

**Annual Report  
Division of Gastroenterology  
Department of Medicine - Jewish General Hospital  
January 1 - December 31, 2020**

**SUMMARY:**

**Introduction**

The greatest challenge during 2020 was of course navigating through the Covid 19 pandemic and maintaining essential clinical activities during this time. The vast majority of our visits were offered by telemedicine. Predictably, our endoscopy volume was substantially reduced to urgent procedures during the first wave, then subsequently reduced because of nursing shortages as well as sanitation requirements.

We were fortunate to recruit Dr. Corey Miller since July of 2020.

**Clinical Activities**

**Office visits**

Dr. A. Cohen	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	
Dr. G. Friedman	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	14 665 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	
Dr. C. Saroli-Palumbo	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	
Dr. Corey Miller	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm.	

**Endoscopy laboratory:**

Endoscopy volume for 12 months was 6483 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	257 procedures/year (included in Endoscopy)
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**Inflammatory Bowel Disease Clinics**

Monday to Friday	8-12 pm	360 visits/year (included in office visits)
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Clinical trials in inflammatory bowel disease have been largely diminished due to increased clinical loads. Our research nurses, Stefania D'Aleo and Marguerite Labelle-Kemp continue to do an exemplary job in patient care.

**Rapid Access IBD Clinics:** Monday to Thursday, 2-4 pm.

**Hepatology clinic**

Dr. N. Hilzenrat	Monday to Friday	8-4 pm	3251 visits/year (included in office visits and telemedicine)
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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 primarily on optimizing therapies of inflammatory bowel diseases.
- 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.
- Dr. Corey Miller's research focuses on advanced endoscopic therapies. His primary research interest is in the role of advanced endoscopy in the management of pancreaticobiliary malignancy. Specifically, Dr. Miller is interested in the study of diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopic interventions which target various clinical aspects of pancreatic cancer. These include recognition of pre-malignant lesions, early diagnosis of pancreatic cancer, treatment of locally advanced pancreatic cancer using a novel endoscopically administered anti-cancer therapy, and palliation of late-stage manifestations including malignant gastric outlet and biliary obstruction.

**2. Teaching and learning (undergraduate and graduate):**

**Total clinical teaching hours**

Gastroenterology Consult service

Dr. S. Blum, Dr. A. Cohen,  
Dr. G. Friedman, Dr. N. Hilzenrat  
Dr. A. Szilagyi, Dr. J. Wyse,  
Dr. P. Galiatsatos  
Dr. Corey Miller  
Dr. Chiara Saroli-Palumbo

300 hrs/yr.  
for each  
physician

### **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 McGill IBD research group in optimizing therapies for Crohn's and colitis.

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

Dr. Corey Miller will be joining our division on July 1, 2020. Dr. Miller has obtained his medical degree at McGill University and completed internal and GI training at McGill. He has completing a fellowship in advanced therapeutic endoscopy including EUS and ERCP at Beth Israel in Boston. He will be pursuing research activities in endoscopic techniques and outcomes in addition to clinical activities in the department.

### **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. We are still in discussions with the hospital administration to identify the space in which this unit will be built.

## **SECTION I - DIVISION STATUS UPDATE**

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

In addition to providing essential endoscopy services and expertise in liver diseases and inflammatory bowel diseases, we anticipate a surge in research activities with the addition of Dr. C. Miller who has committed at least 40% of his time to research.

### **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

Dr. Chiara Saroli-Palumbo, Gastroenterologist and Hepatologist

Dr. Corey Miller, Gastroenterologist

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

### **1. Grants and Awards**

#### **Dr. Albert Cohen**

Applying an objective serial patient monitoring algorithm in IBD patients newly treated with adalimumab in five hospital-based IBD centers in the province of Quebec: prospective and retrospective assessment of outcomes before and after inauguration of the home fecal calprotectin (IBDoc).

Principal Investigator-Dr. Peter Lakatos

Sub-investigator- Dr. Albert Cohen

## **Dr. Nir Hilzenrat**

AMBER: Real World Evidence of the Effectiveness of Paritaprevirér-Ombitasvir,± Ribavirin in Patients with chronic Hepatitis C – An Observational Study in Canada

Psoriasis and Non-alcoholic Steatohepatitis (NASH) – What is the association?

Fibrosis in FMF- using the fibroscan as a tool of investigation of fibrosis.

## **2. Publications**

### **Dr. Andrew Szilagyi**

Szilagyi A, Smith AE, Sebbag N, Xue X. Global associations of national economic wealth are more robust with inflammatory bowel diseases than with obesity. *Med Hypotheses*, 2021; 148 : 110505. doi.org/10.1016/j.mehy.2021.110505

### **Dr. Corey Miller**

Miller CS, Chen, Y, Chavez YH, Alghamdi A, Zogopoulos G, Bessissow A. Double-balloon endoscopic ultrasound-guided gastroenterostomy: simplifying a complex technique towards widespread use. *Endoscopy* 2020; 52(02): 151-152

Miller Corey S., Pleskow, Douglas. Treatment of Pancreatic Leaks and Fistulae. Testoni PA, Inoue H, Wallace MB. Gastrointestinal and Pancreatico-Biliary Diseases: Advanced Diagnostic and Therapeutic Endoscopy. Springer, Switzerland. 2020 (Book Chapter)

Chandnani, Madhuri, Bilal, Mohammad, Miller, Corey S., Saperia, James, Singh, Shailendra, Cohen, Jonah, Berzin, Tyler M., Sawhney, Mandeep S., Pleskow, Douglas K. Use of Fully Covered Self-Expanding Metal Biliary Stents for Managing Endoscopic Biliary Sphincterotomy-Related Bleeding. *American Journal of Gastroenterology*, 2020. (Abstract)

Yakira N. David, Gaurav Kakked , Rebekah E. Dixon, et al. Endoscopic Ultrasound Guided Gallbladder Drainage (EUS-GBD) with Lumen Apposing Metal Stents (LAMS) in Patients with Acute Cholecystitis Has Excellent Long-Term Outcomes: A Large, Multicenter US Study. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

Benjamin L. Freedman, Mohammad Bilal, Cinthana Kandasamy, Shailendra Singh, Abhishek Agnihotri, Manoj Kumar, Laura C. Horton, Corey S. Miller, Brian P. Chan, Raul S. Gonzalez, Jonah Cohen, Mandeep Sawhney, Tyler M. Berzin, Douglas K. Pleskow. Risk of Dysplasia and Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in Patients with Intestinal Metaplasia < 1 Cm in Comparison to Barrett's Esophagus 1-2 Cm in Length. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

Cinthana Kandasamy, Mohammad Bilal, Benjamin L. Freedman, Shailendra Singh, Abhishek Agnihotri, Laura C. Horton, Corey S. Miller, Brian P. Chan, Manoj Kumar, Jonah Cohen, Tyler M. Berzin, Mandeep Sawhney, Douglas K. Pleskow. Clinical Characteristics Associated with Dysplasia and Esophageal Adenocarcinoma in Patients with an Irregular Z-Line. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

Mohammad Bilal, Benjamin L. Freedman, Cinthana Kandasamy, Shailendra Singh, Laura C. Horton, Abhishek Agnihotri, Manoj Kumar, Brian P. Chan, Corey S. Miller, Jonah Cohen, Mandeep Sawhney, Tyler M. Berzin, Douglas K. Pleskow. Accuracy of Consensus Guidelines in Detecting Prevalent Dysplasia in Short Segment of Barrett's Esophagus is Suboptimal. *Gastroenterology*, 2020. (Abstract)

Supisara Tintara, Mohammad Bilal, Abhishek Agnihotri, Laura C. Horton, Raul S. Gonzalez, Shailendra Singh, Corey S. Miller, Manoj Kumar, Brian P. Chan, Jonah Cohen, Tyler M. Berzin, Mandeep Sawhney, Douglas K. Pleskow. Increased Prevalence of Barrett's Esophagus in Patients with Duodenal Adenoma. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

Brian P. Chan, Jingli Ding, Mohammad Bilal, Corey S. Miller, Manoj Kumar, Jonah Cohen, Mandeep Sawhney, Tyler M. Berzin, Douglas K. Pleskow. Safety and Efficacy of Esolfip Hydraulic Dilation for Achalasia. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

Abhishek Agnihotri, Mohammad Bilal, Shailendra Singh, Laura C. Horton, Corey S. Miller, Brian Chan, Douglas K. Pleskow, Mandeep Sawhney, Tyler M. Berzin, Jonah Cohen. Safety and Efficacy of Endoscopic Fullthickness Resection Device (FTRD) in the Gastrointestinal Tract: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

Abhishek Agnihotri, John Paul Nsubuga, Cinthia Cruz-Romero, Mohammad Bilal, Shailendra Singh, Alan Bonder, Grace Malvar, Anuradha Shenoy-Bhangle, Corey S. Miller, Manoj Kumar, Brian P. Chan, Jonah Cohen, Tyler M. Berzin, Douglas K. Pleskow, Mandeep Sawhney. Comparison of Endoscopic Ultrasound Imaging with Liver Biopsy for Diagnosis and Staging of Fatty Liver. *Gastrointestinal Endoscopy*, 2020. (Abstract)

### **SECTION III**

#### **1. Consulting activities:** None reported

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Cohen, MD  
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology