

VITAL SIGNS

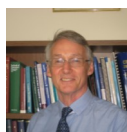


THE NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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OUR FULL-TIME HOSPITAL PHYSICIANS ARE AN INVALUABLE ASSET— A WORD OF CAUTION WHEN ABOUT TO TINKER WITH A FRAGILE COMPONENT OF AN ALREADY FRAGILE SYSTEM



Joint Editorial by:
Dr. James Martin, Chair, Department of Medicine
&
Dr. Ernesto Schiffrin, Vice-Chair Research, Department of Medicine



Budgetary constraints are changing the future practice of medicine in our hospital network. We are no longer just university-affiliated hospitals working in isolation but are part of a network that must provide seamless care and medical service to the population served by us. This laudable goal requires referral and hospitalization of the appropriate patients, from secondary to quaternary care, rapid turnover, placement of patients requiring long-term care, rehabilitation to accelerate discharges and a primary care network ready and willing to play its part. The Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and the Agence de la santé et des services sociaux de Montréal have made it abundantly clear that doctors need to be moved out of the university affiliated hospitals to practice ambulatory medicine in "private offices", at arm's length from the hospitals. Over the years the geographic full-time physician (80% within the institution) has had a key role in creating our rich

teaching and research environment at McGill. Medical students and residents have reaped the benefits of the hours spent by physicians with an academic bent. Biomedical research has been informed by the curiosity of the same physicians. Medical leadership has argued against the move to reduce ambulatory clinical activity within the hospital and continues to view the coming changes with some trepidation and worry. Major issues remain to be resolved concerning the role of teaching and clinical research within these clinics. Will it be feasible to create academic teaching clinics while providing the volume of clinical care that will required of the patients that currently consider our institutions their medical home? How will such spaces be recognized as academic teaching units? Will the infrastructure permit patient enrolment into clinical trials? Not all clinical research carried out presently in outpatient clinics can be carried out in "private offices", particularly when specific equipment is required. How can this research still be carried out in university hospital buildings if physician-scientists are expected to work in "private offices" to see outpatients? Will recruitment into research protocols beyond clinical trials be feasible from such clinics? Is this move going to endanger what generations of medical scholars have built? Cutting-edge research and excellence in teaching have been classically associated with the highest quality of healthcare delivery, as evidenced by the care provided in the top health science centres worldwide. What will be the overall impact of the imposed reforms on the academic activity that is part and parcel of the mission of a research-intensive healthcare institution and on the academic culture? Only time will tell, hopefully when it is not too late to recover.

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MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE LAND OF THE RISING SUN

Dr. Joyce Pickering

*Associate Professor and Vice-Chair, Education, Department of Medicine, McGill University
Executive Associate Physician-in-Chief, MUHC*

I was honoured to be selected for the 2013/2014 Kimitaka Kaga visiting professorship in medical education at the University of Tokyo in Japan. I spent 6 months based at the International Research Centre for Medical Education in the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Tokyo, where I gave monthly seminars on medical education topics, taught a course in clinical epidemiology, and led clinical case conferences for residents and clinical reasoning sessions for medical students. It was also an opportunity to learn more about the Japanese health care system, which although not familiar to many in Canada, is among the best in the world. Currently Japan has some of the best health statistics in the world (life expectancy of 83 years compared to 81 for Canada, infant mortality rate of 2.62/1000 live births compared to 5.33/1000 for Canada), has universal health care (including dental care) for all, and does this with about the same number of physicians per population as Canada and at a slightly lower cost than Canada (10.1% of GDP compared to 10.9% of GDP in Canada). Certainly their lifestyle contributes – obesity rates are low (4% of Japanese adults are obese, compared to 25% of Canadian adults), and their excellent public transit systems mean a less sedentary life style than we often see here.



One of the highlights of my time there was a symposium on rural medical education, where we visited a number of islands off the west coast of Japan (the Goto islands), to discuss the challenges of providing health services to small communities (as small as 17 people living on one island, almost all of them elderly) and training medical students in such environments. On one of the islands, the local residents prepared a delicious barbecue of freshly caught squid, and shrimp which were as large as

lobsters. I presented at that symposium on McGill's experience in rural education, and the surprisingly similar challenges and solutions for communities in Quebec's far north.

Japan has 80 medical schools with a total of about 9000 students per year enrolled in a 6 year program, with direct entry after graduation from high school (grade 12). Although they have government mandated university accreditation, they are currently developing an accreditation system specific for medical schools, and were very interested in McGill's experience with accreditation.

In October of 2014, about 10 Japanese medical educators from Gifu Medical School will be coming to McGill to learn more about our approach to clinical teaching of medical students – an opportunity for ongoing collaboration and learning for all of us.

MUHC: AT THE FOREFRONT OF A NOVEL THERAPEUTIC APPROACH FOR BARRETT'S ESOPHAGUS



*Dr. Serge Mayrand
Associate Professor, Division of Gastroenterology
Director, Gastro-Intestinal Motility Laboratory, MUHC*

In spite of recent medical and surgical advances, esophageal cancer is still associated with an overall poor prognosis, and a 5-year survival rate of approximately 18 %. In the western world, adenocarcinoma is now the most common sub-type of esophageal neoplasm, and its incidence has been rapidly increasing over the last decade. The main risk factor for the development of esophageal adenocarcinoma is a condition called Barrett's esophagus. Barrett's esophagus is a pre-neoplastic condition where the normal squamous epithelium lining the esophagus is replaced by an abnormal mucosa (intestinal metaplasia). Barrett's is one of the most serious complications of chronic gastro-esophageal reflux (GERD), and can be found in 3-15 % of patients with long-term GERD undergoing upper endoscopy. It is recommended that patients diagnosed with Barrett's esophagus undergo periodic endoscopic examination with biopsies in order to detect early or pre-neoplastic changes i.e. dysplasia. The presence of severe or high-grade dysplasia is associated with a very high rate of progression to a more invasive form of cancer, and, until recently, represented an indication to proceed rapidly with an esophagectomy (surgical removal of the esophagus), which can be associated with a significant morbidity and mortality, as well, as high costs to the health care system (ICU, OR, prolonged hospital stay, complications management, etc.).

In the last few years, evolving technology has allowed for endoscopic eradication of Barrett's mucosa. In particular, it is now possible to either resect or ablate endoscopically the Barrett's mucosa, to allow the regeneration of the squamous epithelium, and to reduce very significantly the risk of progression to a more severe form of cancer, as well as avoiding an esophagectomy for these patients. Endoscopic ablation can be achieved by using a novel application of local radio-frequency energy (*Halo system*), which permits selective destruction of the most superficial layers of the mucosa, with minimal side-effects for the patients or damage to the organ. These treatments are administered on an outpatient basis, with minimal disruption to the patient's daily activities, and are usually well tolerated.



As part of its long-standing Barrett's program, the MUHC Gastroenterology Division was the first one in Quebec to provide this therapeutic alternative to selected patients, and part of a handful of expert centers throughout Canada to do so. In our institution, approximately twenty patients have completed their treatments so far, and early results seem very promising, but long-term and close follow-up will be required. State-of-the art management of Barrett's esophagus in 2014 necessitates a multidisciplinary approach. A close collaboration between several specialties has been established at the MUHC to treat Barrett's esophagus and superficial esophageal neoplasms. Our team includes dedicated nurses, pathologists, gastroenterologists, and thoracic/esophageal surgeons, in order to provide our patients with the full spectrum of diagnostic and therapeutic options. We are immensely indebted to the Cedars Cancer Institute, the Montreal General Hospital Foundation, as well as the Medical, Surgical and Oncology Missions of the MUHC for supporting our Barrett's program and making this important treatment available to our patients.

DISEASE MANAGEMENT THROUGH HEALTH BEHAVIOUR CHANGE



*Dr. Kaberi Dasgupta
Associate Professor and Director of the MUHC Division of Clinical Epidemiology*

Addressing health behaviours may not only prevent disease but also disease-related complications. At the MUHC Division of Clinical Epidemiology, Drs. Kaberi Dasgupta, Steven Grover and Deborah Da Costa have an active program of interventions addressing health behaviour change.

Dr. Dasgupta is leading a clinical trial examining the effect of pedometer-based step count prescriptions on vascular risk factors and arterial stiffness in diabetes and hypertension with Dr. Stella Daskalopoulou; family-based multimodal behavioral intervention studies (nutrition education combined with 'cooking lessons', step count tracking, on-line tools; targeting families with a gestational diabetes history in the mother); and observational studies of the impacts of neighbourhood walkability on step counts in diabetes and of gestational diabetes in the mother on diabetes risk in the father. The latter study is anchored in the concept that couples and families share health behaviours and disease risk. In fact, Dr. Dasgupta and colleagues recently published a systematic review and meta-analysis demonstrating spousal concordance for diabetes (*BMC Medicine*, 2014). This review received wide media attention and may prove to be a useful tool in counseling patients with diabetes, helping them to engage their partners in changing health behaviours in the home.

Dr. Grover heads the McGill Comprehensive Health Improvement Program (CHIP) where he and his staff continue to deliver exercise/nutrition programs for a variety of health conditions. There is a growing interest in web-based health promotion to develop and evaluate e-health interventions to help individuals adopt healthier lifestyles with the positive results of a workplace exercise challenge recently published. This has motivated the evaluation of a workplace health improvement program at the Department of National Defense and in 2014 a randomized clinical trial to demonstrate the effectiveness of a health promotion program based in community pharmacies.

Dr. Da Costa's studies focus on the interplay between modifiable psychosocial (i.e. depression) and behavioural (e.g. physical inactivity, sleep problems) factors and health status over the lifespan. She is leading a study with Dr. Phyllis Zelkowitz to establish an association between stress, unhealthy behaviours (poor sleep, physical inactivity) and depression in partners of women in the third trimester of pregnancy. The results of this 15 month prospective study will guide the development of *HealthyDads.ca*, an e-mental health psychoeducational intervention which will include an on-line physical activity challenge tailored to expectant first-time fathers to enhance mental well-being, parenting adjustment and healthy behaviours. Dr. Da Costa is also leading a prospective CIHR funded study tracking sleep problems and their determinants following a myocardial infarction.

These MUHC clinical researchers are developing and testing innovative solutions to the challenge of the modern obesogenic environment in an attempt to help stem the tide of metabolic and vascular complications. It is through all three of the Department of Medicine mandates - clinical care, teaching, and research - that these important health issues can be addressed.

RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Dr. James Martin

The 5th Annual Research Symposium of the Department of Medicine was held in the New Residence Hall of McGill University on May 2nd, 2014. It was attended by more than 80 members of the Department and provided the audience an array of interesting presentations ranging from considerations of administrative databases to murine and cellular models of disease. There were two keynote speakers, Drs. Philip Awadalla and Philippe Gros and six other speakers who provided an afternoon of stimulating research findings. Dr. Awadalla, geneticist and Director of the CARTaGENE cohort, a large study being performed in Quebec which will address cardiometabolic factors contributing to disease, demonstrated the genetic variations across different sites of sampling of subjects in Quebec. He described the results of analysis of mitochondrial DNA and expression of mitochondrial genes. A relationship between methylation of tRNA was related to basal metabolic rate. The presentation prompted vigorous discussion about the limitations of population cohort. Dr. George Thanassoulis, Cardiology Division, described the potential for genome-wide association studies and molecular imaging for the development of novel targets for the prevention of aortic valve calcification. Dr. Hans Knecht, newly appointed as Division Director of Hematology at the JGH and McGill, presented his work on Hodgkin's Lymphoma. He described the molecular basis for the formation of Reed-Sternberg cells and the role of Epstein-Barr viral infection in Hodgkin's disease through the effects of the viral protein LMP1. Dr. Maia Kokoeva, Endocrinology Division, addressed the problem of the control of weight through studies of the hypothalamus. Elegant studies of the hypothalamic basis of energy balance were presented. NG2-glia cells are essential to the integrity of neurons sensitive to leptin. Dr. Serge Lemay, Nephrology Division,



presented his work on the family of Dok proteins and the particular relevance of Dok-4 to renal physiology and pathophysiology. Dr. Patricia Tonin, jointly appointed in Medicine and Human Genetics, described her extensive history of investigation of ovarian cancer, dealing with germline mutations such as BRCA genes, the results of somatic

genetic analysis and potential therapeutic targets. Dr. Pierre Ernst, Respiratory Division, presented his work and that of the team of investigators in the Canadian Network for Observational Drug Effect Studies, a pan-Canadian consortium that addresses the relationship between drug use and adverse effects. Dr. Philippe Gros, our second keynote speaker, Vice Dean, Life Sciences, Faculty of Medicine and Professor in the Department of Biochemistry, presented his work on the use of mouse models of disease and the unraveling of the molecular basis for disease through the finding of the relationships between gene deficiencies and various phenotypes. The symposium not only provided an opportunity to sample the excellent research that is performed by members of the Department but also may have stimulated future collaborative endeavours. I am already looking forward to next year's event.

GFT-H CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARD PROGRAM AT THE JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL



*Dr. Mark Lipman
Associate Professor, Division of Nephrology
Associate Physician-in-Chief, JGH*

Clinical care, teaching and research comprise the three principal missions of a university-affiliated academic hospital. The research component has traditionally been performed in large measure by GFT-U clinician-scientists who spend the majority of their professional lives dedicated to this purpose and who are provided with the necessary amount of protected time and support in order to focus on their research programs. However, the insight and inquisitiveness required to conceive compelling research questions, and then to design and implement studies that will provide answers to these questions, are not attributes restricted to the clinician-scientist. Indeed, there are many full-time clinicians who have doggedly pursued their research interests driven by a desire to advance their relevant fields and, in turn, help their patients. These pursuits often take place outside of regular work hours and commonly without overt recognition or support.

The Clinical Research Award Program in the Department of Medicine at the JGH was expressly developed to encourage and recognize GFT-H departmental members who partake in research activities and to offer them a modicum of financial support as partial compensation for the opportunity cost they incur as a result.

Any GFT-H departmental member is entitled to submit an application. Fundamental, clinical, and epidemiological projects are all eligible. The applications are reviewed by the JGH Department of Medicine Research Advisory Committee annually, and awards are granted for a two year period with the opportunity for renewal. In the inaugural year of the program, 2007, there were four awards granted with this number rising to 17 for the current year. The cumulative amount of funds granted or committed to date for this program has now surpassed one million dollars.

There is no doubt that the Clinical Research Award program is both genuinely appreciated by the GFT-H members and that it has been a resounding success in advancing the academic mission of the Department of Medicine at the JGH.

APPOINTMENTS



Dr. Arianne Marelli, Professor and Director of the MAUDE Unit, has assumed the newly created position of **Associate Director of Academic Affairs for**

the MUHC Division of Cardiology. In this position, Dr. Marelli will work with the Division Director to identify strategic academic priorities for the Division, to optimize research productivity and to assist in Faculty development and fundraising initiatives.



Dr. Madhukar Pai, Associate Member in our Respiratory and Infectious Diseases Divisions, Associate Professor in the

Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Director of the McGill International TB Center, has been appointed as **Director of Global Health Programs, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University.** Dr. Pai's research is mainly focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, especially in high-burden countries like India and South Africa. His expertise, experience and vision position him well to ensure McGill's Global Health Programs are at the forefront as a University priority and recognized as a major contributor to global health locally, nationally and internationally.

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Dr. Nathalie Saad, Assistant Professor in the Respiratory Division, has been appointed **Site Director for Undergraduate Medical Education** at the **JGH** starting September 1, 2014. A McGill graduate, Dr. Saad has been involved in medical education in Canada and contributed to many provincial and national committees on the future of medical education.

WELCOME BACK

We welcome **Dr. Joyce Pickering** back after her 6 month visiting professorship in Japan. She has resumed her posts as **Executive Associate Physician-in-Chief** for the **MUHC Department of Medicine** and as **Vice-Chair Education, McGill Department of Medicine**, effective April 1st, 2014. As Executive Associate Physician-in-Chief, she is responsible for overall clinical services within our Department at the MUHC, including overseeing quality and transition issues. As Vice-Chair Education, she works together with the directors of undergraduate and post graduate training to ensure appropriate coordination and support for their work.

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.

SALARY AWARDS

FRQS Chercheur Boursier – Senior

- ◆ **Dr. Sasha Bernatsky**
- ◆ **Dr. Madhukar Pai** (Associate Member)

FRQS Chercheur Boursier – Junior 2

- ◆ **Dr. Monzur Murshed**

FRQS Chercheur Boursier – Junior 1

- ◆ **Dr. Andrea Benedetti**

FRQS Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Senior

- ◆ **Dr. Kaberi Dasgupta**
- ◆ **Dr. Ron Postuma**

FRQS Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Junior 2

- ◆ **Dr. Ines Colmegna**

FRQS Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Junior 1

- ◆ **Dr. Don Vinh**

CONGRATULATIONS

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR

- ◆ **Dr. Vassilios Papadopoulos** (Tier 1 Renewal)

WILLIAM DAWSON SCHOLAR

- ◆ **Dr. Peter Siegel**

PROMOTIONS & AWARDING OF TENURE

Congratulations to our Faculty members for their achievements !

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS WITH TENURE

Dr. Maia Kokoeva: A member of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Dr. Kokoeva investigates issues of the control of body weight and hypothalamic function.

Dr. Brent Richards: A member of the Endocrinology Division and based at the JGH, Dr. Richards' research as a clinician-scientist has focussed on genetic determinants of susceptibility to common, aging related endocrine diseases, such as osteoporosis.

Dr. Simon Rousseau: A member of the Respiratory Division and based at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, Dr. Rousseau's research interests are focused on the mechanisms of signal transduction in the airway lining epithelial cells and the causation of neutrophilic inflammation.

Dr. David Stellwagen: A member of the Division of Neurology and based at the Centre for Research in Neuroscience, Dr. Stellwagen studies the fundamental mechanisms of synaptic plasticity, with a focus on the effects of inflammation and in particular the cytokine tumour necrosis factor-alpha.

FULL PROFESSORS

Dr. Suhad Ali: A member of the Division of Hematology, Dr. Ali's research focus has been the unravelling of the role of prolactin and its signaling mechanisms in the normal development of the mammary gland and in breast cancer.

Dr. Jean Bourbeau: A member of the Respiratory Division and Director of the Respiratory Epidemiology and Clinical Research Unit at the Montreal Chest Institute, Dr. Bourbeau is known for his work on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and approaches to the management of this chronic disease.

Dr. Marina Klein: A member of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Chronic Viral Illness Service, and based at the Montreal Chest Institute, Dr. Klein's research is focused on HIV

and hepatitis C virus and she has greatly contributed to our understanding of the co-infection in Canada and internationally.

Dr. Stéphane Laporte: Director of Research for the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism, Dr. Laporte's work is on the molecular and cellular mechanism regulating G proteins-coupled receptor responses with the goal of improving drug action and developing new and better therapeutics.

Dr. Anne-Marie Lauzon: A member of the Meakins-Christie Laboratories and Director of the Division of Experimental Medicine, Dr. Lauzon specializes in the mechanics of smooth muscle with a focus on its role in airway hyperresponsiveness and asthma.

Dr. Jean-Jacques Lebrun: A member of Medical Oncology and Associate Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, Dr. Lebrun investigates signaling pathways which influence tumor formation, growth and metastases.

Dr. Vivian Loo: A member of the Division of Infectious Diseases, Dr. Loo achieved great recognition as an expert in *C. difficile* infections, particularly for her work on the provincial outbreak of a hypervirulent strain of *Clostridium difficile*.

Dr. Kevin Schwartzman: Director of the Respiratory Division, Dr. Schwartzman's research has focused on tuberculosis transmission and control, using epidemiologic and cost-effectiveness analyses.

Dr. Tomoko Takano: A member of the Division of Nephrology, Dr. Takano studies the mechanisms of proteinuria, a hallmark of kidney disease, and is particularly interested in signalling mechanisms and genetics implicated in abnormal kidney cell function.

Dr. Patricia Tonin: Jointly appointed in Medicine and Human Genetics, Dr. Tonin's research is related to the genetic mechanisms implicated in ovarian and breast cancer.

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's recipients !

MUHC Departmental Annual Dinner held Thursday, June 5, 2014.

Physician-in-Chief Award

For highly distinguished service to the MUHC Department

- ◆ **The Office Staff of the Physician-in-Chief: Teresa Alper, Domenica Cami, Debbie Carr, Josée Cloutier, Emily Di Lauro, Melissa-Anne Stentiford Belkin**

Department of Medicine Physicianship Award

Exemplary Physician

- ◆ **Dr. Christian Pineau**

Outreach Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Marcelo Cantarovich**

Department of Medicine Award

For Innovation in Clinical Care or Quality

- ◆ **MUHC Hospitalist Team (accepted by Dr. Anita Brown-Johnson)**
- ◆ **Dr. Manuel Borod**

Department of Medicine Award

For Research by a Subspecialty Resident

- ◆ **Dr. Ivan Litvinov**

Department of Medicine Staff Research Award

- ◆ **Dr. Errol Marliss**

The Louis G. Johnson Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Jennifer Rodrigues**

The Lorne E. Cassidy Teaching Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Sulaiman Khadadah**

The Douglas G. Kinnear Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Khue Ly**

The W.H. Philip Hill Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Bernard Unikowsky**

JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL Department of Medicine Staff and Residents Year-End Party held Monday, June 2, 2014.

