

FOCUS ON GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

JULY 2021



Ongoing Excellence in the Division Congratulations!

Dr Ernesto L. Schiffrin received the International Society of Hypertension Franz Volhard Award and Lectureship for Outstanding Research for 2021. This award and lectureship was endowed by Farbwerke Hoechst in 1972 to commemorate the centenary of the birth of Franz Volhard.

Dr Louise Pilote was honored with the 2021 International Society of Hypertension Award of Excellence for Research in Cardiovascular Health and Disease in Women.

Dr Isabelle Malhamé was awarded a FRQS clinician scientist junior 1 career award.

Dr Patrick Willemot was re-elected to the Conseil d'administration of the ASMIQ.

Dr Suzanne Dubé Retires *by Tim Meagher*



Dr Suzanne Morin presents plaque to Dr Suzanne Dubé

After 37 years at the MGH and the MUHC, Suzanne has decided to retire her well-worn and highly-respected stethoscope. Fittingly, her last act was a shift on June 26th in the emergency room at the MGH – in many ways, her home away from home.

Suzanne graduated in 1978 from Université Laval, completed residency in internal medicine at the MGH and joined the attending staff in 1984. Two clinical areas became her mainstay: the ER at the MGH and Hôpital St Sauveur in Val d'Or. Her weekly visits to Val d'Or began in 1984 and continued through rain, hail and shine, and snow of course, until the pandemic brought them to an abrupt stop last year. As the sole internist in Val d'Or she provided a prized service to the local community in addition to a steady supply of complex referrals to colleagues in Montreal. Her contributions to the ER at the MGH were equally impressive: for 37 years Suzanne was an iconic consulting internist, for whom patient welfare was the

guiding beacon. Her knowledge, experience and decisiveness made her a singularly effective presence, deeply respected by both colleagues and support staff. Her clinical teaching was also highly regarded and her willingness to work extra hours and contribute to staff shortfalls was legion.

A year of internal medicine in Ethiopia in 1985-86 gave Suzanne an appreciation of medicine in a tropical setting and perhaps triggered the wanderlust that explains the many exotic locations she and Laurence have visited over the past 10 years. It may also explain why she is now a seasoned naturalist and a birding force to be reckoned with! No doubt retirement will see new skills emerge and more exotic trips unfold, not to mention more frequent visits to their children, Jonathan and Rebecca, both successful scientists, in Boston and New Jersey.

We thank Suzanne most sincerely for her many exemplary contributions to hospital life and Medicine and wish her many years of happiness.

A special plaque was presented on June 25th: "In recognition of your 37 years of exemplary patient care and teaching at the MGH, Val d'Or and the MUHC, we thank you! We wish you many happy years of retirement! Your friends and colleagues in the Division of General Internal Medicine."

An in-person Division event is tentatively planned for the Fall.



Top row, left to right: Dev Jayaraman, Suzanne Morin, Romina Pace, Suzanne Dubé, Laurence Green, Tim Meagher, Khue Ly.
Front row, left to right: David Hornstein, Karen Diraddo



Research Corner

Dr Isabelle Malhamé – in the media, advocating for pregnant women with chronic health conditions and access to COVID-19 vaccines

Becoming pregnant as a woman with a chronic health condition: [Click here](#)

Reflections on COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy: [See her interview here.](#)

Dr Natalie Dayan – Une femme de Coeur!

Please see impressive write-up in Québec Science – FRQS on Natalie's research and interview with Dr Rémi Quirion, scientifique en chef du Québec. [Click here](#)

Dr Linda Snell and Dr Ning-Zi Sun

Dr Andreeanne Leblanc (core Internal Medicine resident) supervised by Drs Snell and Sun, is one of the three recipients of the McGill Resident Research Award. Her project, "Development of ownership of patient care during clerkship," tied for first place and she will share a \$1000 award.

Quality Research Awards and Salary Support

Dr Emily McDonald reminds us to apply for the newly established DoM funding opportunity. **Please consider submitting projects with cross-site GIM collaboration!** The following awards are available:

- 3 project awards (\$20,000 each) at RVH, 1 at JGH and 1 at SMH – Applications deadline extended to 15 August
- 2 stipends for protected time at RVH (\$20,000) – Applications deadline extended to 15 August
- Application: https://www.mcgill.ca/deptmedicine/files/deptmedicine/cas_scholarlyqi_proposal_2021_final.docx

Dr Vicky Tagalakis was appointed 2021 Co-chair of the **Thrombosis Canada Clinical Guide Committee**. She and the committee will be responsible for updating over 40 clinical guides related to thrombotic disorders and anticoagulant and antiplatelet use. For more information on the various clinical guides please visit [Thrombosis Canada](#).

Dr Susan Kahn: International meeting coming to Montreal in 2023!

In June 2018, Montreal was selected as the host city for the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis 2023 Congress, with **Susan Kahn** and Marc Rodger as congress co-chairs. In June 2021, the planning of the congress was launched: a Local Organizing Committee was assembled, which over the coming months will move on to planning the scientific and educational program, with the input of local, national and international leaders in the field. The final congress dates have just been announced (June 24-28, 2023). More than 10,000 delegates are expected to attend!

GIM Residency Training Program Corner



This July 1st **Audrey Weizmann** stepped down from her role of GIM Residency Program Administrator after many years (decades!) of dedication, hard work, meticulousness, and kindness! She ensured that the GIM program ran smoothly and that our residents' training experience was the best possible. Audrey held this role since before GIM was recognized by the Royal College and CMQ and can be regarded as the Founder of our subspecialty at McGill! We are forever grateful for all her work and support, and wish her well in the next phase of her career.

The GIM program also sends a great big welcome to **Philip Simoes**, the new McGill GIM Program administrator who will start in his new role on July 1st. His email is residencygim.med@mcgill.ca



Welcome new GIM R4s!

Matthew Ades, Lan Deng, Samuel Doiron, Lindsey Gestein, Karel Huard, Marc-Antoine Lepage, Vincent Morissat-Bellavance, Stefany Morrison, Suzie Ouellet, Sarah Ousalem, Justin Tabah, Yu Ming Wang, Daniel Wiseman

Congratulations to graduating R5s!

David Belanger, Alex Gauthier, Iulia Iatan, Jesse Popov, Camille Simard, Penny Toliopoulos

2021-22 GIM CMRs: Jennifer Wright and Marc-Alexandre Gingras

Note: The GIM program will be sending out requests for GIM resident scholarly project supervisors, OSCE examiners and other involvement over the next month. ***Please consider helping out.***

Education



Successful Grant from the SSHRC

Dr Jeff Wiseman is a partner / collaborator in the grant from the Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2020 – 2022, Advancing educational theory, assessment, and practice in higher education collaborative regulatory training, (PI Dr Jason Harley).

See the [publication](#) resulting from this research: Japanese medical learners' achievement emotions: Accounting for culture in translating Western medical educational theories and instruments into an Asian context.

Dr Wiseman and colleagues held a CSIM webinar on 13 April: Education in the COVID-19 Era Fireside Chat. Introduced by interviewer, **Dr Linda Snell**. Listen to the recording on the CSIM website here: <https://csim.ca/virtual-education/recorded-sessions/>

Upcoming Workshops from the Faculty Development Office can be found [here](#). Consider registering for the Peer Coaching workshop on September 28th from 14h-16h.

McGill GIM Academic Rounds

ZOOM GIM Academic Rounds entitled **Gender equity in science and medicine matters to all: a case of activism** were held June 3rd. Two presentations, *Advancing gender equity in academic medicine and science*, by Dr Andrea Tricco and Dr Larissa Shamseer from Toronto, and *Scientific activism for sex and gender equity: A multipronged approach* by **Dr Louise Pilote** generated significant interest among those who attended and excellent feedback.



We look forward to resuming rounds in the Fall **in person** (cross fingers)! We will be circulating a 5-minute survey this summer seeking your input on future topics.

News from ASMIQ – Report from Dr Patrick Willemot



Gastrointestinal endoscopy

In 2018, the Québec GI Association, along with the Québec GI program directors, penned a memorandum stating that they would no longer train GIM residents in digestive endoscopy. This position has been decried by the ASMIQ and is not supported by the MSSS, the CMQ, and the PGME associate deans. Discussions are ongoing with relevant stakeholders. One community hospital site in Montreal has agreed to train GIM residents and Dr Laurence Bellemare (who graduated McGill GIM in June 2020) has completed her training there with great success: she is now putting these skills to good use in Valleyfield. However, one training site with a capacity of 1 resident per year cannot meet the needs of the whole province. Patrick along with ASMIQ leadership are active in finding more training sites!

Distribution of the monetary redistributions since 2006

These were meant to allow Québec specialists to catch up with the Canadian average and were supposed to be spread out over 2007 to 2014. However, with changes in provincial government and budgetary constraints, the redistributions will have actually been spread out from 2007 to 2023!

The portion earmarked for the ASMIQ has been earmarked mainly to billing codes pertaining to

- Non-Annexe 29 ICU codes (which have not increased for many years)
- Inpatient principal and transfer visits (to provide further disincentive to bill a 00036 [inpatient consultation] following a 00051 [ED consultation] as this billing practice is believed to be at increasing risk of RAMQ audit)
- Chart summaries for patients from regional centres being referred to tertiary sites



See the GIM website at mcgill.ca/internalmed! We would appreciate any changes to profiles or items to keep the website up to date!