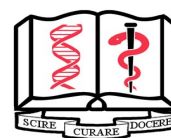


VITAL SIGNS



THE NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Volume 13. Number 3

October 2018



Dr. James Martin
Chair, Department of Medicine

HOW ARE WE DOING?

As some of you are already aware, the Department of Medicine underwent a cyclical review earlier this year, in April 2018. Outside experts and local faculty constituted the review panel. This review, mandated by the Provost (aka Vice-Principal, Academic) of McGill University, focused on the academic performance of the Department. The Department leadership provided its formal, written response to the review panel's report in July. More recently, we started the process of reflecting on areas that require improvement and throughout the year we will identify ways to achieve implementation of constructive suggestions.

One of the areas under consideration is the graduate studies program of the Department of Medicine that is run through the Division of Experimental Medicine (ExMed). The Division of ExMed excels at attracting high caliber students – the quality of our students has improved progressively over the past 5 years, with the average GPA of currently registering students at 3.43 in 2014 and 3.64 in 2018. ExMed also provides excellent bursaries to support its students. One of the priorities of Dr. Anne-Marie Lauzon, Director of the Division is to expand the course offerings so that more students engaged in clinical research will be able to be accommodated within the Division and be supervised by departmental members. It is interesting to note that supervisors hail from both within the Department and beyond – in other words, whereas most of the research scientists in our Department supervise graduate students through this Division, there are also supervisors of ExMed

students from outside the Department. Similarly many of our research supervisors also have students who are enrolled in graduate programs from other departments at the University (e.g. Physiology). The efforts already underway by Dr. Lauzon to develop innovative course offerings will undoubtedly strengthen the Department's graduate program.

Another topic that merits consideration is mentorship. Mentorship is key to success in the competitive environment that is research. Although we encourage mentorship, we do not have formal policies as a department. Furthermore, mentorship is not restricted in its utility to researchers but is valuable to all faculty members, whatever the stage of their careers and domains of interest. In many institutions, faculty members have committees that review their strategies for success in their careers. Of course, such intense scrutiny and feedback is principally aimed at investigators, but timely advice and sharing of experiences may prove to be helpful to the practicing clinician also. There is considerable room to improve in this area and we will develop policies to cover this "lacune".

My personal reflection is that there is opportunity for better integration of activities across sites. Of course, the changes in our organizations and clinical mandates have created differences in the way we have coped with the challenges these changes have posed. Our common academic mission on the other hand could benefit by harmonization of certain practices. We should work to sharing best practices for the good of all.

So there is work ahead to strengthen an already high-performing department, comprised of excellent, dedicated and intensely hard-working educators, clinicians and scientists. Our collective effort to build on this longstanding success will ensure that the McGill Department of Medicine remains one of the best in the country.

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Interventional Cardiology

Dr. Stéphane Rinfret

Associate Professor, Division of Cardiology, MUHC

Interventional cardiology at the MUHC has been quite busy over the last few weeks. We were very proud to perform live case demonstrations for the 30th Transcatheter Therapeutics (TCT) meeting held in San Diego this year. We performed what we do best; a live transcatheter aortic valve replacement (TAVR) performed with novel methods of guiding, using cardiac computer tomography developed by our team of structural interventional cardiologists, Drs. Piazza, Martucci and Spaziano, the latter being our most recent recruit to our team. Dr. Dandona and I, from the Complex Higher risk but Indicated Procedures (CHIP) and chronic total occlusions (CTO) program also performed a live chronic total occlusion percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI), demonstrating many of the novel techniques, including a retrograde difficult wiring. We perform 100 such procedures each year on patients who have been either turned down for PCI or surgery. These 2 live cases were very well attended, and both were enjoyed by attendees. The cath lab is also staffed by the best team of nurses and technicians in Montreal (really!) and who volunteered to come to work on a Sunday to be part of this important event for our division. Also, our cath lab witnessed a world first-in-man CTO procedure in June, with 4 other cases done subsequently with a new technology that treats total occlusions with a wire that acts like a jack-hammer. This procedure was well covered by the national media. Also, our new mitral intervention program is facing a real challenge of great demand in a situation of limited resources; a recent study demonstrated that the MitraClip procedure, now performed at the MUHC, can save lives in heart failure

patients, which is a new hope for patients but will inevitably become a challenge for health resources. Finally, we are still recruiting to a local study on hybrid coronary revascularisation, where PCI is performed on some vessels and an arterial graft done by the surgeon of the most important artery, the left anterior descending, to optimize surgical long-term outcomes by avoiding the use of saphenous vein grafts. All patients have been very satisfied so far with this new strategy. In brief, the cath lab is very busy, and we are thrilled to be helping a growing number of patients.



Left to Right: Claire Marcil, Mathin Ghorbati, Rabah Medrart, Marie Noelle Veilleux, Nicolo Piazza, Jean Buithieu, Stéphane Rinfret (front), Giuseppe Martucci, Marco Spaziano and Hind Al Osaimi

Pushing the boundaries of endoscopy and technology development

By Dr. Alain Bitton

Professor and Director, Division of Gastroenterology, McGill and MUHC

Dr. Yen-I Chen joined the Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Department of Medicine at the MUHC in July 2017 after completing a 2-year fellowship in advanced therapeutic endoscopy at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.



Dr. Chen expressed his desire and motivation for a career in gastroenterology and in academic medicine early on during his internal medicine residency at McGill. One could sense instantly his passion and drive for clinical research.

“My research goal is to push the boundaries of endoscopy and technology development in order to find new ways of helping our patients and avoid more invasive interventions such as surgery.”

During his GI residency, despite heavy clinical responsibilities and training, he was able to maintain a research focus developing protocols and publishing his research. This commitment continued on as he completed a successful 2-year intense therapeutic endoscopy fellowship in which he trained in novel advanced endoscopic techniques that he brought back to our institution. Many of these techniques which were not performed at the MUHC or anywhere else in Canada have the potential to change the endoscopic approach to pancreaticobiliary and luminal cancers.

Yen-I is one of very few clinicians in Canada who is a true therapeutic GI endoscopist, while also being genuinely interested in clinical research. Since his return to McGill, he has spearheaded the therapeutic Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS) research activities of the Division and is currently leading two randomized multicenter controlled trials with the MUHC as the principal site. In addition, he is completing a M.Sc. program consolidating his knowledge in research methodology.

Yen-I is an excellent communicator and continuously promotes collaboration and collegiality. In his first year back, he has been successful in bringing together clinicians and researchers across the MUHC as well as across Canada working on clinical projects which can truly have an impact on the way patients are managed.

“The MUHC community has been extremely supportive and I am very lucky to have tremendous mentorship support from Dr. Alan Barkun and Dr. Alain Bitton. Moreover, I believe that our collaborative culture between gastroenterology, interventional radiology, and hepatobiliary surgery is unique in Canada and has allowed us to optimize patient care while performing novel hybrid procedures some of which are the first reported in the world.”

He has been instrumental in establishing at the MUHC a collaborative program in the diagnostic and therapeutic approach to patients with digestive and pancreaticobiliary malignancies. This novel multidisciplinary approach, using minimally invasive procedures, is paving the way for a change in clinical practice in view of optimizing patient care while reducing potential complications linked to current approaches. We are thrilled to have Yen-I back amongst us in our Division and institution.

Physician Wellbeing Course

for MD's in the Department of Medicine

Provided by Dr. Patricia Dobkin



Introducing Hygieia, daughter of Asclepius

Hygieia in Greek and Roman mythology is considered as a goddess of health (and hygiene); she is associated with prevention of sickness and the continuation of good health.

At McGill Programs in Whole Person Care, thus far we have been interested in combining the skills of Hippocrates (associated with curing) and Asclepius (associated with healing). We would like to include Hygieia in our upcoming project.

Beginning this fall, the Department of Medicine will be offering the **Physician Wellbeing** course, designed at the University of Arizona Center for Integrative Medicine. The course curriculum explores strategies for physicians to build healthy resilience, manage chronic stress, prevent burnout, and practice mindfulness as it relates to the learning and working environment.

Course features are:

- * Pre-Post course self-assessments
- * Materials/handouts
- * Mindful practice exercises
- * Written self-reflections
- * Foundational training in resilience skills
- * Videos and interactive exercises

The online portion includes 4.5 hours of independent study. This is followed by a 3-hour workshop with 15-20 faculty members who will be given the opportunity to practice mindful exercises, outline wellness goals, and get tips for maintaining changes and extending lessons learned to patients.

The workshops will be led by **Dr. Patricia Dobkin**, a faculty member at [McGill Programs in Whole Person Care](#) and editor/co-author of two books on Mindful Medical Practice.

The advantage of the online part of the course is that participants decide when to complete it. Based on self-assessments, participants focus on the most relevant modules. Participants pace themselves and select optimal modes for learning (e.g. videos, reading articles, completing exercises). It can be completed in several logins. While participants need to stick with it, this has not been a problem for hundreds of residents and physicians in 10 medical centres in the USA and Canada who have taken the course thus far.

Some ask, Is it evidence-based? What is taught online and in the workshop is based on research. The University of Arizona has analyzed data from 251 participants working in multiple institutions - 56% of whom were residents.

Preliminary results show:

Improvements in burnout:

- * Emotional Exhaustion scores - feelings of being emotionally overextended and exhausted by one's work – decreased ($p < 0.001$)

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4 / Physician Wellbeing Course)

- * Depersonalization scores – an unfeeling and impersonal response to patients decreased ($p < 0.03$)

Improvements in resilience:

- * Dispositional Resilience – a measure of hardiness, the manner a person approaches and interprets experience – increased ($p < 0.03$).
- * Response to Stressful Experiences – a measure of coping processes – increased ($p < 0.001$).

Here's a link to a recent article if you are interested in reading more: <https://medicine.arizona.edu/news/2018/resident-self-care-course-purchased-usc-expanded-college-medicine-tucson>

The Department of Medicine will handle the logistics: when and where the workshops will take place, as well as **CME credit** (4.5 credits-RCPSC MOC Section 1, 3 credits-RCPSC MOC Section 3) offered upon completion of **both** parts of the course.

We invite you to take advantage of an opportunity to maintain your own wellness. You can think of it as a vaccination against the stressors inherent in working in a challenging and changing health care setting.

Click on this link for the Introduction Physician Wellbeing course launch video: <https://youtu.be/7fUWhJdqYg4>

If you are a physician in the Department of Medicine at the MUHC or JGH, to register, please email: patricia.dobkin@mcgill.ca. She will inform you about workshop dates and help you get going.

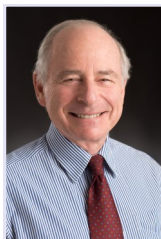
The cost is being underwritten by the Department of Medicine and McGill Programs in Whole Person Care; thus, there is no cost for participants.



By Dr. Todd Lee, Associate Professor, Division of General Internal Medicine

We are very excited to be hosting, on **Friday November 23, 2018** at the **RI-MUHC Auditorium ES1.1129**, the 3rd annual McGill University Department of Medicine Clinical Research Symposium on High Value Medical Care sponsored by the Department of Medicine, the MGH Foundation and the MUHC Foundation. This year we have two excellent keynote speakers: **Dr. Kaveh G. Shojania**, the editor in chief of BMJ Quality and Safety and VP of Quality at Sunnybrook Hospital who will discuss how to turn quality and safety work into academically important publications and **Dr. Alan Forster**, VP Innovation and Quality at The Ottawa Hospital who will talk about using electronic data warehouses to drive quality improvement inside the institution. We will also feature local speakers presenting on the theme of using technology to derive improved value as well as a number of excellent oral presentations, oral abstracts and posters. The program was prepared by the organizing committee that comprised Drs. Michael Goldfarb, Laura Pilozzi-Edmonds, Nicole Ezer, Emily McDonald, Todd Lee and James Martin, ably assisted by Ms. Caroline Alcaraz. We look forward to a great turnout, stimulating discussions and further development of McGill as a leading Canadian centre in this area.

Fourth Annual Research Symposium Department of Medicine of the Jewish General Hospital



*Dr. Ernesto L. Schiffrin
Physician-in-Chief, Department of Medicine, JGH
Professor and Vice-Chair of Research, Department of Medicine, McGill University*

On October 1st, 2018, the Fourth Annual Research Symposium of the Department of Medicine of the Jewish General Hospital (JGH) took place. The Research Symposium is held to provide an opportunity for presentation at Medical Grand Rounds by awardees of the Clinical Research Program of the JGH. This program was created in 2007 to support clinical research by CAS faculty. Currently, 23 awardees are being supported by the program, which is funded by the Practice Plan of the Department.

On this occasion, **Dr. Blair Schwartz**, Division of Internal Medicine, JGH, presented his research on “Quality Improvement at the JGH.” He described the objectives of QI and referred to a study done as follow-up of an alert by Health Canada regarding inferior vena cava filters and the need for reducing their insertion and increasing their removal. The study was retrospective and demonstrated that there was a positive response at the JGH with the appropriate measures resulting in less filters inserted and more removed. He also analyzed predictors of response and complications associated with the new approach.

This presentation was followed by one by **Dr. Morris Schweitzer**, Division of Endocrinology, JGH, who presented his recent work on the “Effect of a PCSK9 Neutralizing Antibody on CD36 Degradation and Hepatic Steatosis in a Translational Mouse Model.” He elucidated the importance of CD36 in regulating the uptake of fatty acids in the liver, the role of PCSK9 in inducing CD36 degradation in the liver and how a PCSK9 neutralizing antibody can affect hepatic steatosis in a translational mouse model.

The final presentation of the Symposium was by **Dr. Gerasimos J. Zaharatos**, Division of Medical Microbiology, OPTILAB, MUHC and Division of Infectious Diseases, JGH, on “Innate Immune Response to Vaccines and Vaccine Adjuvants Delivered Intramuscularly: Defining the Role of Skeletal Muscle Myocytes.” He provided an update of innate immune sensing pathways for pathogen-associated molecular patterns including pathogen-derived DNA and RNA. Dr. Zaharatos showed work from his laboratory on the DNA-sensing cGAS and STING mediating the response of muscle to exposure in vitro to DNA. The cGAS-STING pathway is a component of the innate immune system that detects the presence of cytosolic DNA. It then triggers expression of inflammatory genes that activate defense mechanisms. Dr. Zaharatos discussed the implications of this pathway for mechanisms of action of adjuvants delivered intramuscularly.