Dave Feder Award

Resident who practices medicine with most compassion and sensitivity

- ◆ **Dr. Leighanne Parkes**

Sheldon Zelman Memorial Award

For academic excellence and outstanding contribution to patient care

- ◆ **Dr. Paul Lau**

Dr. Allen Spanier Internal Medicine Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Maude Limoges**

Medical Resident Research Award

- ◆ **Dr. Mark Davis**

Teacher of the Year voted by the residents

- ◆ **Dr. Jed Lipes**
- ◆ **Dr. Blair Schwartz**

ST. MARY'S Family Medicine Annual Physicians' dinner held Wednesday, June 25, 2014.

Physician-in-Chief Award

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

- ◆ **Dr. Lauren Hamlin-Douglas**

Mervyn James Robson Memorial Award

For Excellence in Internal Medicine during first year of residency

- ◆ **Dr. Liu Liu**

MCGILL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM AWARDS

Department of Medicine Award

For Research by a Core Internal Medicine Resident

- ◆ **Dr. Samir Basmaji (MUHC)**
- ◆ **Dr. Barry Burstein (JGH)**

The Harold Frank Prize

For Excellence in a Clinical Case Presentation (Clinical Vignettes)

- ◆ **Dr. Jenna Berger**

The Ezra Lozinsky Prize

- ◆ **Dr. Anna Geagea**

RECRUITMENT

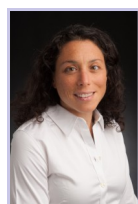
We welcome the following members to our Department.

Dr. Faiz Ahmad Khan, Assistant Professor to the Division of Respiratory Medicine and Attending Staff at the MUHC. Dr. Khan earned his M.D. at McGill University, where he subsequently completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and in adult Respiratory Medicine. He completed an FRQS-funded Masters degree in Public Health at Columbia University, and is now completing an FRQS-funded postdoctoral fellowship at Harvard University, with a focus on international tuberculosis research. He will have clinical duties at the MUHC, where he will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. His clinical practice will focus on tuberculosis in Montreal and in northern Quebec, as well as general respirology and he will continue to develop his research program in respiratory health amongst disadvantaged populations locally and globally.



Dr. Isabel Fortier, Assistant Professor and Medical Scientist to the Division of Clinical Epidemiology at the MUHC. Dr. Fortier completed a PhD at Université Laval in 1994 and throughout her career coordinated the implementation, harmonization and quality control of a number of national and international projects. She will be pursuing research at the MUHC-RI where she will lead the Maelstrom Research program, a program aiming to develop and provide the research community from diverse disciplines with resources to leverage and support data harmonization and integration across studies.

Dr. Hans Knecht, Professor and Director of the Division of Hematology at McGill and at the Jewish General Hospital as of April 1, 2014. Dr. Knecht obtained his M.D. from the University of Zurich, Switzerland in 1977 and specialized in internal medicine and hematology. He has a long track record in clinical, translational and molecular hematology. His most important contribution is the discovery of the transition from the Hodgkin to the Reed-Sternberg cell. Presently, his group works on the pathogenic mechanisms of Hodgkin's disease refractory to standard treatment. Dr. Knecht's past achievements include building and directing the Institute for Clinical Research at the Swiss Paraplegic Center, and his recent job as Professor of Medicine and Director of Hematology Laboratories at CHUS, University of Sherbrooke. Dr. Knecht replaces **Dr. Stephen Caplan** who stepped down as McGill and JGH Director of Hematology after 17 years of service. We extend our sincere thanks to Dr. Caplan for his contributions to our Department and wish Dr. Knecht every success in his role.



Dr. Elise Jodi Levinoff, Assistant Professor to the Division of Geriatrics and Attending Staff at the JGH. After completing a Masters in Neuroscience at McGill University, Dr. Levinoff earned her M.D. at the University of Ottawa and returned to McGill, where she did her post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Geriatric Medicine. She has completed an additional six months of training in cognitive disorders in the elderly. Dr. Levinoff will be actively involved in the memory clinic of the JGH and will pursue clinical research studies in mild cognitive impairment and its association with the development of delirium during hospitalization.

