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

Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)
Mondays and Thursdays 1-4 pm 325 procedures/year (included in Endoscopy)

Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinics
Monday to Friday    8-12 pm 3500 visits/year (included in office visits)

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)
Maria Stavrakis is our research nurse in Hepatology. Activities include conduction of clinical trials 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, 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 present 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 Szilagyi**

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**

Dr. A. Szilagyi

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


Dr. N. Hilzenrat


Respectfully submitted,

Albert Cohen, MD
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology