SUMMARY

1. Research and publications:

Total of new funding awarded this year: $994,424.00. A combined total of 44 publications were published in 2019 by Dr. Samy Suissa, Dr. Kristian Filion and Dr. Antonios Douros.

**Suissa, Samy**
Dr. Samy Suissa is the Principal Investigator of the Canadian Network on Observational Drug Effect Studies (CNODES), and oversees funding of $17.5 million received from CIHR for this network. CNODES assembles the top pharmacoepidemiologists in the country and uses a collaborative, population-based approach, exploiting existing healthcare databases across the country and using sophisticated, cutting edge and powerful analytical methods to rapidly evaluate the risks and benefits of medications on the health of Canadians.

Dr. Suissa’s research is in pharmacoepidemiology which involves studying the risks and benefits of medications at the within the population at large. He specializes in the exploitation of existing computerized health databases to rapidly evaluate these risks. He has developed, and published extensively on, new methods of data analysis and study design that allow more rapid and accurate assessments of drug safety. He has conducted pharmacoepidemiological studies of several medications used for the treatment of chronic diseases, including asthma and COPD, cardiovascular and rheumatic diseases, and women’s health issues. He has lectured extensively throughout the world, and is the author of over 500 peer-reviewed research papers published in scientific journals.

**Filion, Kristian**
Dr. Filion was awarded four grants in 2019 by the CIHR:
1. Cannabis and impaired driving: a knowledge synthesis. (Co-Investigator – Project Grant)
2. Effectiveness and safety of direct oral anticoagulants in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation and liver disease (Co-Investigator - Project Grant)
3. Concomitant use of sulfonylureas with warfarin and the risk of severe hypoglycemia in patients with type 2 diabetes (Co-Investigator - Project Grant)
4. A systematic review of interventions for the opioid crisis: examining approaches in a Canadian context and vulnerable sub-populations (Co-Investigator - Operating Grant: Evaluation of Interventions to Address the Opioid Crisis)

In 2019, Dr. Filion had 15 articles published or in press (5 as first or senior author). He has 25 submitted manuscripts (12 as first or senior).

**Douros, Antonios**
Dr. Douros was awarded three project grants (2 as Principal Investigator) in 2019 by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR):
1. Concomitant use of sulfonylureas with warfarin and the risk of severe hypoglycemia in patients with type 2 diabetes (Principal Investigator)
2. Effectiveness and safety of direct oral anticoagulants in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation and liver disease (Principal Investigator)
3. A personalized dynamic blood pressure control plan for cardiovascular disease prevention
among patients with hypertension (Co-Applicant)

He was also awarded a research grant in 2019 by the Lady Davis Institute

1. Drug effectiveness and safety in vulnerable populations (Principal Investigator)

In 2019, Dr. Douros had 11 articles published (5 as first author and 3 as senior author) including publications in high-impact journals such as the European Heart Journal (IF: 24.889), Diabetes Care (2x; IF: 15.270) and Neurology (IF: 8.689). Moreover, 2 of his publications were the subject of editorials.

2. Teaching and learning (undergraduate and graduate):

Suissa, Samy

Dr. Samy Suissa leads the Pharmacoepidemiology Summer Program in the Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics which holds 4 courses each summer and in which he himself teaches the Advanced Pharmacoepidemiology course. He is currently supervising or co-supervising 2 PhD students, 1 MSc student and 1 Post-doctoral fellow:

Student Supervision 2019 (Samy Suissa)

- Mr. Farzin Khosrow-Khavar (PhD in Epidemiology) 2013-2019
- Ms. Tanja Tran (PhD in Epidemiology) 2014-
- Dr. Henok Tadesse Ayele (Postdoctoral Fellow) 2016-
- Mr. Anirudh Bakshi (MSc in Epidemiology) 2019-

Filion, Kristian

Dr. Kristian Filion teaches in the medical school and in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health. In the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health, Dr. Filion was the instructor in the course entitled “Knowledge Synthesis” (3 credits). He was also the co-instructor for the course entitled “Intermediate Pharmacoepidemiology” (2 credits). He was a Guest Lecturer in the following courses: Pharmacoepidemiologic Methods – EPIB 639 (1.5 hours); Population Health and Epidemiology – PPHS 501 (1.5 hours).

In 2019, Dr. Filion supervised 1 PhD Student, 4 MSc student in epidemiology, 1 endocrinology fellow in research, and 5 post-doctoral fellows.

2019 Student Supervision (Kristian Filion):

- Dr. Azar Mehrabadi (Post-doctoral fellow) 2015-2019
- Dr. Henok Tadesse Ayele (Post-doctoral fellow) 2016-Present
- Sarah Yoon (MSc in Epidemiology) 2017-2019
- Linda Ou (MSc in Epidemiology) 2017-2019
- Stephanie Larose (MSc in Epidemiology) 2019-Present
- Nehal Islam (MSc in Epidemiology) 2019-Present
- Vanessa Brunetti (PhD in Epidemiology) 2017-Present
- Dr. Ya Hui Yu (Post-doctoral fellow) 2018-Present
- Dr. Tianze Jiao (Post-doctoral fellow) 2018-Present
- Dr. Reem Masarwa (Post-doctoral fellow) 2018-Present
- Dr. Stephanie Aloe (Endocrinology Fellow) 2018-2019

He is a member of 6 doctoral students’ thesis committees.
**Doulos, Antonios**

Dr. Antonios Douros has 2 degrees awarded (MD, Dr.med.). He is an Assistant Professor (Research) in the Department of Medicine (Division Clinical Epidemiology) and an Associate Member in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Occupational Health at McGill University. Dr. Douros taught the Small Group Sessions “Circumcision and HIV prevention”, “Interpreting diagnostic tests” (2), “Principles of screening” (2), “Lung cancer, smoking, case-control and cohort studies”, “Cardiovascular disease and randomized controlled trials” (2), and “Statistics for clinicians” in the M.D. C.M. Program. He was also responsible for the concept, syllabus, and teaching of the 1-credit course “EPIB 662 Pharmacological Basis of Pharmacoepidemiology” in the MSc and PhD Epidemiology Programs. Finally, he co-taught the 2-credit course “EPIB 661 PE III: Advanced Pharmacoepidemiology” of the Summer Session in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

In 2019, Dr. Douros mentored three PhD candidates and one Postdoctoral Research Fellow.

3. **Involvement in the community:**

**Suissa, Samy**

**Internal**
- Chair, PhD Epidemiology Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University, 2019-
- Member, LDI Scientific Director Search Committee, Lady Davis Institute, Jewish General Hospital
- Member, PhD Epidemiology Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University, 2018-2019
- Member, Pharmacoepidemiology Program Ad-Hoc Committee, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University, 2018-
- Member, Student Awards Ad-Hoc Committee, Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, McGill University, 2018-
- Member, Search Committee Meeting, CAS (Research) Assistant Professor in Clinical Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, McGill University, 2017
- Member, SPGH Director Search Committee, Department of Medicine, McGill University 2017
- Member, PhD Epidemiology Admissions Committee, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, McGill University, 2017
- Member, Departmental Tenure Committee, Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics, McGill University, 2016-

**External**

**Advisory Board Committee**
- Scientific Advisory Board Member, The Pierre Louis Institute of Epidemiology and Public Health, Sorbonne Université 2019-
- Member, Multi-Regional Clinical Trials Center, Proactive Safety Surveillance Project, Harvard University, 2019-
- Advisory Board Member, RCT replication project Brigham and Women’s, Hospital, Harvard University, 2017-
- International Advisory Board Member, Unicancer, 2016-
- Member, Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network (DSEN) Interim Science Advisory Committee (ISAC), Canadian Institutes for Health Research, 2011-

