Introduction:

A new member of the division is Dr. Valerie Leclair who joined in the spring of 2018. She is currently pursuing a PhD in clinical epidemiology at the Karolinska Institute in Sweden.

Divisional members provide clinical services on Clinical Teaching Unit (CTU), out-patient clinic coverage, consult service as well as supervision of Internal Medicine residents and Rheumatology fellows as follows:

Consult service 3 months/year (Dr. Baron, Dr. Berkson, Dr. Fallavollita, Dr. Gyger); Dr. Hudson Dr. Leclair: 1 month
Out-patient clinic (Dr. Baron 7 ½ days per week; Dr. Berkson 6 ½ days per week; Dr. Fallavollita 6 ½ days per week; Dr. Gyger 7 ½ days per week)
Musculoskeletal ultrasound (Dr. Fallavollita 1 day)
Video capillaroscopy (Dr. Gyger ½ day)
In-Patient Follow up (Dr. Hudson 3 hours/day)
Supervision of research trainees for 2 half-days per week (Dr. Hudson 8 hours)

Staff members strive for clinical innovation. Dr. Baron has an ongoing scleroderma clinical, rheumatic disease/lung clinic.

1. Research and publications:

Dr. Baron’s primary research interest is scleroderma. Dr. Baron has established the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (CSRG) and the International Systemic Sclerosis Inception Cohort. Dr. Baron’s research has focused on ways of measuring disease activity and damage in scleroderma. In April 2018 he organized and held the first meeting of Canadian rheumatologists and hematologists interested in advancing the use of autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplants for scleroderma in Canada. He is involved multiple working groups of the Scleroderma Clinical trials Consortium and site on the extended executive

Dr. Hudson was on sabbatical leave during the 2018-2019 academic year to develop a program of research in cellular therapies for systemic autoimmune rheumatic diseases. She has also recently been named Co-director (Immunity) of MI4. She has also been asked to sit as a member of the McGill University Department of Medicine Departmental Promotions/Tenure Committee.

Dr. Leclair is enrolled as a PhD student in Clinical Epidemiology at Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm Sweden under the supervision of Dr. Marie Holmqvist in the myositis research group of Prof Ingrid Lundberg. Her research projects are focused on different clinical phenotypes in myositis and their impact on clinical outcomes.

2. Teaching and learning (undergraduate and graduate):

The division continues to participate in undergraduate and post-graduate medical education. Its members provide clinical supervision to medical students, residents and fellows regularly during their
2-week as attendings on the medical wards, full-day weekly general rheumatology clinics and consult service. They participate in the CaRMS Admission Committee for Internal Medicine (3 hours/year).

Dr. Berkson continues as Osler fellow in 2018, and as Chair of the Program Evaluation and Curriculum Outcomes Committee UGME. In 2018 she delivered JGH Grand Rounds on Giant Cell Arteritis, as well as an audiovisual recording on GCA for the Internal Medicine residents.

**Dr. M. Baron**
2 weeks on medical ward
3 months on rheumatology consult service,
Frequently with students and residents in outpatient clinic
Co-supervision of rheumatology fellow with Dr. Hudson

**Dr. L. Berkson**
Osler Fellow 4 hours/month
12 weeks attending on consult service
½ day per week supervising residents in ambulatory care

**Dr. S. Fallavollita**
Working on developing US curriculum for students
Teaching undergraduate / postgraduate students and fellows
Chair of TCP at McGill

**Dr. G. Gyger**
Capillaroscopy course at the Rheumatology week-end (12 hours)
Capillaroscopy course to rheumatologists (around 25-30 hours per doctor)
RAC course (13 hours 45 min)
Scleroderma introduction yearly (1 hour)
Scleroderma Gl disease and capillaroscopy for pediatric fellows (45 min)
6 hrs "MSK Physical exam" 1st year medicine small group on introduction to MSK exam

**Post Graduate Teaching**
15 hrs McGill Simulation Center: Ethics (Internal Medicine R2 and 3)
Shoulder and Knee Injection and Aspiration (Internal Medicine R4)
3 hrs McGill Internal Medicine PGY4 Academic Half Day MSK exam
1 hr Family Medicine academic half day: Commonly encountered joint complaints
1 hr Internal Medicine PGY4 half day: Approach to Rheumatoid Arthritis
1 hr Academic half-Day: Rheumatology
1 hr Rheumatology Fellows: Approach to joint injections
72 hrs Internal Medicine TCP small group Teaching
10 hrs what is rheumatoid Arthritis
3 hrs/ week 2 residents
Supervision of Fellow Continuity Clinic
JGH Site Director Rheumatology Program
Supervision of trainees (undergraduate and postgraduate)

3. **Involvement in the community:**

Dr. Baron holds the position of immediate past President of the Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium.
Dr. Hudson co-leads a Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium working group on scleroderma renal crisis.

Dr. Hudson is medical advisor for Myositis Canada, a national grass-roots advocacy organization and AWISH, a local self-help group for patients with arthritis.

We have initiated our own vaccine clinic for our patients who are immunocompromised.

4. Partnerships:

Dr. Berkson is collaborating with Dr. Vartan Mardigyan (cardiology) in the treatment of patients with refractory pericarditis.

Dr. Fallavollita is a member of a national organization developing a core clinical dataset for quality care for Rheumatoid Arthritis

Dr. Gyger is part of an international consortium studying rare GI manifestations of scleroderma.

Dr. Gyger is on a committee of the Scleroderma Clinical Trials Consortium seeking to establish training programs and a certification process for the use of video capillaroscopy in Scleroderma.

The rheumatology research group has instituted the development of a new international research organization called The International Systemic Sclerosis Inception Cohort (InSync) with the aim of closely following the first few years of illness in patients with scleroderma from many different countries to develop a large enough cohort for important research. In Sync includes researchers from Canada, United States, Germany, Holland, Sweden, Australia and Spain.

Dr. Baron is past President of scleroderma clinical trials consortium, a worldwide body of scleroderma researchers.

Dr. Hudson participates in numerous local, national and international research networks including CSRG, INSYNC, Tri-Nation cohort, SCTC, CIMS, MIRAE, and CAN-RiO.

The Division runs an osteoporosis clinic in partnership with endocrinology. It has a once/month clinic for rheumatic disease with lung disease and/or pulmonary hypertension. Scleroderma patients are seen once per week for collection of data for the Canadian Scleroderma Research group.

5. Milestones: There were no changes in staffing except as above.

6. Honours, awards, and prizes:

Dr. Sabrina Hoa, a post-doctoral fellow under the supervision of Dr. Hudson, was awarded The Arthritis Society’s Post-doctoral fellowship award (2016-18), the CIHR Canada Graduate Scholarship award (2017-2019), the Fonds de recherche du Québec- Santé master award (2017-2019), the Drug Safety and Effectiveness Cross-Disciplinary Training (DSECT) Program award (2017-2018), and the Fondation du Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montreal Scleroderma Research Chair award (2017-2018). She was appointed as Assistant professor at the Centre Hospitalier de l'Université de Montreal in January 2019.
Under the supervision of Dr. Hudson, Sophie Wojcik (PGY4, Rheumatology) won Best Abstract by a Rheumatology Fellow, Jessica Salituri (PGY2 Internal Medicine) won Best Abstract on Basic Science Research by a Trainee, and Tedi Qendro (Second year medical student, McGill University) won Best Abstract by a Medical Student at the Canadian Rheumatology Association meeting held in February 2018 in Vancouver, BC.

Dr. Leclair received funding for her PhD salary from the Dahlin Börje foundation in Stockholm, Sweden.

7. **Fundraising:** None to report

**SECTION I - DIVISION STATUS UPDATE**

1. **Mission and objectives of the Division**

The Division strives to provide high level clinical care, education and research.

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

   **Murray Baron,** MD: Professor of Medicine
   Marie Hudson, MD: Associate Professor with tenure
   Genevieve Gyger, MD: Assistant Professor
   Laeora Berkson, MD: Associate Professor of Medicine
   Sabrina Fallavollita, MD: Assistant Professor
   Valerie Leclair, MD: Assistant Professor

**SECTION II - GRANTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND SERVICE OUTSIDE OF McGill**

1. **Grants and awards received**

   **Baron, Murray**

   Scleroderma Society of Ontario
   -Canadian Scleroderma Research Group

   Grouping of Canadian Companies and Corporations:
   -A multicenter, open label study to describe the safety of daily subcutaneous injections of Anakinar (r-methHuIL-1ra) in patients with rheumatoid arthritis.

   University of Michigan
   -A phase II study to evaluate subcutaneous abatacept vs placebo in diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis-a double-blind, placebo-controlled, randomized controlled trial (IM101-344)(ASSET)

   Bayer (Canada) Inc
   -A randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase II study to investigate the efficacy and safety of riociguat in patients with diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc) (Study 16277)
Mount Sinai Hospital:

Hoffmann-La Roche Ltd, Canada:
- A Phase II/III, multi-centre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study to assess the efficacy and safety of tocilizumab versus placebo in patients with systematic sclerosis.

JSS Medical Research
- A Canadian randomized controlled trial (RCT) of real world Cimzia treatment in RA: Randomizing to stop vs continued DMARDs.

Abbott Laboratories:
- Real life evaluation of rheumatoid arthritis in Canadians taking HUMIRA.

Hudson, Marie

- Personal Support Awards
  Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ)
  Recherches observationnelles portant sur les maladies systemiques autoimmunes rhumatismales
  2015-2019, Chercheur-clinicien Senior

2018/11-2019/11 World Scleroderma Foundation
Development and evaluation of a patient decision aid for autologous hematopoietic stem cell transplantation in systemic sclerosis
Co-Investigator with Thombs, Brett; Thonen-Velthuizen, Jessicas; Schraven, Linda
PI: Kwakkenbos L
$50,000

2018/08-2021/07 Genome Canada/Genome Quebec
Precision Medicine in Cellular Epigenomics
Co-Investigator with Lakhal-Chaieb, Lajmi; Daley, Denise; Labbe, Aurélie; Zhang, Tieyuan
PIs: Greenwood, Celia and Oualkacha, Karim
$660,512

2018/03-2019/02 Canadian Institutes of Health Research, Patient-Oriented Research Collaboration Grants.
Developing a Program to Enhance Physical Activity in Scleroderma: The SPIN-PACE Study
Co-Investigator with Bartlett, Susan; Fortune, Catherine; Godard, Dominique; Gottesman, Karen; Guillot, Genevieve; Kwakkenbos, Linda; Carrier, Marie-Eve; Leite, Catarina; Mouthon, Luc; Nielsen, Karen; Portales Guiraud, Alexandra
PIs: Shrier I, Thombs BD, Sauve M, Pelaez S
$40,000

2018/02-2019/01 CIHR
The Scleroderma Support group Leader Education (SSLED) Program
Co-applicant; Principal Investigator Dr. Brett Thombs
$100,000
2018/07-2019/06 BMS
MIRAE
PI $35,000

2018/12-2019/11 Roche
MIRAE
PI $35,000

Current (ordered by end date)

06/2017 - 01/2020
Bringing Patients and Therapies Together Sooner: Building Clinical Research Capacity to Improve Outcomes in Myositis
CIORA PI $119,300

10/2016 - 09/2019
Randomized Controlled Trial of an Internet-based Exercise Program to Improve Hand Function in Patients with Scleroderma: A Scleroderma Patient-centered Intervention Network (SPIN) Study (Thombs)
TAS Co-PI $359,686

07/2016 - 07/2019
Randomized Controlled Trial of an Internet-based Scleroderma Self-Management Program: A Scleroderma Patient-Centered Intervention Network (SPIN) Study (Thombs)
CIHR Co-PI $561,909

08/2016 - 07/2019
Pragmatic, multicentre, cluster, cohort randomised controlled treat-to-target trial for treatment of small intestinal bacterial overgrowth in SSc (Baron)
CIHR Co-PI $117,000

08/2017 - 02/2018
Scleroderma Renal Crisis Working group
SCTC PI $12,000 US

05/2017 - 05/2018
Proteomic analysis of Inflammatory Myopathies – A Pilot Project
MyoCan PI $10,000

06/2015 - 01/2018
Preventing rheumatoid arthritis (Pre-RA) PI
$82,933 - 02/2017

01/2018
NT-proBNP to screen for SSc-PAH
Roche PI $50,000

Fallavollita, Sabrina
JSS Medical Research:
-Prospective observational study to evaluate the use of musculoskeletal ultrasonography to improve rheumatoid arthritis management: Canadian experience (Echo Study).

MUHC PI: Dr. lnes Colmegna:
-liT Profile and functional implications of the production of age- associated inflammatory cytokines by hematopoietic progenitor cells in RA

Abbott Laboratories Ltd:
-Drug Canadian HUMIRA. Post Marketing Observational Epidemiological Study: Assessing Effectiveness in AS. Site contact and in charge of patient recruitment

2. Research Trainees Supervised

Hudson, Marie
Dr. Hudson supervised 16 research trainees during 2018, of which her PDF won multiple training awards and 3 trainees won awards for posters/presentations at the Canadian Rheumatology Association meeting in Vancouver (February 2018).

2. Scholarly works published in the 2018 calendar year


17. Harel D, **Baron M**. Methods for shortening patient-reported outcome measures. Statistical methods in medical research 2018;962280218795187.


20. Fritzler MJ, **Hudson M**, Choi MY, Mahler M, Wang M, Bentow C, Milo J, **Baron M**. Bicaudal D2 is a novel autoantibody target in systemic sclerosis that shares a key epitope with CENP-A but has a distinct clinical phenotype. Autoimmunity reviews 2018;17:267-75.


2018 Published abstracts


25. Wojcik S, Galatas C, Huynh T, Iacoviello L, Wang M, **Hudson M, Baron M**. Electrocardiographic findings in systemic sclerosis are very similar to those of healthy individuals: Data from the canadian scleroderma research group. Journal of Scleroderma and Related Disorders 2018;3 (Supplement 1):102-3.

26. Zheng B, Nevskaia T, Pope J, Baxter C, Ramey D, **Baron M**. Improvement in skin score after 2 years in early diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis (dcSSc) patients is associated with improvement in multiple other domains of disease measurement. Journal of Rheumatology 2018;45 (7):1013.


3. **Grant reviews**

Hudson, Dr. Marie
-CIORA grant review committee Chair (awards approximately $700,000/year; third largest funding agency for arthritis research in Canada)

**SECTION III - CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION**

1. **Consulting activities:**

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<th>Other (# of days – please explain)</th>
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Submitted by:

**Murray Baron, MD**
Chief, Division of Rheumatology, JGH