SUMMARY:

Introduction

Clinical innovation continues to be one of the hallmarks of our division. In the past year, we expanded the fibroscan program run by Dr. Nir Hilzenrat. This is a non-invasive measure of liver fibrosis which can largely replace liver biopsies in many instances. In biliary diseases, we have gained expertise as one of the few sites in the province to use the Spyglass system which is direct cholangioscopy. This allows removal of large complex biliary stones and the diagnosis of biliary and pancreatic malignancies with much greater precision.

Clinical Activities

Office visits

Dr. A. Cohen  Monday to Friday  8-4 pm
Dr. G. Friedman Monday to Friday  8-4 pm  17 994 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 9477 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  278 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 nurse, Stefania D’Aleo.

Rapid Access IBD Clinics:  Monday to Thursday, 2-4 pm:  108 patients/year.

Hepatology clinic
Dr. N. Hilzenrat  Monday to Friday  8-4 pm  4657 visits/year (included in office visits)
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 physician
   Dr. A. Szilagyi, Dr. J. Wyse, Dr. P. Galiatsatos

   **Post-graduate teaching hours**
   
   GI Pathology Conference Wednesdays 8-9 am (alternate week)
   Dr. Esther Lamoureux, Dr. A. Gologan
   Dr. Olga Aleynikova
   GI Radiology Conference Wednesdays 8-9 am (alternate week)
   Dr. M. Rosenbloom
   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:**
No new faculty has been added.

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

7. **Fundraising:** None to report.

**SECTION I - DIVISION STATUS UPDATE**

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

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

- Optimize the physical spaces of the GI division. Our current location at E-110 was a temporary move in 2011. With the opening of Pav. K and the availability of spaces in the old wings, this is an opportune time for our division to optimize its clinical space. Our waiting room is virtually non-existent rendering the patient experience deplorable.

- Recruitment of Dr. Robert Battat who will be doing a two-year fellowship in inflammatory bowel diseases under the supervision of Dr. William Sandborn in San Diego. He is expected to return in July of 2019.
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


MLN0002 in UC and Crohn’s (C13008)
Extension Study An Open-Label Phase 3 Study: An Open-Label 3 Study to determine the long-term efficacy and safety of MLN0002 in Patients with Ulcerative Colitis and Crohn’s Disease. (Quintiles/CRO PRA Int)

Open-label Adalimumab S/C in Ulcerative Colitis, M10-223
Extension study of placebo controlled trial.
Multicenter International Trial, Site Principal Investigator, Sponsor: Abbott Laboratories

Quebec Genetic Consortium- Identification of the genes responsible for inflammatory bowel disease. This study represents collaboration between gastroenterologists throughout Quebec, involving all medical faculties in conjunction with the Whitehead Institute and the National Health Institute, Bethesda, MD.
Multicenter International trial
Site Principal Investigator
Co-investigator: Dr. A. Szilagyi, Dr. G. Friedman, Dr. S. Blum, Dr. N. Hilzenrat
2003 to present

“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 etrolizumab phase III studies.
Principal site investigator: Dr. A. Cohen

Principal Site investigator: Dr. Albert Cohen

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. 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 Respond 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 defect 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. Jonathan Wyse

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

2. Publications

Dr. N. Hilzenrat


Dr. A. Szilagyi

Szilagyi A, Adult lactose digestion status and effects on disease. Can J Gastroenterol Hepatol, 2015; 29:149-56 (IF 1.97)


SECTION III

1. Consulting activities: None reported

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Cohen, MD
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology