SUMMARY:

Introduction

We have been planning the creation of the new IBD center of excellence. Dr. R. Battat is completing his IBD fellowship in San Diego.

Clinical Activities

Office visits

Dr. A. Cohen Monday to Friday 8-4 pm
Dr. G. Friedman Monday to Friday 8-4 pm 16 608 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:
Monday to Friday 8-4 pm
Endoscopy volume for 12 months was 11,700 in total. This includes both in and out patients.

Cholangiopancreatography (ERCP)
Mondays and Thursdays 1-4 pm 303 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 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
   Dr. A. Szilagyi, Dr. J. Wyse, physician
   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:

Dr. Robert Battat is completing an IBD fellowship with Dr. W. Sandborn in San Diego. He is scheduled to start 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.
- Support the recruitment of Dr. Robert Battat who is 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
Dr. Robert Battat, Gastroenterologist. Completing his fellowship.

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

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)

Quebec Genetic Consortium- Identification of the genes responsible for inflammatory bowel disease. This study represents a 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

**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. N. Hilzenrat and Dr. A. Szilagyi**


**Dr. P. Galiatsatos**


**SECTION III**

1. **Consulting activities:** None reported

Respectfully submitted,

Albert Cohen, MD
Chief, Division of Gastroenterology