**Reviewer Committee**
- Advisor, Editorial Board, Journal of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease, 2019-
- Member, Editorial Board, Chest, 2015-2019
Member, Editorial Board, Rambam Maimonides Medical Journal, 2012-
Statistician/Epidemiologist Reviewer, The Lancet Respiratory Medicine, 2012-
Member, Editorial Board, Multidisciplinary Respiratory Medicine, 2011-
International Advisory Board Member, Statistical Advisor, European Respiratory Journal 2007-
b. **Poster Session Judge**  
Mar 2019: 15. Annual Student Research Day of the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, McGill University, Montreal, QC (1 hour)

c. **Moderator**  
Apr 2019: Methodology of pharmacoepidemiologic studies (oral presentations)  
3. Symposium on Pharmacoepidemiology, Evros Pharmacists Association, Alexandroupoli, Greece (2 hours)

4. **Partnerships:**

**Suissa, Samy**
- Research and training collaboration, Clalit Health, Israel

5. **Milestones:**

N/A

6. **New hires, promotions, and retirements:**

**Dr. Suissa** was named Distinguished James McGill Professor of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, and Medicine, at McGill University.  
**Dr. Filion** was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor.  
**Dr. Douros** was appointed Assistant Professor in the Department of Medicine and Associate Member in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health at McGill University. He was appointed Investigator at the Lady Davis Institute of the Jewish General Hospital.

7. **Honors, awards and prizes:**

**Suissa, Samy**
- Distinguished James McGill Professor, McGill University (2019-Present)  
- Fellow – Royal Society of Canada, Life Sciences Division of the Academy of Science (2018-Present)  
- Fellow – Distinction, Canadian Academy of Health Science (2013-Present)  

**Filion, Kristian**
- William Dawson Scholar Award, McGill University (2018-2023)  
- Fellow of the American Heart Association (2012-Present)

**Douros, Antonios**

**Honours:**
- Paper of the Quarter (Apr 2019) Institute of Biometry and Clinical Epidemiology Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany  
- Paper of the Month(Jul 2019) Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research - Jewish General Hospital, Montreal, QC  
Editor’s Choice (Jul 2019) European Heart Journal

Awards:
Incentive for High-Impact Publications (Feb 2019) Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany
Incentive for High-Impact Publications (Jul 2019) Charité-Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Berlin, Germany

8. Fundraising:
N/A

SECTION I - DIVISION STATUS UPDATE

1. Mission and objectives of the Division
The Division of Clinical Epidemiology, a recent addition to the JGH Department of Medicine includes three members, Drs Kristian Filion, Antonios Douros and Dr Samy Suissa, the Chief of the Division.

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

Dr. Kristian Filion – Associate Professor - active
Dr. Antonios Douros – Assistant Professor - active
Dr. Samy Suissa – Professor - active

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

1. Grants and awards received

Suissa, Samy

Source: Canadian Institutes for Health Research
Title: Canadian Network for Observational Drug Effect Studies (CNODES)-renewal.
Amount/Year: $17,500,000/2016-21
Role: Principal Investigator

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Research - Rapid Funding for Drug Safety and Effectiveness Network (DSEN) Targeted Research Grant.
Title: Development of a Common Data Model across selected CNODES sites
Amount/Year: $250,000/2016-2018
Role: Co-Principal Investigator

Source: Health Brains for Healthy Living, McGill University
Title: A personalized approach to depression care: Discovering adaptive treatment strategies
Amount/Year: $65,847.50/2018-20
Role: Co-Investigator PI: Erica Moodie

Source: Canadian Institutes for Health Research
Title: Secondary Data Analysis for Cancer Prevention and Control. Onset of cancer after an IBD diagnosis: potential impact on screening Strategies.
Amount/Year: $144,00/2018-20
Role: Co-Investigator PI: Paul Brassard

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Research, Foundation Scheme 2014
Title: Statistical Methods in Pharmacoepidemiology and Perinatal Epidemiology.
Amount/Year: $1,071,717/2015-22
PI: Robert Platt Role: Program Expert

Filion, Kristian

Grants and awards received
Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Cannabis and impaired driving: a knowledge synthesis. (Project Grant Competition)
Amount/Year: $114,750/2019-2021
Role: Co-Investigator, PI: Mark J. Eisenberg

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Effectiveness and safety of direct oral anticoagulants in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation and liver disease (Project Grant Competition)
Amount/Year: $225,676/2019-2022
Role: Co-Investigator, PI: Antonios Douros

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Concomitant use of sulfonylureas with warfarin and the risk of severe hypoglycemia in patients with type 2 diabetes (Project Grant Competition)
Amount/Year: $149,176/2019-2021
Role: Co-Investigator, PI: Antonios Douros

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: A systematic review of interventions for the opioid crisis: examining approaches in a Canadian context and vulnerable sub-populations (CIHR Operating Grant: Evaluation of Interventions to Address the Opioid Crisis)
Amount/Year: $99,970/2019-2020
Role: Co-Investigator, PI: Mark J. Eisenberg

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Levothyroxine for the treatment of subclinical hypothyroidism in pregnancy: a population-based assessment (Project Grant Competition)
Amount/Year: $175,950/2018-2020
Role: Principal Investigator

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Evaluating the Efficacy of E-Cigarette use for Smoking Cessation (E3) Trial Extension (Project Grant Competition)
Amount/Year: $267,750/2018-2020
Role: Co-Investigator, PI: Mark J. Eisenberg

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Legalization of recreational cannabis use in Canada: a knowledge synthesis (Catalyst Grant: Population Health Intervention Research on Legalization of Cannabis)
Amount/Year: $100,000/2018-2019
Role: Co-Investigator, PI: Mark J. Eisenberg

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Pregnancy complications and the risk of subsequent cardiovascular disease (Personalized Medicine Catalyst Competition)
Amount/Year: $200,000/2017-2019
Role: Principal Investigator

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Tramadol and the risk of adverse cardiovascular events: a population-based study (Project Grant)
Amount/Year: $175,950/2017-2019
Role: Principal Investigator

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Canadian Network for Observational Drug Effect Studies (DSEN Collaborating Centre for Observational Studies)
Amount/Year: $17,500,000/2016-2021
Role: Co-Investigator PIs: Samy Suissa PhD, Colin R. Dormuth ScD, David A. Henry MD, Robert W. Platt PhD, Ingrid Sketris PharmD

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Improving long term outcomes after venous thromboembolism (VTE) (Foundation Scheme)
Amount/Year: $2,050,825/2015-2022
Role: Project Expert PI: Susan Kahn

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research.
Title: Evaluating the efficacy of e-cigarette use for smoking cessation (E3) Trial (Operating Grant)
Amount/Year: $829,350/2014-2019
Role: Project Expert PI: Mark J. Eisenberg

Doulos, Antonios

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - Project Grant
Title: A personalized dynamic blood pressure control plan for cardiovascular disease prevention among patients with hypertension
Amount/Year: C$191,250/Apr 2020 - Mar 2022
Role: Co-Investigator (PI: Kristian Filion)
Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - Project Grant
Principal Investigator: Douros A. Co-applicants: Filion KB, Platt RW, Renoux C.
Title: Concomitant use of sulfonylureas with warfarin and the risk of severe hypoglycemia in patients with type 2 diabetes
Amount/Year: C$149,176/Oct 2019 - Sep 2021
Role: Principal Investigator

Source: Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) - Project Grant
Title: Effectiveness and safety of direct oral anticoagulants in patients with non-valvular atrial fibrillation and liver disease
Amount/Year: C$225,676/ Oct 2019 - Sep 2022
Role: Principal Investigator

Source: Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research - Research Grant
Title: Drug effectiveness and safety in vulnerable populations
Amount/Year: C$30,000/Jul 2019 - Jul 2022
Role: Principal Investigator

2. Scholarly works published in the 2019 calendar year:

Samy Suissa


Kristian Filion


Data for pharmacoepidemiology) CMAJ 2019; 24;191:E689-E708. [published in French]


Douros, Antonios


3. **Academic and community engagement service outside of McGill by individual members of the unit**