

## ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS / OBJECTIVE AND PRIORITIES

### 1.1 ACADEMIC HIGHLIGHTS

#### I. Introduction

The Department continues to provide excellent clinical care and teaching as well as carry out substantial translational, clinical and epidemiological research that attracts new recruits to the JGH. Although recruitment is limited by government restrictions of the “effectifs médicaux”, we have managed to recruit during the year January 1 to December 31, 2017, four full-time members. Potential and confirmed recruits as well as changes in staffing are listed below.

Our research activities have been supported by both external funding agencies and by our own Clinical Research Awards.

The progress and challenges of the Department during this last academic year are summarized below.

#### II. Milestones

##### A. Recruits

The following physicians have been recruited in 2017 and beyond into the Department:

GFT members:

Allergy & Immunology - Dr. Jesse Schwartz (July 2018)  
Cardiology - Dr. Michael Goldfarb (July 2017)  
Cardiology - Dr. Ali Omar Abualsaud (January 2017)  
Gastroenterology - Dr. Robert Battat (July 2019)  
Hematology - Dr. François Mercier (July 2017)  
Infectious Diseases - Dr. Leaghanne Olivia Parkes (July 2019)  
Internal Medicine - Dr. Samuel Mamane (July 2018)  
Medical Biochemistry - Dr. Michael Chen (July 2019)  
Nephrology - Dr. Ramsey Sabbagh (September 2017)  
Rheumatology - Dr. Valerie Leclair (January 2018)

Associate members:

Dermatology - Dr. Jordana Schacter (September 2018)

##### B. Changes of Status

Cardiology - Dr. Ali Omar Abualsaud changed status from Replacement to GFT-H (January 2017)  
Nephrology - Dr. David Bercovitch will retire in February 2018  
Geriatric Medicine - Dr. Dan Liberman (July 2017) (application withdrawn)  
Geriatric Medicine - Dr. Isabelle Vedel (January 2017) (status change: GFT-H to Assoc. Member)  
Infectious Diseases - Dr. Dascal resigned as Chief (May 31, 2017)  
Infectious Diseases - Dr. Karl Weiss appointed as Chief (June 1, 2017)

##### **In memoriam:**

Dr. Mark Wainberg, Head of the HIV/AIDS axis at the Lady Davis Institute and the Jewish General Hospital, Director of the McGill AIDS Centre, Professor of Medicine and of Microbiology and Immunology at McGill University, and Director of the LDI from 2000 to 2009, passed away in April 2017.

##### C. Promotions

**Dr. Richard Sheppard has been promoted to Associate Professor:** A member of the Division of Cardiology, Dr. Sheppard's research and clinical interests have focused on exercise testing in patients with heart disease and

subsequently on the investigation and treatment of heart failure.

**Dr. Chen Liang** was promoted to full Professor in the Department of Medicine at McGill University.

### **III. Clinical Activities**

1. There has been a significant and sustained decrease in the number of patients in the ER awaiting admission to medicine. This is a result, in large part, due to greater turnover of patients on the wards. The efforts of the residents (and the attending staff on the wards) have been exceptional and should be recognized as such.
2. The typical number of patients awaiting admission to a medical bed each morning in the ER ranges between 10 and 15. This number has remained consistent. We have done an excellent job as a department keeping this number in check and keeping close to the targets for length of stay in the ER.
3. The Diagnostic and Treatment Clinic (DTC) located in the MDH is now running 3 days/week (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday). The volume is steadily increasing. Members of the Department of Medicine are advised to strongly consider the option of referring ambulatory patients to the DTC for expedited investigation and management as an alternative to ER.
4. Sixty-six (66) patients have been relocated from the Henri-Bradet (long term care facility) to the 4th floor of the JGH while it undergoes renovations (12-18 months). The staff that looks after them (nurses, physicians, etc. remain the same). These patients are essentially by treated as “outpatients” by the rest of the hospital.
5. There continues to be high volume turnover of patients on the medical CTUs. The work load and general stress levels have increased in kind. Our 32 bed CTUs are significantly larger than those at the MUHC or for that matter compared to elsewhere in Canada, and this presents an ongoing problem with the residency training program. We are beginning to look at some alternative models that address these issues.
6. The CRDS program has gotten off to a stuttering start across the province. This government-directed program seeks to expedite referrals to specialists from community GPs. Phase I included selected divisions but due to multiple problems expansion to other areas (phases 2 &3) were put on hold. There is no new secretarial support for this office and it will draw secretaries from participating divisions.
7. Phase 2 of the Nephrology and Dialysis Center is under construction and will be in operation by April 2018. The area is juxtaposed to the new hemodialysis unit. The nephrology offices, clinics, re-dialysis clinic, and peritoneal dialysis clinic will be relocated to the new space. The area vacated on the 2nd floor of Pavilion G will be transformed into an ID/OPAT clinic.
8. The Azrieli Foundation has donated 26 million to Cardiovascular Program.
9. Four more ICU beds will be opening in early 2018. Four additional beds are still under discussion.
10. High Care beds on K6 will go into operation early in the New Year.

