Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman	Dr. Christopher Reid	
Dr. Elizabeth MacNamara		Dr. Jessica Thom	
	<i>Residents & Fellows</i>	Dr. Jean Deschamps	
<i>Residents & Fellows</i>	Dr. Remy Wong	Dr. Remy Wong	
Dr. Remy Wong	Dr. Maria Rubino	Dr. Douglas Slobod	
Dr. Jean Deschamps	Dr. Laura Pillozzi-Edmonds	Dr. Amit Raut	
Dr. Arif Awan	Dr. Thomas Pembroke		

Ms. Caroline Alcaraz Academic Affairs and Administrative Officer

By: Teresa Alper, Associate Director, Administration, Department of Medicine

It is with great pleasure that we announce the promotion of **Ms. Caroline Alcaraz** to the position of Academic Affairs and Administrative Officer, from General Administrator, effective June 2017. Caroline has been working in the Department of Medicine since 2010. She devoted her first five years in the Department as the primary administrative support to the Division of Cardiology. In 2015, with the restructuring of the departmental administrative apparatus and the rollout of Administrative Excellence Centre 8, Caroline was reassigned to the Chair's office as General Administrator. Caroline has a wealth of experience in event planning, project coordination and administrative affairs. She possesses superb organizational and communication skills and is trilingual. She earned a B. Com (Major in Finance) from Concordia University, holds a Graduate Certificate from McGill in Health Care and has completed the McGill Leadership Development Program. Caroline organized the Department's highly successful Research Symposium in 2016 and 2017 and is the key resource person responsible for all logistics related to the annual prestigious Lucian Award. Caroline coordinated the Department's first ever fundraising event in March 2017, in conjunction with McGill. The Department's target was exceeded by 50% and over \$15,000 was raised to support the purchase of supplies and equipment for a hospital in Haiti. Caroline's expertise in all matters related to medical manpower is critically important to the department and she is a central player in helping to solve complex clinical recruitment issues. Congratulations to Caroline on her promotion !

APPOINTMENTS & RENEWALS

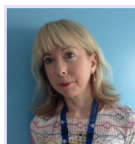
Wishing our members great success !

DIVISION DIRECTORS



Following a thorough consultative process with strong support, **Dr. Nadia Giannetti** has been renewed as **Director of the MUHC Division of Cardiology** effective March 1, 2017 for a period of 4 years. Dr. Giannetti has done a stellar job with the MUHC Division of Cardiology enhancing the clinical expertise of the Division through the recruitment of internationally recognized new members and the promotion of the Division's academic mission.

Dr. Basil Petrof, Professor of Medicine, has been appointed **Director of the Meakins-Christie Laboratories (MCL)** effective May 15th, 2017 for a five year term. As Director of the MCL, Dr. Petrof will be responsible for the scientific leadership and all administrative matters within the MCL. Dr. Petrof is an accomplished and an internationally recognized scientist for his work on respiratory muscle dysfunction and sleep disordered breathing. We take this opportunity to thank **Dr. Qutayba Hamid** who has served as MCL Director with great distinction since 2008. Dr. Hamid orchestrated the move of the Meakins-Christie Labs to the Glen and unified the investigators working in the area of respiratory diseases.



Following a thorough consultative process, **Dr. Margaret Warner** has been renewed as **Director of the MUHC Division of Hematology** effective June 1, 2017 for a period of 4 years. Dr. Warner has served the MUHC Division of Hematology with great distinction and dedication to the provision of the best of care for patients. She has been highly effective in ensuring the coordination of a complex and hard-working division. We are confident that Dr. Warner will be able to count on your cooperation to meet the challenges that may arise over the course of her next term.

TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Hematology: Dr. Chantal Cassis was renewed for a second term.

Respiratory Diseases: Dr. Linda Ofiara has been appointed as of July 1, 2017.

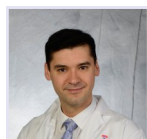
Undergraduate Medical Education: Dr. Ratna Samanta has been appointed as Site Director for Montreal General Hospital (MGH) and as Clerkship Director for the MGH Site as of July 1, 2017.

Gastroenterology: Dr. Constantine Soulellis was renewed for a second term.

Thank you to our outgoing members who previously held these positions: **Dr. Leora Birnbaum** (Undergraduate Medical Education) and **Dr. John Kimoff** (Respiratory Diseases).

RECRUITMENT

Welcome to our new Faculty members !



Dr. Ivan Litvinov, Assistant Professor to the Division of Dermatology and Attending Staff of the MUHC. Dr. Litvinov earned his Ph.D. degree at the Johns Hopkins

School of Medicine and his M.D. at McGill University. In the past 2 years, Dr. Litvinov worked as an Assistant Professor of Dermatology and Cellular and Molecular Medicine at the University of Ottawa, where he established and directed a cutaneous lymphoma clinic, was a divisional leader on the Quality and Safety Committee, directed a basic science laboratory, supervised medical and graduate students in the lab and served on the residency program committees in Dermatology. Recipient of the prestigious provincial FRQS Chercheur-boursier award, Dr. Litvinov was recruited to the MUHC as a clinician-scientist and will be based primarily at the RVH/Glen where he will direct a translational research laboratory within the Cancer Research Program and will establish and direct a hematology-dermatology multidisciplinary clinic. Dr. Litvinov, working in concert with other MUHC physicians, will provide tertiary dermatology care to patients with graft versus host disease, skin lymphomas, mastocytosis and other complex conditions. Over the year, he is expected to transition and assume duties of the Director of Research in the Division of Dermatology.



Dr. François Mercier, Assistant Professor to the Division of Hematology and Attending Staff of the JGH. Dr. Mercier earned his M.D. at McGill University in 2004, where he subsequently completed

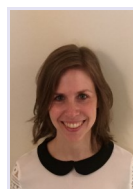
post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and Hematology. Following this, he pursued additional training at Harvard University (Scadden Laboratory) and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he successfully conducted research on murine models of acute myeloid leukemia and CRISPR/Cas9 technology to better understand how leukemic stem cells gradually adapt in vivo to outcompete normal hematopoiesis, and how to revert this. Dr. Mercier will have clinical duties at the JGH, where he will also be involved in teaching students and supervising medical

residents. He will continue to advance his research in the field of hematological malignancies at the Segal Cancer Center.

Dr. Marco Spaziano, Assistant Professor to the Division of Cardiology and Attending Staff of the MUHC. Dr. Spaziano earned his M.D. at Université de Montréal in 2008, where he subsequently



completed post-graduate training in cardiology. He then completed a one-year fellowship in interventional cardiology at the MUHC followed by a two-year fellowship in complex coronary interventions and structural heart interventions at the *Institut Cardiovasculaire Paris Sud* in France. He subsequently pursued additional training in clinical research and biostatistics at the Harvard School of Public Health and Université de Montréal, obtaining a master's degree. His current research activities focus on the technical and technological advances in structural heart interventions. Dr. Spaziano will have clinical duties, particularly in the area of interventional cardiology at the MUHC, where he will be involved in clinical research, and in teaching students and supervising medical residents.



Dr. Catherine Talbot-Hamon, Assistant Professor to the Division of Geriatrics and Attending Staff at the MUHC. Dr. Talbot-Hamon earned her M.D. at Université Laval, followed by residency at the JGH.

She subsequently completed post-graduate training in geriatric medicine at University of Toronto. Dr. Talbot-Hamon is pursuing additional research training leading to a MSc in clinical epidemiology as it pertains to frailty and cardiovascular disease in older adults. Dr. Talbot-Hamon will have clinical duties at both adult sites of the MUHC, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. She will continue to advance her research in the field of non-pharmacologic prevention and treatment of adverse events in patients undergoing cardiac procedures.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12/ Recruitment)



Dr. Vanessa Tardio, Assistant Professor to the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Attending Staff at the MUHC. After graduating with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Human Nutrition from McGill, Dr. Tardio earned her M.D. from Laval University in Quebec City. She then

completed a 3 year residency in internal medicine at the CHUQ followed by a fellowship in adult endocrinology at the MUHC. She also pursued additional clinical and research training in Quebec City on the metabolic effects of bariatric surgery. Dr. Tardio will have clinical duties at the MUHC (both sites), including participation in the multidisciplinary bariatric surgery clinic, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. She will pursue clinical research on the bone effects after bariatric surgery, having been successful in obtaining a Diabetes Canada research grant.



Dr. Karl Weiss, Full Professor to the Division of Infectious Diseases as well as Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the JGH. Dr. Weiss has been on staff as an Associé at the JGH and as an Adjunct Professor at McGill since 2004 prior to joining us

full-time in December 2016. Dr. Weiss earned his M.D. in 1989 from Université de Montréal (UdM) where he subsequently completed post-graduate training in microbiology and infectious diseases and obtained a Masters degree in clinical epidemiology. He joined the Division of Microbiology & Infectiology at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont in 1994 and became Head of that Division in 2012. At UdM, he was promoted to Full Professor in 2009. Dr. Weiss is an accomplished teacher and researcher with over 50 industry-sponsored clinical research studies and several research projects funded by major government agencies. The Department is grateful to **Dr. Andre Dascal** who has stepped down as Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases at the JGH effective May 31, 2017 as he has assumed the position of Medical Director of Optilab for McGill University.

****NOTE:** The Department of Medicine is in the process of recruiting several new members who are starting this summer and early fall. Although every attempt is made to acknowledge them all at the time we go "to press", some announcements may be delayed and will appear in the Fall newsletter.

Honours

Congratulations to our members for their achievements !



Dr. Emily Gibson McDonald, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and based at the MUHC, has been selected as the recipient of the **2017 Canadian Society of Internal Medicine New Investigator Award**.

Dr. Mathieu Walker, Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology and based at St. Mary's, and Course Director, Fundamentals of Medicine and Dentistry, McGill University, has been selected for the **Faculty of Medicine Honour List for Educational Excellence (2017-2018)**.



Erratum

In the Honour section of our [April 2017 edition of Vital Signs](#), we erroneously stated that **Dr. Meredith Young** is an Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine. It should have read that she is an **Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, and a Research Scientist, Centre for Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine**. We regret the error.

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The Department of Medicine's number of successes is prolific. Although every attempt is made to acknowledge them all at the time we go "to press", some announcements may be delayed. Do not hesitate to contact us to let us know of your successes.