The 1-hour long symposium was attended by approximately 100 members of the Department of Medicine, residents and medical students, and was considered to be an extremely successful learning opportunity that has been and will continue to be repeated yearly.



Sabbatical Thoughts

A note from Lyon

Dr. Brent Richards
Professor, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism
Jewish General Hospital

Over the first six months of 2018, I had the opportunity to focus on several aspects of my research by working as a Senior Visiting Scientist at the WHO International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) in Lyon, France. A sabbatical is a wonderful opportunity for an academic and I was thrilled to profit both professionally and personally from this experience.

First, this would not have been possible without the clinical support afforded by my colleagues in endocrinology at the JGH. While I tried to make arrangements to reduce the burden of my absence, inevitable questions and concerns arose during my sabbatical, which were largely handled by my colleagues Stavroula Christopoulos, Agnieszka Majdan and Michael Tamilia. I'm grateful for their help and the care that they provided to my patients.

Now on to the research experience. I was invited to IARC to help them with programs aimed at using human genetics to disentangle the contributions of obesity and endocrine pathways to cancer. Knowing little about cancer, this provided me the opportunity to begin to learn an entirely different field, but to approach it from an endocrinologist's view point. These collaborations have led to several grants and papers at various stages of the funding/rejection ebb and flow of academia. More importantly, my time at IARC cemented collaborations which will enable future programs. Specifically, together with Michael Pollak at the LDI, we have secured access to thousands of pre-diagnostic serum samples from people who went on to develop cancer and we will examine the role of circulating (likely endocrine) biomarkers in cancer susceptibility.

As an endocrinologist, most of my clinical time is aimed at preventing disease. I was struck by the disproportionate amount of time and effort put into treatment of cancer, rather than its prevention. Of course, the field of oncology devotes resources to prevention, but compared to cardio-metabolic disease, it appears that primary prevention, especially with medications is not the top priority. This marks a huge divide between both fields and one that I hope will get smaller as risk stratification strategies for cancer become more granular. (Note that I didn't say "*personalized*" :-).

Nonetheless, the majority of my time in Lyon was spent working on polygenic risk scores more relevant to our osteoporosis research program. I even took a turn at writing the code myself for some projects. I'm fairly certain my students were happy when I returned to Montreal and had less time to pester them with questions when my usual McGill and JGH responsibilities resumed.

In the end, our personal and family time spent together in Lyon will probably be the most memorable. Lyon is a culturally rich city, with a large international expat community and two hours from the Alps. And hey, who can argue with 6m of fresh snow!

I am grateful to the University and Department of Medicine for supporting my sabbatical.



Sabbatical Thoughts

Dr. Elham Rahme

Associate Professor, MUHC Division of Clinical Epidemiology

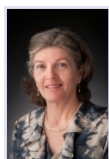
The overall goal of my sabbatical leave (September 2017-August 2018) was to consolidate and further my collaboration with the *Departamento de Farmácia Social*, at the *Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais* (UFMG) in Brazil.

This collaboration started in 2014 with my mentoring of a UFMG visiting PhD student and hosting the Director of the pharmacoepidemiology unit, Dr. Francisco Acurcio, during his sabbatical year. My specific project was to study the use of biologic agents in ankylosing spondylitis (AS) treatment using health administrative data from Quebec (RAMQ) and Brazil (SUS). At the EuroDURG annual meeting in Glasgow in November 2017, Dr. Acurcio and I solicited the collaboration of Professors Bennie and Godman (University of Strathclyde) using the British Society for Rheumatology Biologics Register. A second study on AS treatments using Quebec, Brazil and Scotland data was planned.

During my sabbatical year, I attended four international conferences and delivered four presentations based on my ongoing projects. In Brazil, I was invited to the International Panel on Pharmaceutical Policies in the National Health Policy. I introduced the audience to the Canadian health care system and engaged in small group discussions regarding drug delivery in underserved areas and the increasing right-to-health litigation problem facing drug reimbursement in Brazil. At UFMG, I delivered a lecture on the Canadian drug reimbursement policy at the Public Health Program of the Faculty of Medicine and discussed collaborations in health economics research. I also delivered a lecture on the methods to correct for outcome misclassification in administrative database studies at the *Departamento de Farmácia Social*.

Overall, my sabbatical year was a great experience. I achieved my goals and consolidated my collaboration with UFMG and established a new collaboration with the University of Strathclyde. These collaborations facilitate internship for graduate students and the conduct of multinational studies on drug utilization and safety.

APPOINTMENTS & NEW CHALLENGES



Dr. Lorraine Chalifour, Associate Professor, Division of

Experimental Medicine, has been appointed as **Associate Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies** at McGill University.



Dr. Brent Richards, Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the JGH and Dr.

Ariane Marelli, Professor in the Division of Cardiology at the MUHC, have recently been elected by the Department of Medicine Executive Committee as **representatives on the Faculty of Medicine Council**. We would like to take this occasion to extend thanks to **Dr. Erwin Schurr** and to **Dr. April Shamy** who served as Department of Medicine representatives on the Faculty Council since 2015.



The **Department of Medicine at the MUHC** is delighted to announce the appointment of **Dr. Mohan Radhakrishna** as **Director of Continuing Medical Education (CME) for the Department** as of November 1, 2018. In this role, Dr. Radhakrishna will work to promote CME best practices within the Department. He brings a wealth of experience from his work within his national professional society to bear on the mandate. We look forward to his participation in this activity at the MUHC in the coming years.

CONGRATULATIONS

Wishing our members great success !

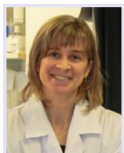
DIVISION DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT & RENEWALS



It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of **Dr. Thierry Alcindor** as **Director of the Division of Medical Oncology for the MUHC**. Dr. Alcindor has served as

interim Director for the Division since January 2016. He discharged this responsibility excellently, providing wise leadership during the transition to the Glen. Dr. Alcindor has a strong record of clinical research and will enhance this activity within his Division. The MUHC Department of Medicine is delighted to welcome him into this position.

Dr. Andrey Cybulsky's term as **McGill and MUHC Director of the Division of Nephrology**, Department of Medicine has been extended for 1 year as of September 1, 2018 during which time we will conduct a search for his successor. During his four terms, Dr. Cybulsky has served the McGill and MUHC Division of Nephrology with enthusiasm and dedication to the advancement of clinical care and research within his division.



Dr. Anne-Marie Lauzon has served a term as **Director for the Division of Experimental Medicine** and we are delighted that she will renew for a second term as of November 1, 2018.

Dr. Lauzon has brought energy and enthusiasm to the development of the Department's Graduate Studies Program. A complex and sometimes challenging task, she has brought her even-handed and insightful approach to bear on renewing the Division.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR of NEW AFC (Area of Focused Competence) in ADULT THROMBOSIS MEDICINE



Dr. Maral Koolian, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, based at the JGH, has been appointed as **Program Director of**

McGill University's new AFC (Area of Focused Competence) in Adult Thrombosis Medicine, effective September 1, 2018. Adult Thrombosis Medicine is that area of enhanced competence within medicine concerned with the investigation, diagnosis, and medical management of patients with venous and arterial thromboembolic disease in a variety of clinical contexts.

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Nathalie Saad has been appointed to the positions of the **Chair of Undergraduate Medical Education within the Department of Medicine, the Director of Clerkship for the Department of Medicine and the**

Director of Transition to Clinical Practice for the Department of Medicine, all effective August 1, 2018. She continues in her role as site clerkship director at the JGH. Dr. Saad is a respirologist, based at the JGH with a particular interest in COPD and in education at both the community and medical training levels. She is also a recent appointee to the Council of the Collège des médecins du Québec. We would like to take this opportunity to thank **Dr. Peter Ghali** for his many years of leadership in undergraduate medical education in our Department.



Dr. Jason Agulnik has been appointed to the position of **site director for Transition to Clinical Practice at the Jewish General Hospital**, effective August 1, 2018. Dr. Agulnik is a respirologist based at the JGH, and has

been active in teaching medical students and residents for a number of years.



Dr. Tianyan Chen has been appointed to the position of **clerkship site director for the Royal Victoria Hospital**. Dr. Chen is a hepatologist at the MUHC, and has been active in teaching medical students and residents.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9 / Congratulations)



Dr. Shaifali Sandal has been appointed to the position of **Transition to Clinical Practice site director at the Royal Victoria Hospital**. Dr.

Sandal is a transplant nephrologist who has been active in teaching medical students and residents.

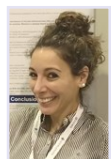
RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Dermatology: Dr. Khue Huu Nguyen, Assistant Professor based at the MUHC, has been appointed as Program Director as of July 1, 2018. Thank you to **Dr. Linda Moreau and Dr. Mathieu Powell** who previously held this position.

Medical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases: Dr. Makeda Semret, Assistant Professor based at the MUHC, as been appointed Program Director as of September 13, 2018. Thank you to **Dr. Matthew Oughton** who previously held this position.

RECRUITMENT

Welcome to our new Faculty members !



Dr. Sapha Barkati, Assistant Professor to the Division of Infectious Diseases and Attending of the MUHC. Dr. Barkati earned her Master of Science in Microbiology and Immunology and MD, followed by specialty training in both

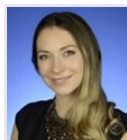
infectious diseases and medical microbiology, at the Université de Montréal. Following her residency, she undertook a 2 year fellowship in tropical medicine at the Centre for Tropical Diseases at McGill, and obtained a diploma in Tropical Medicine and Hygiene from the Gorgas Memorial Institute of Tropical and Preventive Medicine of the University of Alabama at Birmingham School of Medicine. She is currently completing a Master of Science in Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. Dr. Barkati will have clinical duties at the MUHC, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents with a special interest in tropical and travel-associated diseases. She will continue to advance her research in *Strongyloides* infection, especially in the immunosuppressed host and, more generally, the epidemiology of imported infections.



Dr. Jennifer Massad, Assistant Professor and Attending of the MUHC Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Massad earned her medical degree at the Université de Sherbrooke and subsequently

completed post-graduate training at the Université

de Montréal. Dr. Massad will have clinical duties at the Montreal General Hospital focussing on trauma rehabilitation, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents.



Dr. Elena Netchiporouk, Assistant Professor to the Division of Dermatology and Attending of the MUHC. Dr. Netchiporouk obtained her medical degree from the Université de

Montréal in 2012 and her Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada certified training in dermatology from McGill University in 2017. While as a dermatology resident, she also completed a 3-year Master's program in Experimental Medicine at McGill. Her field of research included chronic spontaneous urticaria and Cutaneous T-Cell Lymphoma. As a clinician scientist, she will focus her research on inflammatory disorders of skin, particularly chronic urticaria and scleroderma. Dr. Netchiporouk will have clinical duties at the MUHC, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. Her focus will be complex medical dermatology and inflammatory disorders of the skin. Her specialty clinics will include chronic urticaria and autoimmune dermatology. She is also the new Director of Undergraduate Medical Education in Dermatology at McGill.

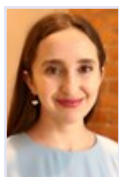
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(Continued from page 10 / Recruitment)



Dr. Trong Tien Nguyen, Assistant Professor to the Division of Infectious Diseases and Attending of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal Department of Specialized Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital Centre. Dr. Nguyen

earned his medical degree at McGill University, where he subsequently completed post-graduate training in infectious diseases and medical microbiology. He completed an Antimicrobial Stewardship Fellowship at Providence Health Care in Vancouver, B. C and is completing his Master's degree in Health Professions Education at the University of Illinois in Chicago. Dr. Nguyen will have clinical duties at St. Mary's in the Division of Infectious Diseases where he will be involved in teaching students and supervising residents. He will continue to pursue his research both in antimicrobial stewardship and health professions education.



Dr. Leighanne Parkes, Assistant Professor to the Division of Infectious Diseases and Attending of the Jewish JGH. Dr. Parkes earned her medical degree at McMaster University. She subsequently completed post-graduate

training in internal medicine, infectious diseases and medical microbiology at McGill University. Dr. Parkes pursued additional training and conducted research in infection prevention and control at the University Health Network in Toronto. She has a specific interest in the role of infection control in long-term care. Drawing upon her roots in the social sciences, specifically medical anthropology and qualitative research methodology, she is currently exploring nursing home resident perceptions of the use of isolation and contact precautions for antimicrobial resistant organisms. She has further interest in quality improvement in health care and the role of a cooperative physician-patient partnership in supporting and promoting quality initiatives to ensure sustainable improvements in safety and care. Dr. Parkes has clinical duties at the JGH, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. She is continuing to advance her research in the fields of infection prevention and control, and healthcare quality improvement.

****NOTE:** The Department of Medicine is in the process of recruiting several new members. 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 next newsletter.



Dr. Laura Pillozzi-Edmonds, Assistant Professor to the Division of Nephrology and Attending of the CIUSSS de l'Ouest-de-l'Île-de-Montréal Department of Specialized Medicine, St. Mary's Hospital Centre. Dr. Pillozzi-Edmonds

earned her medical degree at McGill University where she subsequently completed post-graduate training in nephrology. She pursued additional training and is completing her Master's degree in Patient Safety and Healthcare Quality at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Pillozzi-Edmonds will have clinical duties at St. Mary's where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. She will continue to advance her work in the area of quality improvement and patient safety through various projects within the Department and the institution, in collaboration with the Quality, Assessment, Performance and Ethics Directorate.



Dr. Jesse Schwartz, Assistant Professor to the Division of Allergy and Immunology and Attending of the JGH. Dr. Schwartz earned his medical degree at the University of Ottawa, and

subsequently completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and Allergy and Immunology at McGill. He then pursued a Master of Public Health at Harvard University where his research focus was penicillin allergy. Dr. Schwartz will have clinical duties at the Jewish General Hospital, where he will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents.



Dr. Ji Wei Yang, Assistant Professor to the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Attending of the MUHC. Dr. Yang earned her medical degree at McGill University, followed by Internal Medicine residency training at the

Université de Montréal. She returned to McGill for subspecialty postgraduate fellowship training in Endocrinology and Metabolism. Her interest in thyroid disease led Dr. Yang to pursue further clinical and research training with a thyroid fellowship at the University of Toronto. Dr. Yang will have clinical duties at the MUHC, based at the MGH. She will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. Her research interests include thyroid disease and endocrine oncology; she will continue clinical studies in these areas.

The Louis and Artur Lucian Award



This year, the **Louis and Artur Lucian Award** is shared between two outstanding investigators, **Dr. Dan Roden**, MDCM'74, from Vanderbilt

University and **Dr. Nabil Seidah** from the Institut de recherches cliniques de Montréal. Dr. Roden received the award for his work on mechanisms underlying variability in response to drug therapy, with a particular focus on therapies used to treat cardiac arrhythmias. Dr. Seidah received the award for his work on understanding the role of PCSK9 in the regulation of cholesterol metabolism and as a drug target to treat hypercholesterolemia. Both awardees will be at McGill next spring to give a series of talk and participate to various activities – Dr. Roden during the week April 22, 2019 and Dr. Seidah during the week of May 27, 2019. More details will follow.

Honours

Congratulations to our members for their achievements !

Dr. James Brophy, Professor of Medicine (Cardiology) & Epidemiology, has been elected to the **Canadian Academy of Health Sciences**.



Drs. Sylvia and Richard Cruess have been selected as the **2018 recipients of the Abraham Flexner Award for Distinguished Service to Medical Education**, given by

the **Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC)**. The award, the AAMC's most prestigious honour, was established in 1958 to recognize extraordinary individual contributions to medical schools and to the medical education community as a whole.



Dr. Eva Kaufmann, a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Medicine, Meakins-Christie Laboratories with Dr. Maziar Divangahi, is the award winner of the August 2018 **Relève étoile Jacques-Genest award of the Fonds**

de recherche du Québec – Santé (FRQS). Her Award-winning publication: [BCG Educates Hematopoietic Stem Cells to Generate Protective Innate Immunity against Tuberculosis](#) is published in Cell. In addition, Dr. Kaufmann was recently presented with the **Werner-Müller-Prize from the German Society for Immunology** for her work describing a new mechanism for protection against tuberculosis with the vaccine *Mycobacterium bovis* Bacillus Calmette-Guérin (BCG). [Med-e-News](#)

Dr. Nitika Pai, Associate Professor in the Divisions of Clinical Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases, has been elected to the **College of New Scholars, Artists and Scientists of the Royal Society of Canada**. [McGill Reporter](#).



Photo credit: Hiba Jekki



Dr. Samy Suissa, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Director of the Centre for Clinical Epidemiology at JGH-Lady Davis Institute, has been elected as

Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. [McGill Reporter](#).

Dr. Robyn Tamblyn, Professor of Medicine and Epidemiology and Director of the Clinical and Health Informatics Research Group at McGill, is the recipient of the **Justice Emmett Hall Memorial Foundation 2018**

Hall Laureate <http://www.hallfoundation.ca/news/> and the **2018 IHPME Peggy Leatt Award** <http://ihpme.utoronto.ca/2018/07/the-2018-peggy-leatt-award-a-conversation-with-robyn-tamblyn-on-improving-outcomes-in-canadas-health-system/>. [Med-e-News](#)



In Memoriam

Partial excerpt from The Gazette



On October 17, 2018, **Dr. Margot Becklake McGregor** died peacefully in her

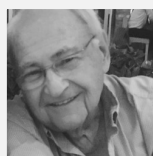
home.

Dr. Becklake McGregor will be remembered as a physician, teacher, eminent researcher and above all mentor and role model to many people in many countries. Dr. Becklake grew up in South Africa, studied medicine in Johannesburg and after postgraduate training in London, worked at the University of the Witwatersrand and the Miners Silicosis Bureau where she studied the effects of dust inhalation on workers in the gold mines. In 1957, she immigrated with her family to Montréal and worked at McGill University in the Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology, the Montreal Chest Hospital and the Royal Victoria Hospital. Her widely published research brought her international recognition. Her numerous awards include the Order of Canada and the Order of Québec.

A celebration of Dr. Becklake McGregor's life will be held on Sunday November 4th from 2:00-5:30 PM at the Alfred Dallaire Hall, 4231 Saint-Laurent Boulevard.

Donations in lieu of flowers can be made to the Montreal Chest Institute Foundation (www.mcifoundation.ca) indicating that they are intended for the Dr. Margaret Becklake Fellowship in Respiratory Research.

Partial excerpt from [Paperman & Sons/Fils](#)



Dr. Ralph Bilefsky passed away, peacefully at the Jewish General Hospital and surrounded by his family, on September 22, 2018. He was 81.

Dr. Bilefsky joined the Jewish General Hospital in 1967 after graduating from McGill University in psychology, pathology, internal medicine and nephrology. He remained as full-time staff until 2012 and then as a part-time member thereafter, thus being associated with the Jewish General Hospital for five decades. Dr. Bilefsky always took the time to comfort a sick patient and to explain the finer points of their illness, no matter how long it took. He was especially committed to the Jewish General Hospital, his professional home for decades. It was fitting that he ended his life there, expertly tended to by his peers. He will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

Donations in his memory may be made to the Jewish General Hospital Foundation, (514) 340-8251.

By Drs. Ernesto Schiffrin and Mark Trifiro



Dr. Marvin Clamen passed away on August 26, 2018.

An endocrinologist at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), Dr.

Clamen obtained his medical and specialty degrees from McGill University. He trained in Internal Medicine at the JGH and Boston City Hospital. He then did a one-year research fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism at the McGill University Department of Investigative Medicine and a clinical fellowship in endocrinology and metabolism at the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio. He joined the JGH medical staff in 1973 and remained on staff until 2018. Dr. Clamen will be remembered as a gentleman and a kind and compassionate clinician dedicated to his patients. He will be missed by all his colleagues.

Contributions in his memory may be made to "The Jesse Galganov Missing Children Fund", <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/missing-childrens-network-canada/p2p/JesseGalganovFund/>

In Memoriam

By Dr. David Goltzman



Ms. Carmela (Carmen) Ferrara passed away on October 7, 2018

surrounded by her family.

Carmen began her career at McGill University in the mid 70's where she worked in a number of departments. In 1995, she joined us as an administrative assistant in the Calcium Research Laboratory in the Division of Endocrinology of the Department of Medicine, and then in the McGill University Centre for Bone and Periodontal Research from its opening until the present. She was kind, generous, efficient, hard-working, and had a dry sense of humor. She was the "glue" that kept these enterprises going, while at the same time managing her cherished growing family. She will be sorely missed by all.

Contributions in Carmen's name may be made to the St. Mary's Hospital Foundation, Palliative Care.

www.stmarysfoundation.ca

By Dr. David Goltzman



Dr. Geoffrey N. Hendy, after a bout with cancer, passed away on Thursday August 9, 2018.

Dr. Hendy

obtained his PhD in England in the laboratory of Dr. Jeffrey L.H. O'Riordan at the Middlesex Hospital in London. He subsequently did postdoctoral training at Harvard and MIT before being recruited to the Calcium Laboratory of the Division of Endocrinology in the Department of Medicine at McGill in 1985. His laboratory studied the molecular genetics of mineral metabolism disorders with a focus on functional analysis of inherited mutations in genes controlling calcium and skeletal homeostasis, and particularly genes encoding the calcium-sensing receptor, and menin (the Multiple Endocrine Neoplasia type 1 gene product).

Dr. Hendy was a very devoted scientist, with many outstanding contributions and an exemplary international reputation in his field. In addition, he was highly active as an educator at McGill, teaching and mentoring students in the Departments of Human Genetics and Medicine and was a popular choice for undergraduate students when first choosing a laboratory for their practicum. Dr. Hendy also served as a mentor to numerous graduate students and started them on successful research careers, as well as serving as an academic advisor for many others. Postdoctoral fellows and colleagues also benefitted enormously from his knowledge and skills as a scientist. He will be missed by all.

By Drs. Ernesto Schiffrin, Mark Lipman and Hans Knecht



Dr. Arthur Rosenberg passed away, peacefully at home and surrounded by his family, on September 3, 2018.

A former hematologist at the Jewish General Hospital (JGH), Dr. Rosenberg attended Queen's University in Kingston and trained in hematology at the Cleveland Metropolitan General Hospital. He joined the JGH medical staff in 1967. In addition to his many years as a dedicated clinician, he served as Chief of the Division of Hematology from 1974 to 1996.

A true scholar and a gentleman, Dr. Rosenberg was revered for his clinical acumen and beloved for the warmth and personal touch that characterized his relationships with his patients, students, and colleagues alike. He was an exceptional teacher and mentor who, during his long tenure, shaped the careers of a generation of JGH physicians.

In recognition of his dedication to teaching, as well as a myriad of other contributions to the hospital and university, the Division of Hematology of the JGH Department of Medicine created the annual Arthur Rosenberg Clinical Lectureship.

He will be missed by all who came in contact with him.

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Caroline Alcaraz, Academic Affairs and Administrative Officer
Josée Cloutier, Academic Affairs Administrator
Evan (EJ) Brooks, Academic Affairs Administrator
Lori Manon-og, Human Resources Advisor
Rosa Giobbi, Human Resources Administrator
Diane Lewis, Student Affairs Officer
Colin D'Souza, Financial Officer (on leave)
Neena Bindra, Financial Officer (Acting)
Anna Pietromonaco, Financial Administrator
Lisa Knyszynska, Senior Accounts Administrator
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Please address questions or comments regarding the newsletter to
josee.p.cloutier@muhc.mcgill.ca.

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.