The clinical activities of the individual Divisions are summarized in the attached Divisional reports.

### **IV. Teaching Activities**

The Department continues its role in the teaching of both undergraduate medical students and resident physicians in general medicine and the subspecialties. Our members’ dedication to teaching is well known and much appreciated by both medical students and residents. The Department is grateful to Dr. Ruxandra Bunea and Dr. Natalie Saad for their excellent contribution to our postgraduate and undergraduate teaching programs.

In 2017-2018 we recruited into our teaching program 14 R3, 15 R2, and 13 R1 housestaff and 10 other program R1 residents. There are two Chief Residents, Dr. Xing Liu and Dr. Ismail Raslan (July 2017-June 2018). Detailed reports of the undergraduate and postgraduate teaching are included below.

Grand Rounds: Of the 32 Grand Rounds given by the Department from January 1 to December 31, 2017 thirteen (13) featured speakers from outside the JGH, of whom seven (6) were from outside Quebec (see attached below).

Divisional Rounds: In addition to the above each Division manages its own teaching and research rounds as summarized in the attached reports.

## **V. Honours, awards and prizes**

Within the Department, the following staff and residents received awards:

**Dr Ernesto Schiffrin** was awarded the 2017 Prix Galien Canada - Research Award for having made the most significant contributions to pharmaceutical research in Canada. The Prix Galien Canada - Research is the most prestigious award in the field of Canadian pharmaceutical research and innovation. Referred to as the Nobel Prize of pharmaceutical research, it recognizes the efforts and achievements of pharmaceutical research and development.

**Dr. Michelle Elizov** was appointed Associate Dean, Faculty Development at McGill University.

**Dr. Ruxandra Bunea**, Assistant Professor in the JGH Division of General Internal Medicine, received the 2017 Internal Medicine Transition to Clinical Practice Teaching Award for her dedication to teaching history taking and physical exam skills.

**Dr. Susan Kahn** was appointed **Associate Editor of Research and Practice in Thrombosis and Haemostasis** journal of the International Society on Thrombosis and Haemostasis (ISTH).

**Dr. Brent Richards**, Associate Professor in the Division of Endocrinology and based at the JGH, was elected as **Member of the American Society for Clinical Investigation (ASCI)**. Dr. Richards focuses on understanding the genetic determinants of common aging-related endocrine diseases, such as osteoporosis and vitamin D insufficiency.

**Dr. Lawrence Rudski** was appointed as **President of the Canadian Society of Echocardiography** for a two-year period. The Society is the largest affiliate of the Canadian Cardiovascular Society and has strong collaborative arrangements with the American Society of Echocardiography and the European Association of Cardiovascular Imaging, as well as with the Royal College. His mandate is to form a committee for funding education and research aimed at establishing pan-Canadian activities with a focus on recruiting trainees to serve actively through curriculum development, as well as through research competitions and presentations. (October 2016)

## **Residents' Awards**

**Dr. Julian Huertas Garcia** received the Dave Feder award. This award is presented to the resident who practices medicine with most compassion and sensitivity, displays kindness, respect and camaraderie towards colleagues and educators and carries a positive outlook enabling him/her to enjoy a meaningful balanced life beyond his/her profession.

**Dr. Nan Zhao** received the Dr. Allen Spanier Internal Medicine Award. This award is given to the resident who exhibits an enduring passion for the practice of medicine, through the enjoyment of solving challenges of patient care and sharing solutions with others, while maintaining a high level of professionalism.

**Dr. Jill Pancer** was the recipient of the Sheldon Zemelman Memorial Award given to for academic excellence and outstanding contribution to patient care.

**Dr. Jessica Thom** was the recipient of Fellow of the Year Award. This award instituted in 2016 is given to the fellow in Internal Medicine or its sub-specialties who most significantly contributes to the training and formation of Jewish General Hospital Internal Medicine residents and inspires colleagues and juniors with his/her role-model clinical skills.

**Dr. Corey Miller** was the recipient of the Medical Resident Research Award. This award is given to the medical resident who has achieved excellence with regard to intellectual curiosity, initiative, originality and accomplishment in medical research performed during residency.