Dr. Veronique Naessens, Assistant Professor to the Division of Hematology and Attending Staff at the MUHC. Dr. Naessens obtained her M.D. at McGill University and completed residency training in Internal Medicine at McGill and in Hematology at the Université de Montréal, followed by a two year fellowship in hemoglobinopathies at the University of Toronto. Dr. Naessens' expertise is in benign

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hematology and hemoglobinopathies and high-risk hematology obstetrics medicine. Her recruitment to the MUHC adds to the strength of the tertiary and quaternary care programs in the Division of Hematology.



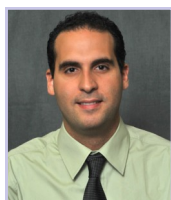
Dr. Benjamin Smith, Assistant Professor to the Division of Respiratory Medicine and Attending Staff at the MUHC. Dr. Smith earned his M.D. at McGill University, where he subsequently completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and in adult Respiratory Medicine. He is the recipient of a prestigious 5-year clinician-investigator training award from the FRQS. He completed an MSc degree in Epidemiology at McGill University, followed by a 3-year postdoctoral research fellowship at Columbia University, with a focus on the epidemiology of COPD and of lung cancer. Dr. Smith will have clinical

duties at the MUHC, where he will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. He will continue to develop his clinical and epidemiologic research program in COPD and lung cancer. His clinical practice will focus on these areas, including interventional as well as general respirology.



Dr. Ning-Zi Sun, Assistant Professor to the Division of General Internal Medicine and Attending Staff at the MUHC. Dr. Sun earned her M.D. at McGill University, where she subsequently completed post-graduate training in Internal Medicine and subspecialty training in General Internal Medicine. She has just completed a Masters in Health Professions Education (MHPE) at Maastricht University. Dr. Sun will be the Director of the RVH General Internal Medicine Clinic and the RVH Site Program Director of the Core Residency Training Program. She will be doing research in medical education and participating in creating a longitudinal quality improvement curriculum for core internal medicine residents. Dr. Sun will have clinical duties at the MUHC, where she will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents. We would like to take this

opportunity to thank **Dr. Josee Verdon**, who stepped down as the RVH Site Program Director on July 31st. Dr. Verdon brought energy, commitment and caring to this position, and has been much appreciated by all the residents, as well as others who worked with her.



Dr. Michael Tsoukas, Assistant Professor to the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism and Attending Staff at the MUHC. Dr. Tsoukas earned his M.D. from Trinity College at the University of Dublin and training in Internal Medicine at the Lahey Clinic at Tufts. He completed an Endocrinology fellowship at McGill and, most recently, a research fellowship in Obesity and Metabolic Disorders at the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Centre in Boston. He will have clinical duties at the MUHC, where he will be involved in teaching students and supervising medical residents

HONOURS

Congratulations to our members for their achievements.



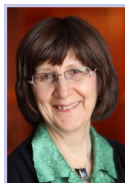
Dr. Marcelo Cantarovich, Professor in the Division of Nephrology, Medical Director of the Kidney and Pancreas Transplant Program and Associate Director of the Multi-Organ Transplant Program at the MUHC, has been elected as **Vice-President of The Transplant Society** for a 4-year term.



The Order of Canada recently acknowledged the immense contributions to the field of health care and teaching that **Dr. Richard Cruess** has made during more than five decades affiliated with McGill and the MUHC. Dr. Cruess became a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994 for his work as an orthopedic surgeon and as Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill. In 2000 he was promoted to an Officer of the Order of Canada for his innovation in the field of ethics in medicine. And in May of 2014 he was promoted once again to **Companion**, the highest level within the order. This latest recognition was for his numerous contributions as a world leader and pioneer in the field of medical professionalism in Canada and abroad.



Dr. William Foulkes, James McGill Professor of Medicine, Human Genetics and Oncology, has been awarded the **2014 Canadian Cancer Society's O. Harold Warwick Prize**. This honour is given to a scientist whose research has had a major impact on cancer control in Canada. [More on this story.](#)

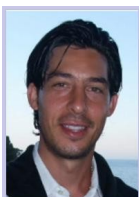


Dr. Marianna Newkirk, retired Associate Professor, Division of Rheumatology and former Associate Dean of Research, is the **2014 winner of the McGill Catalyst Award** for staff contribution to sustainability. Dr. Newkirk was instrumental in establishing a sustainability project on laboratory practices with the focus on better

and environmentally friendly biobanking and freezer use. This project has had broad uptake and has the potential to lead to considerable financial savings to the University while being kinder to the environment. [More on this story.](#)



Dr. Martin Olivier, Professor in the Departments of Medicine (Division of Infectious Diseases) and Microbiology & Immunology, received the **Canadian Society for Immunology Investigator Award** in recognition of his excellence as mentor and investigator during the course of his career. Dr. Olivier has established himself internationally for his work in "Evasion mechanisms of host innate immune responses by protozoan parasites" such as the ones causing leishmaniasis and malaria.



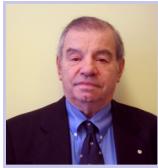
Dr. Nicolo Piazza, Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology, is the recipient of the **2014 Dr. George Fraser Memorial Award**. This award was established by Dr. Fraser's family and friends to honour his memory, his exceptional commitment to the practice of clinical cardiology and his tireless advocacy for his patients. It is given to a clinician in the Division of Cardiology at the MUHC or at St. Mary's who has demonstrated exemplary clinical practice and patient care.



Dr. Louise Pilote, James McGill Professor, Divisions of General Internal Medicine and Clinical Epidemiology and Director of the Division of General Internal Medicine, has been elected **Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences**. She has also been selected as the recipient of the **2014 Canadian Society of Internal Medicine Dr. David Sackett Senior Investigator Award**.

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12 / Honours)



Dr. Barry Posner, Professor in the Departments of Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism) and Anatomy & Cell Biology, Director of the Polypeptide Laboratory at McGill and Associate Director of the Montreal Diabetes

Research Center, was made **Chevalier of the Ordre national du Québec**. Dr. Posner's fundamental research led to the discovery of insulin receptors in the brain and blood vessels, as well as (with Dr. John Bergeron) endosomal signaling by insulin and growth factors. [More on this story.](#)



Along with Japanese colleagues, **Dr. Linda Snell**, Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine, Core Member of McGill's Centre for Medical Education and Senior Clinician Educator at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, received the

Igaku-Kyoiku Award from the **Japan Medical Education Society** to recognize research in medical education. Dr. Snell is currently responsible for the McGill Master's program in Medical Education.



Dr. Robyn Tamblyn, Professor in the Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology and Biostatistics, is the recipient of the **2014 John P. Hubbard Award** given by the **National Board of Medical**

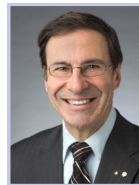
Examiners (NBME). This award recognizes individuals who have made a significant and sustained contribution to the assessment of professional competency and educational program development at any level along the continuum of medical education and delivery of healthcare.

[More on this story.](#)



Dr. George Thanassoulis, Assistant Professor in the Divisions of Cardiology and MUHC Clinical Epidemiology, has been selected as the **2014**

Canadian Cardiovascular Society (CCS) Young Investigator Award recipient in the Clinical Science category. CCS Awards are granted for excellence in research, teaching, exemplary care, prevention of cardiovascular diseases and overall career contribution.



Dr. Mark Wainberg, Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Microbiology and Immunology and Pediatrics and Director of the McGill AIDS Centre at the JGH, is the recipient of the **2014 John G.**

FitzGerald CACMID Award by the Canadian Association for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (CACMID). This honour recognizes Canadian Microbiologists that have significantly advanced the field of medical microbiology through their contributions to clinical, academic, and/or educational pillars. [More on this story.](#)

IN MEMORIAM

[*Excerpt from the Globe and Mail*](#)



Dr. Leonard Moroz passed away quietly on Thursday, April 17th, 2014 at the Royal Victoria Hospital, with his family at his side.

Dr. Moroz was a member of the Divisions of Allergy and Immunology and of Rheumatology in our Department since 1967. He received his M.D in 1959 from the University of Manitoba, where he was the gold medalist in his graduating class. He completed his internship and residency at the Winnipeg General Hospital and the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, at which time he was also a research fellow at Harvard Medical School. He completed his medical training at the Toronto General Hospital and went on to be a guest investigator at Rockefeller University in New York before moving to Montreal in 1967 to begin a 46-year association with the Royal Victoria Hospital and McGill, where he led a research laboratory and practiced medicine. He was Professor Emeritus of Medicine and still practicing at the time of his death.

Dr. Moroz was a respected teacher, clinician, and scientist, recognized for his pioneering work on mechanisms of fibrinolysis as well as for studies of food allergies and the role of proteinase 3 in ANCA positivity. He was kind and caring, and a leader in our Department.

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