

FOCUS ON GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE

March 2021



Spring is coming! Stay Safe!

Ongoing Excellence in the Division



Lots to catch up on since our last newsletter in July 2020! Happy reading!

APPOINTMENTS (2020-2021)

Dr Beth Cummings was appointed Assistant Dean, Health Professions Education. Dr Cummings will work closely with the Vice-Dean, Education and other stakeholders on the implementation of the Education Strategic Plan (Project Renaissance) goals relevant to the Health Professions programs.

In December, **Dr Suzanne Morin** assumed the position of MUHC GIM Division Director. We wish her all the best in her new role! Thank you to **Dr Thomas Maniatis** who tirelessly gave his time and resources to the Division and oversaw the successful recruitment of 4 faculty to the MUHC and Lachine and 3 more in 2021-2022. We are especially thankful for his behind-the-scenes work, dedication, and tenacity in addressing the challenges following the move to the Glen.

Dr Emily McDonald was appointed to the [Canadian Task Force on Preventive Health Care](#). The Task Force develops clinical practice guidelines that support primary care providers in delivering preventive health care.

Associate Chairs, Department of Medicine

Congratulations to these ladies!

Dr Susan Kahn appointed Associate Chair, Research

Dr Natalie Dayan appointed Associate Chair, Wellness

Dr Emily McDonald appointed Associate Chair, Quality Improvement

Dr Isabelle Malhamé appointed *First* Early Career Representative on the Department's Governing Council

PROMOTIONS

A **special congratulations** to **Drs Blair Schwartz, Ning-Zi Sun** and **Emily McDonald** who were promoted to Associate Professor. If you wish to be considered for promotion in the Fall please contact Vicky as soon as possible and arrange to meet with Dr Rodger before April 15th (**contact: naomi.charles@muhc.mcgill.ca**). Further details on the Faculty of Medicine promotion process can be found here:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/medicine-academic/promotion/promotion-assistant-professor-or-associate-professor>

AWARDS

Dr Ning Zi Sun was awarded the inaugural “**Emerging Leader Award**” from McGill Postgraduate Medical Education. Dr. Sun was nominated for her longstanding contributions to the Core IM training program and the stellar work she has done in a short period of time at the helm of the program.

Dr David Dawson was awarded the 2020 Canadian Society of Internal Medicine (CSIM) Osler Award. The CSIM Osler Awards are presented annually to individuals demonstrating excellence in achievement in the field of General Internal Medicine, either in clinical practice, research, medical education, specialty development or health promotion.



Research News

From the QI desk of Dr Emily McDonald



CSIM Research / QI Summit: GIM Research- in-Progress Seminar held on March 4

Three McGill GIM fellows presented their research topics, with a panel providing feedback and encouragement. Thanks to **Dr Kaberi Dasgupta** and Dr Michael Fralick, Toronto, for participating on the panel.

1. **Dr Marc-Alexandre Gingras** : “A controlled before and after trial of desprescribing gabapentinoids on the CTU.”
2. **Dr Haris Akhtar**: “Using machine learning to develop harmonized treatment approaches to the patient presenting with acute respiratory distress in the emergency department.”
3. **Dr Jonathan Houle**: “Implementation of point-of-care ultrasound in a university affiliated hospital in Northern Ethiopia: A needs assessment.”

Successful CIHR Grants 2021



Dr Susan Khan is co-applicant on the 6-year funding of the project, “PEITHO-3 Trial: Reduced-dose thrombolytic treatment for patients with higher-intermediate risk acute pulmonary embolism,” an international RCT of reduced-dose thrombolysis + standard care vs. standard care for intermediate risk PE.

Dr Natalie Dayan is principal applicant and **Dr Isabelle Malhamé** is co-applicant on the BEYOND project, “Beyond survival: examining health of mothers after severe maternal morbidity in Canada..” This is a planned epidemiological Canada-wide analysis of longer term health outcomes and health service utilization in women who have survived severe maternal morbidity in pregnancy.

Dr Vicky Tagalakis is co-applicant on the study, “Primary thromboprophylaxis with rivaroxaban in patients with malignancy and central venous catheters: TRIM-Line.” This is a 5-year multicenter trial to include 1800 patients across 9 Canadian centres to address low dose rivaroxaban in the prevention of catheter related thrombotic complications in cancer patients.

Dr Isabelle Malhamé is a co-principal applicant and **Dr Vicky Tagalakis** and Dr Camille Simard are co-applicants on an international study, “A prospective cohort study evaluating peripartum anticoagulation management among pregnant women with VTE and its impact on patient outcomes.” This is a 4-year multicenter and international cohort study that will prospectively and systematically evaluate outcomes of bleeding, VTE, patient satisfaction, and healthcare utilization among pregnant women with VTE treated with different anticoagulant strategies.

Dr Isabelle Malhamé is a co-applicant on the study, “The S. aureus Network Adaptive Platform Trial (SNAP) Canada: A randomized controlled trial for penicillin-susceptible, methicillin-susceptible, and methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus bloodstream infections in hospitalized patients.” This is a 4-year international trial to reach definitive conclusions on unanswered questions regarding the management of S. aureus bacteremia. The project involves 19 Canadian centres and 49 other centres worldwide, and will adapt its structure to include pregnant participants.

Dr Isabelle Malhamé is the recipient of the 2020 Canadian Foundation for Women’s Health General Research Grant for her project, “Improving the management of obstetric hypertensive emergency.”

Successful MUHC Department of Medicine Funding

Dr Isabelle Malhamé was awarded salary and operating research funding support for Contract Academic Staff (2020-2022) for her project, “Predicting Short-term Adverse cardiovascular outcomes in women with preeclampsia using Biomarkers” (SARABI) study.

Dr Romina Pace received salary and operating funding support for her project, “The Indigenous experience at the MUHC.” Her aim is to describe the health care provided to Indigenous patients by examining why patients are referred to the MUHC and detailing their perspectives on the care they receive. Within the framework of cultural safety, this information will be used to develop and implement initiatives to better serve Indigenous patients.

GIM Residency Training Program Corner **13 new residents to start in July 2021!**

Welcome new GIM residents!

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

Dr Firass Georgie won the Louis G. Johnson Award 2020 for best resident teacher as voted by the RVH core internal medicine residents.



Excellent One45 Completion rate : from the desk of Dr Patrick Willemot

The GIM Division member one45 completion rate for GIM Resident EPAs is 90-95%! This is great news and we should be proud of our exemplary divisional performance. Please keep up the amazing work! Remember that one45 ToDos are automatically deleted from your inbox after 21 days, so make sure you complete them before this date (ideally at the same same as / the same day that you give verbal EPA feedback).

Clinical Scholars Program Day on ZOOM : 1:00 – 4:00 Tuesday 25 May!
PGY5s will present their scholarly projects. *Everyone is strongly encouraged to attend and support our trainees!* Further details to follow.



Good luck to the PGY5s on their Royal College exams next week!

Education

The Internal Medicine Training Program

Dr Ning-Zi Sun reports!



The (core) Internal Medicine Training Program will be undergoing its internal review on **April 28 and 29** in preparation for its Royal College Accreditation visit in 2022. The Program is implementing many changes in response to areas for improvement identified during its 2019 accreditation, including requirements for

staff-led teaching in rotations, institution of a contributor-head evaluator system to improve transparency and auditability of assessment data, specification of maximum delays for ITER completion, etc. The GIM Division is a valued contributor to the cIM residents' clinical supervision and teaching. Your collaboration with these changes and continued dedication to the cIM residents' learning and growth are greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the Program to share your experience with these changes. Thanks again!

Department of Medicine Education Scholarship Grant

GIM inaugural grant recipients!

In 2020, the Department created a new fund to support Education Scholarship grants following a generous one-time donation from the late Dr McCallum. We hope to support new and better ways to teach/evaluate and disseminate these findings globally.

Dr Linda Snell was thanked by the Department for establishing a rigorous peer review process.

Congratulations to **Drs Ning-Zi Sun** and **Natasha Nathoo** (*faculty soon to join us in 2021*), two GIM inaugural awardees for their project, "Silence is not always golden: a qualitative exploration of the ripple effects of the failure to fail phenomenon on resident perceptions and learning."

Education cont'd

Upcoming Workshops, McGill Faculty Development

Go to <https://www.mcgill.ca/medicinesfacdev/programs/workshops> for upcoming workshops on 1) The Teacher-Learner Relationship, 2) The Learning Environment, and a) Patient Safety or b) Graduate Supervision, and 3) Peer Coaching. If attending one of these workshops, do not forget to add to your McGill formatted CV and highlight in your annual performance review!

CSIM Virtual Education Series

Not to be missed!

Dr Jeffrey Wiseman and colleagues will present “Education in the COVID-19 Era Fireside Chat”

12:00 – 1:00 Thursday 15 April 2021

To learn more and register: <https://csim.ca/virtual-education/education-covid-era-fireside-chat/>

A few things



Mentorship Working Group

Drs Michelle Elizov and Isabelle Malhamé are spearheading a new divisional initiative, **The GIM Mentorship Program : from Recruitment to Retirement**. The project’s aim is to develop a holistic mentorship program for GIM division members across the career lifespan to support career development, vitality and resilience. Preparatory and working group meetings have taken place. Focus groups will also be ongoing over the next months.

March 8th was **International Women’s Day**. Did you know that 49% of our GIM faculty are women and 50% of new recruits in the past 5 years have been women? We continue to strive for equitable opportunities. 50% of full professors and associate professors in our division are women!

Please visit our GIM Website : <https://www.mcgill.ca/internalmed/>

Please send us any and all updates to your profiles and your activities. The website is being updated on a ongoing basis and we welcome any news items for our *faculty newsreel!*



Interested in sharing news with our Division? Please email Antoinette or Vicky