**Dr. Errol Stern** was voted as Teacher of the Year by the residents.

**Dr. Corey Miller** was the recipient of the Dr. Harold Frank Prize for her presentation entitled "The Case of the Dropping EF" at the Clinical Vignette Evening.

**Dr. Valérie Leclair** received in 2017 JGH Auxiliary - Department of Medicine Academic Enrichment Award. The award includes \$3,500, the proceeds of an endowment provided by the Auxiliary to mark the 2008 Doctors' Gala.

**Dr. Gershon Frisch** was presented with Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Award for Excellence in Teaching during an event held at the McGill Faculty of Medicine in January 2017.

## **VI. Research**

The Department of Medicine research activities have been supported by both external funding agencies and by its own Clinical Research Awards, to which are now added the endowment funds and the Academic Excellence Award of the Auxiliary which is awarded every other year.

Dr. Valerie Leclair, a recruit in Rheumatology, was awarded the Academic Excellence Ward of the Auxiliary in 2017.

### Department of Medicine Clinical Research Awards

The goal of this award is to contribute to the academic development of the Department, and to encourage full-time GFT-H members involved in clinical research by compensating, in part, their time dedicated to clinical research activities. The Research Advisory Research Advisory Committee reviewed applications based on quality of projects, role and productivity of applicant, likelihood of publication in a peer-reviewed scientific journal and awarded five (5) new applicants, renewed ten (10) previous applicants and granted an extra year to three (3) applicants. The support has increased from an original budget of \$40,000 in 2007 to \$208,000 in 2017.

Three awardees of this program presented at Medical Grand Rounds in September 2017 at the Third Annual Clinical Research Symposium of the Department of Medicine. Drs. Drs. Beauchet, Longtin and Sakr presented their research at the 3rd Symposium on September 25th, 2017.

#### Research Funding

Total funding from external peer review granting agencies to JGH researchers in 2016-2017 was \$34,480,016 (Medicine \$21,379,346).

#### Salary award funding

During the period from July 2017 to June 2018 eight (8) clinician-scientists are holding prestigious career awards, fellowship awards or research chairs from various granting agencies, totaling \$491,913. All clinical researchers are strongly encouraged to apply for salary support awards, as during the tenure of their awards, successful candidates can benefit from the generous RAMQ Clinical Researcher salary compensation program. In 2017, Dr. Longtin and Dr. Brent Richards had their FRQS salary award renewed for four years.

#### Publications

The number of publications authored by members of the Department of Medicine was 394 in 2017.

### **VII. Departmental Activities**

The Department continues to reinforce democratic and transparent management in all areas.

### **VIII. MUHC and McGill**

Our relationship with the MUHC has been characterized by collaboration and collegiality. Our commitment to excellence in teaching at both the undergraduate and postgraduate level continues to be valued by McGill University

Within the hospital progress has been made. The year was marked by the opening the new Pavilion K which now houses the Clinical Teaching Units and the modern and enlarged Hemodialysis Unit in the Sandra and Steven Mintz Nephrology Centre. The latter facility unites two former hemodialysis treatment units in one location.

The Department continues to work towards maintaining its academic mission with improved staffing and resource allocation.

The Department gratefully recognizes the support of the University and Hospital Administration in its recruitment efforts.

## **1.2 OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES**

The Department of Medicine continues to play a key national and international role with many members active across Canada and in the international academic arena, including Dr. Ernesto L. Schiffrin becoming Editor-in-Chief of the American Journal of Hypertension starting January 2016.

We remain dedicated to ensure that the department continues to provide the excellent care to the patients of the hospital for which it is renowned, while at the same time maintaining its goals of excellence in teaching. The recruitment of highly qualified and competitive physician scientists has reinforced the research capacity of the department and has had a transformative effect on the ability of the hospital to serve as a translational science center. It has been challenging to provide conditions that are competitive with the best North American centers due to constraints in funding for personal support, operating monies and up-to-date equipment, as well as difficulties in ensuring adequate space allocation and support services. Despite these difficulties and

constraints, we have been successful as can be seen above in already recruiting a considerable group of young physician-educators and physician-scientists in the areas of internal medicine, cardiology, endocrinology, hematology, pulmonary medicine, rheumatology and nephrology, all of who have a good chance of success in scientific competition for the scarce resources currently available locally, provincially and nationally. We have put in place a program that will also help support the research by contract academic staff (CAS, previously called GFT-H) physicians.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernesto L. Schiffrin, C.M., MD, PhD, FRSC, FRCPC, FACP  
Physician-in-Chief