

Annual Report
Division of Gastroenterology
Department of Medicine - Jewish General Hospital
January 1 - December 31, 2018

SUMMARY:

Introduction

Our division continues to flourish especially in IBD and hepatology. Our plans for the establishment of an IBD center of excellence have been delayed due to space shortages. Dr. R. Battat unfortunately declined his position as staff.

Clinical Activities

Office visits

Dr. A. Cohen	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	
Dr. G. Friedman	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	17 540 visits/year
Dr. A. Szilagyi	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	
Dr. N. Hilzenrat	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	
Dr. P. Galiatsatos	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	

Endoscopy laboratory:

Endoscopy volume for 12 months was 10 687 in total. This includes both in and out patients.

Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	procedures/year
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Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)

Mondays and Thursdays	1-4 pm	325 procedures/year (included in Endoscopy)
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Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinics

Monday to Friday	8-12 pm	3500 visits/year (included in office visits)
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Clinical trials in inflammatory bowel disease have continued to flourish. We are participating in numerous international clinical trials under the direction of our research nurses, Stefania D'Aleo and Marguerite Labelle-Kemp

Rapid Access IBD Clinics: Monday to Thursday, 2-4 pm: 168 patients/year.

Hepatology clinic

Dr. N. Hilzenrat	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	4484 visits/year (included in office visits)
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Maria Stavrakis is our research nurse in Hepatology. Activities include conduction of clinical trails in Hepatology as well as teaching and monitoring of patients undergoing anti-viral therapy for chronic hepatitis.

GI Service

In-patient activities revolve around the GI consulting service which is attended by our staff physician on a two week rotating schedule throughout the year. The volume of consultations is approximately 2400/year, the majority of which involve endoscopic procedures.

1. Research activities:

- Dr. Albert Cohen research interests focus on Crohn's disease, inflammatory bowel disease, ulcerative colitis and acid-related gastro-intestinal disorders.
- Dr Andrew Szilagyi's research interests include medical aspects of lactose and lactase as they pertain to lactose intolerance, diseases affected by dairy foods and epidemiology of lactose digestion. Related topics include irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel disease.
- Dr. Polymnia Galiatsatos is currently doing research on the impact of Lynch syndrome on career pursuits, professional development, and academic studies.
- Dr. Nir Hilzenrat major research interests are in the fields of liver diseases and gastroenterology: portal hypertension (basic sciences), viral hepatitis B & C - its treatment modalities and extrahepatic manifestations and complications (clinical studies) and colorectal cancer screening.
- Dr. Jonathan Wyse's research interests focus on the value of on-site cytopathology during endoscopic ultrasound and the study of biomarkers of irritable versus inflammatory bowel disease.

2. Teaching and learning (undergraduate and graduate):

Total clinical teaching hours

Gastroenterology Consult service	
Dr. S. Blum, Dr. A. Cohen,	300 hrs/yr.
Dr. G. Friedman, Dr. N. Hilzenrat	for each
Dr. A. Szilagyi, Dr. J. Wyse,	physician
Dr. P. Galiatsatos	

Post-graduate teaching hours

GI Pathology Conference	Wednesdays 8-9 am (alternate week)
Dr. A. Gologan	
Dr. Olga Aleynikova, Dr. Mona Alladin	
GI Radiology Conference	Wednesdays 8-9 am (alternate week)
Dr. J. Cassoff	
GI Journal Club, M&M rounds	Wednesdays 8-9 am, once/month
McGill interhospital GI rounds	Wednesdays 5-6 pm

MED 1:

McGill Gastrointestinal Physiology Small Group Tutor, Unit IV: Dr. A. Cohen, Dr. G. Friedman, Dr. N. Hilzenrat, Dr. P. Galiatsatos, Dr. J. Wyse and Dr. A. Szilagyi - total number of hours: 16/physician

Total Clinical Teaching hours:

Residents: CTU: 80 hours OPD: 800

Students: CTU: 80 hours OPD: 200

3. Involvement in the community:

Members of the Division continue to serve in committees and editorial boards and to participate in other high level academic activities at national and international levels.

4. Partnerships:

The division collaborates with gastroenterologists throughout Quebec in conjunction with the Whitehead Institute and the National Health Institute, Bethesda, MD for the identification of genes responsible for inflammatory bowel disease.

5. Milestones: New hires, promotions, and retirements:

Chiara Saroli-Palumbo is completing a fellowship in transplant hepatology and will join our division in July of 2019.

6. Honours, awards, and prizes: None to report.

7. Fundraising:

Several generous donors played a major role in helping the GI Division raise in excess of 2 million dollars for the creation of a new IBD center of excellence at the Jewish General Hospital.

SECTION I - DIVISION STATUS UPDATE

1. Mission and objectives of the Division

The main objectives of the division for the coming year are:

- Finalize plans for the creation of the IBD center of excellence.
- Recruit Dr. Corey Miller for July of 2020. He will complete a fellowship in Boston in EUS/ERCP and advanced therapeutic endoscopy.

2. A nominative list of academic staff, their academic rank

Full-time (GFT) members:

Dr. Albert Cohen, Director, Division of Gastroenterology, Associate Professor, McGill University

Dr. Nir Hilzenrat, Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist, Associate Professor, McGill University

Dr. Gad Friedman, Gastroenterologist, Assistant Professor, McGill University

Dr. Polymnia Galiatsatos, Gastroenterologist, Assistant Professor, McGill University

Dr. Jonathan Wyse, Gastroenterologist, Assistant Professor, McGill University

Dr. Andrew Szilagyi, Gastroenterologist, Assistant Professor, McGill University

SECTION II - GRANTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND SERVICE OUTSIDE OF MCGILL

1. Grants and Awards

Dr. Albert Cohen

“Prediction of response to Ustekinumab in anti-TNF-resistant Crohn’s disease, using trough concentrations and the presence of anti-ustekinumab antibodies”

Principal investigator: Dr. Waqqas Afif

Principal site investigator: Dr. A. Cohen

Etro in UC (GA28950)

Phase III, double blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter study of the efficacy and safety of etrolizumab during induction and maintenance in patients with moderate to severe active ulcerative colitis who are refractory to or intolerant of TNF inhibitors

Principal site investigator: Dr. A. Cohen

Etro in UC open-Label Extension (GA28951)

An open label extension and safety monitoring study of moderate to severe ulcerative colitis patients previously enrolled in certolizumab phase III studies

Principal site investigator: Dr. A. Cohen

IBD Genomic Medicine Consortium (iGenoMed): Translating genetic discoveries into a personalized approach to treating the inflammatory bowel diseases- Development of a tool predictive of response to anti-TNF in a prospective Crohn’s Disease patient cohort

Principal Site investigator: Dr. Albert Cohen

Dr. Nir Hilzenrat

The incidence of diabetes following interferon treatment in patients with HCV

Site principal investigator: Hilzenrat Nir

Co-investigator: Kader T

Funding: Jewish General Hospital, GI Research Group

2004-date.

Chronic Hepatitis C infection Genotype 3 - Do All Subjects Response Equally to the Current Therapy?

Site principal investigator: Hilzenrat Nir

Funding: SMBD- Jewish General Hospital, GI Research Group

2009-date

The role of different biological systems in the etiology of interferon alpha induced depression

Principal Investigator: Marie-Josée Brouillette

Site principal investigator: Hilzenrat Nir

Co-investigator: Deschenes M

Funding: CHIR- Canadian Institutes of Health Research.

2008-date

Short term memory deficit in HCV patients treated with Interferon

Site principal investigator: Hilzenrat Nir

Funding: SMBD- Jewish General Hospital, GI Research Group

2011-date

Dr. Andrew Szilagy

Differential effects of lactose on fecal microflora in adult Lactase Persistent and Lactase Non-Persistent healthy subjects (Danone Institute). This trial is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov ID NCT00599859

Epidemiological study of inflammatory bowel diseases and relationships to diet, vitamin D levels and genetics of lactase and NOD2, OCTN1/2. Adaptability to fructose in fructose intolerant subjects: On going since January 2008

Dr. Polymnia Galiatsatos

Impact of Lynch syndrome on career pursuits, professional development, and academic studies: JGH Department of Medicine Clinical Research Award 2014-2016

Dr. Jonathan Wyse

The value of Botox-A in Acute Radiation Proctitis: JGH Department of Medicine Clinical Research Award 2013-2016

2. Publications

Dr. P. Galiatsatos

Galiatsatos P, Labos C, Jeanjean M, Miller K, Foulkes WD. Low yield of gastroscopy in patients with Lynch syndrome. Turk J Gastroenterol 2017;28(6):434-438.

Dr. A. Szilagyi

Kopylov U, Papamichael K, Katsanos K, Waterman M, Bar-Gil Shitrit A, Boysen T, Portela F, Peixoto A, **Szilagyi A**, Silva M, Maconi G, Har-Noy O, Bossuyt P, Mantzaris G, Barreiro de Acosta M, Chaparro M, Christodoulou DK, Eliakim R, Rahier JF, Magro F, Drobne D, Ferrante M, Sonnenberg E, Siegmund B, Muls V, Thurm T, Yanai H, Dotan I, Raine T, Levin A, Israeli E, Ghalim F, Carbonnel F, Vermeire S, Ben-Horin S, Roblin X.
Impact of Infliximab and Cyclosporine on the Risk of Colectomy in Hospitalized Patients with Ulcerative Colitis Complicated by Cytomegalovirus-A Multicenter Retrospective Study.
Inflamm Bowel Dis. **2017** Sep; 23(9):1605-1613.
doi: 10.1097/MIB.0000000000001160

Szilagyi, A. & Xue, X. Evaluation of a fecal immunochemistry test prior to colonoscopy for outpatients with various indications. *Clinical and Experimental Gastroenterology* Volume 2017:10: 285-292.

Szilagyi, A. & Xue, X. Comparison of geographic distributions of irritable bowel syndrome with inflammatory bowel disease fail to support common evolutionary roots. Irritable bowel syndrome and inflammatory bowel diseases are not related by evolution. *Med Hypotheses*, 2018, 110, 31-37.

Dr. N. Hilzenrat

Hosseina Melika, Probst Stephan and Hilzenrat Nir. Recurrent Percutaneous Endoscopic Gastrostomy induced Pancreatitis. *Gastroint Hepatol Dig Dis.* 2018; 1(3): 1-4.

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Cohen, MD
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology