

# ANNUAL REPORT

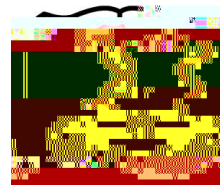
## DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

### 2013

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*(This report has been updated with new website links)*



## INDEX

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Medicine spans three major sites, the MUHC, JGH and St Mary's with a mix of basic scientists, clinical scientists and clinician educators. Its scientists are members of the MUHC Research Institute and the Lady Davis Institute. The research productivity of Department members is high; publications from the MUHC numbered 1197 (for year 2012, the most recent data available, a modest increase from 2011) and from the JGH 436 in year 2013. Publications cover a broad range of research interests from basic biomedical science to population health ( <https://www.mcgill.ca/deptmedicine/research/publications> ). The research performed was supported by \$67,177,378 in funding

## UNIT STATUS UPDATE

At the MUHC, the creation of the Valve Centre as a combined medical and surgical team working from bench to bedside was initiated and funding was obtained. At the JGH, *Dr. Lawrence Rudski*, an internationally recognized

(Education Building 627). Their interactive approach was highlighted by Teaching and Learning Services at McGill, <http://www.mcgill.ca/teachingsnapshots/kaberi-dasgupta>. Several courses at the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health are led by members of the Division of Clinical Epidemiology. The Division members also supervise a large number of postdoc, PhD, MSc, and resident/fellow research students.

Involvement in the community - *Dr. Dasgupta* organized a preconference workshop/assembled an expert panel for Vascular 2013, Canadian Diabetes Association. *Dr. Sewitch* lectured to the Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre and Edge Water Cafe and Grill, Kahwanake on risk of colorectal cancer. *Dr. Michal Abrahamowicz* was nominated Co-Chair of the new International Initiative for Strengthening Thinking about Analyses of Observational Studies (STRATOS). *Drs. Sara Ahmed* and *Susan Bartlett* hosted a CIHR-sponsored meeting at McGill on Developing and Implementing a Patient Reported Outcome Evaluation Platform in Canada. *Dr. Theresa Gyorkos* was Director of the 2013 École d'été on Globalization, held this year at McGill University.

Some of the members of the hospital Department of Critical Care are appointed within the Department of Medicine. They contribute considerably to departmental academic activity.

Research - The group's basic research interest continues to revolve around muscle pathophysiology as it relates to critical care and in particular to COPD, sepsis, and prolonged mechanical ventilation. A translational research program quantifying human diaphragmatic contractility at the bedside and its molecular mechanism has been established. Members are actively investigating and publishing on the role and impact of ventilator associated respiratory infections and on the utility of an ICU outreach or consultation service. The effects of aging in healthy subjects on muscle mitochondrial function are an important area of research performed in collaboration with the Department of Kinesiology. The regulation of cell energetics and metabolism and host defense against



course. *Dr. Peter Ghali* serves as Chair of undergraduate education in Internal Medicine. He redesigned the undergraduate curriculum at the clerkship level in conjunction with the UGME, the TCP implementation committee, the departments of Neurology and General Surgery. Several faculty members serve as Osler Fellows. There is a therapeutic endoscopy training fellowship, of which there are only three in Canada. The esophageal ultrasound training program has the second largest clinical exposure in the country. There is an IBD fellowship program which has 1 to 2 clinical research fellows per year. *Dr. Kevin Waschke* was awarded the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology (CAG) young educator award for his contribution to teaching beyond McGill and for developing the CAG e portal educational site. *Dr. Waschke* also received the Canadian Association of Medical Education (CAME) – Certificate of merit

Clinical Innovation - The Division has innovative programs in advanced endoscopy, hepatology and IBD. The MUHC GI Division with *Dr. Alan Barkun* is spearheading the assessment of endoscopic quality for the Provincial Colorectal Cancer Screening Program. The JGH acquired a highly sophisticated endoscope for the bile ducts (spyglass). The MUHC is the first centre in the province to provide endoscopic high frequency ablation of pre-malignant lesions of the esophagus. The Division also provides advanced techniques in small bowel imaging which include videocapsule imaging and small bowel enteroscopy, performing the greatest number of such procedures in the province. The Division is creating a centre of excellence in the area of non-invasive assessment of liver fibrosis and fatty liver; equipped with Quebec's first fibroscan device. A similar device has been acquired at the JGH. The MUHC is the first centre in Canada to successfully complete a complex brachytherapy, external beam radiation therapy, liver transplantation protocol for intrahepatic cholangiocarcinoma.

Contributions to scholarly communities - The Division has made significant contributions to scholarly activities and communities outside McGill in the past year. These include (i) Steering committees for National Consensus Guidelines in IBD (*Dr. Bitton*), European Consensus Guidelines in Liver Fibrosis (*Dr. Sebastian*), European Guidelines on Hepatic encephalopathy (*Dr. Philip Wong*); (ii) Editorial Boards of national and international Journals (*Drs. Barkun, Bitton and Seidman*); (iii) Organization and contribution to the Post-graduate course, Scholar's course and conferences at the Canadian Association of Gastroenterology annual meeting (*Drs. Barkun, Wong and Washcke*). *Dr. Seidman* was elected President of the World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Hepatology. *Dr. Josee Parent* serves as the current President of the Quebec Association of Gastroenterology. *Dr. Seymour Mishkin* received an Achievement Award from Health Canada for 15 years of service and has also been elected as the Governor of Quebec for the American College of Gastroenterology.

Specific areas of growth currently include quality improvement, peri-operative medicine, vascular health and medical obstetrics. Excellence and leadership in clinical care, research and education are integral building blocks for accomplishing the divisional mission.

Research - Clinical Research Units with a thematic focus have been set up, combining clinical excellence, research and education. These include the vascular health unit at the MGH, the thrombosis clinic at the JGH, the pre-op clinic at the MGH and the medical obstetrics clinic at the RVH. Members were invited to deliver major lectures in international meetings. *Dr. Susan Kahn*: "Improving patient outcomes after deep venous thrombosis", the D. Eugene Strandness Memorial Lecture at the American Venous Forum Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ; and Post-thrombotic syndrome: Evidence-based update on prevention and treatment at the XXIV Congress of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH) in Amsterdam. *Dr. Suzanne Morin*: Les fractures atypiques du fémur associées à l'utilisation des biphosphonates at the 44th Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology, Québec. *Dr. Stella Daskalopoulou*: Women in Cardiac Sciences Lecture: Women, Hypertension and Stroke, Canadian Cardiovascular Congress. *Dr. John Hoffer*: Dr. Rogers Prize Lecture: The Abram Hoffer Collection at the University of Saskatchewan, Orthomolecular Medicine Today, 42d Annual International Conference in Toronto. *Dr. Linda Snell*: Plenary Presentations: University College London Excellence in Supervision conference in London, UK and Latin American Conference on Residency Education in



Santiago, Chile. Major research grants were obtained by *Dr. Pilote* (Vascular Network-ICHR Emerging Network and CIHR CAN-AIM Team DSEN Targeted Research Prospective Study); *Dr. Vicky Tagalakis* (CIHR Statin use and the prevention of recurrent venous thromboembolism in the elderly: The STAVENO study); *Dr. Suzanne Morin* (CIHR Operating Grant - The effect of dietary calcium intake as compared to calcium supplementation on vascular and bone health in postmenopausal women); *Drs. Dev Jayaraman* and *Laurence Green* (Technology Evaluation in the Elderly for iDECIDE study, part of National Centres for Excellence, one of three centres in Canada).



named "Experte en médecine transfusionnelle" for the McGill RUIS. New hires to strengthen research will come on board this year, *Dr. Kelly Davison* is developing McGill specific practice guidelines for lymphoma. *Dr. Véronique Naessens* will be returning to the RVH in July 2014 after two years of formation complémentaire in hemoglobinopathies and will strengthen the academic mission of the combined pediatric and adult program.

Teaching - Members are heavily involved in the training of residents. *Dr. Gizelle Popradi* has developed and implemented a McGill Stem Cell Transplant program. *Dr. Patricia Pelletier* runs the blood bank training for all the fellows who train at the MUHC. In-patient SCTP training is at the RVH site. *Dr. Assouline* provides the morphology teaching for hematology fellows. The molecular laboratory serves as the sole laboratory engaged in teaching of molecular diagnostics to hematology fellows. *Dr. Blostein* supervises two graduate students in the Department of Physiology and a post-doctoral fellow in the Division of Experimental Medicine. He is also member of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons advisory committee for the Clinical Investigator Program. *Dr. Johnson* supervises two MSc level graduate students in the Division of Experimental Medicine. *Dr. Chantal Cassis* has been appointed Program Director of the McGill University Teaching Program.

Clinical innovation - There are several areas of particular strength. The MUHC has three Peeradesig3(h)3(e(h)p)3(o)-5(in

Teaching Activities - A new fellowship in Tropical and Parasitic Disease is in the final stage of approval by the Faculty with secured funding for the first fellow, who will start in 2015. The Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology training programs received full Royal College approval in the recent accreditation visit. *Dr. Michael Libman* was appointed as Director of Courses for the American Society for Tropical Medicine and Hygiene.

Involvement in the community - The MUHC TB clinics won the Department of Medicine outreach award in 2013 for their work on the TB outbreak. *Dr. Christina Greenaway* (JGH) and co-investigators were awarded a \$900,000 CIHR Grant looking at the accessibility to care for refugees under the new federal health program changes.

Clinical Innovation - During 2013 at the MUHC, we began the process of integrating and streamlining the outpatient activities of the Infectious Diseases and Chronic Viral Illness Services in anticipation of the move to the Glen site. At the JGH site, *Dr. Marty Teltscher* has begun the implementation of an antimicrobial stewardship program. The Chronic Viral and Immunodeficiency Service (CVIS) saw a merger of the MGH and the MCI

Teaching - Both the MUHC and JGH sites provide teaching at all levels from medical students to specialty resident training in medical biochemistry. Observerships are frequently provided to MDs wishing to spend brief periods in the laboratory.

Involvement in the community - At the JGH, *Dr Elizabeth MacNamara* participated in refresher courses for family physicians and lectured at the International Forum on Health, Salon Business Intelligence and Colloque sur les soins de santé p



*John DiBattista* was an invited speaker at the 13<sup>th</sup> International Bioactive Lipids Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and a member of the organizing committee for the 11th World Congress on Inflammation in Brazil. *Dr. Joyce Rauch* established monthly research meetings including all the McGill rheumatology community, i.e. the "Rheumatology Research Group work-in-progress/seminar series".

Teaching - Physicians going to Abitibi to provide clinical services took

took place at the four Montréal sites as well as Gatineau and 186 third- year medical students completed the Clerkship. The Committee added the HIV for the log book and introduced overnight call.

Objectives - Initiatives for the upcoming year include the reinstatement of an overnight call experience, revision of the clinic supervision process, and bolstering of the teaching objectives of the subspecialty component. For the new curriculum, the focus will be on providing a superior longitudinal outpatient experience in addition to the already strong inpatient exposure and Sub-specialty (CCU).

*Dr. Ahsan Alam* was appointed Program Director, succeeding *Dr. Thomas Maniatis*. Dr. Maniatis continues to stay involved with the program, and as a member of the Royal College Specialty Committee in Internal Medicine, he is assured to play an active role in shaping residency training across Canada. Currently, the program is training 116 core internal medicine residents spread across 3 base teaching hospitals (41 at the JGH, 38 at the RVH, and 37 at the MGH). The CaRMS match was extremely successful, as all positions were filled in the first iteration. This summer 39 exceptional residents will join the training program. 21 come from McGill, 6 from the rest of Québec, 3 from the rest of Canada, 1 from the US, and 8 are international medical graduates from the Middle East and other countries.

The program received a "fully accredited" status from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, a testament to the contributions by our residency training committee, faculty, and the high calibre of residents in the program. Several strengths were highlighted, such as the dedication of our hospital site directors, the varied patient populations and pathologies, the pioneering of a 16-hour call schedule, and the



## APPENDICES

The following appendices are part of this report and have been submitted separately:

Appendix I: Milestones (new hires, promotions, departures and salary awards)

[Appendix II: Honours, awards and prizes](#)

Appendix III: Consulting activities table

A copy of this report is available at the following website link:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/deptmedicine/about-us/annual-reports>