Annual Report  
Division of Internal Medicine  
Department of Medicine - Jewish General Hospital  
January 1 - December 31, 2017

SUMMARY

The Internal Medicine Division continues to provide most of the hospital's functions caring for more than 150 in-patients on a daily basis outside the Clinical Teaching Units. In spite of the many obligations, our Division is one of the most accomplished in research with four of our members devoting more than 50% of their time in highly productive research activities.

Of note are the following appointments:

- **Dr. Beth Cummings** was nominated Associate Dean of Undergraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University
- **Vicky Tagalakis** was nominated Director, Division of General Internal Medicine, McGill University.
- **Susan Kahn** was awarded co-director and nominated Principal Investigator for the CanVECTOR Network (CIHR- and Partner-funded national research and training network in venous thromboembolism) with grants in the amount of 7,475,822 from the CIHR.
- **Ernesto Schiffrin** received a CIHR First Pilot Foundation Grant in the amount of $3,250,000 for 7 years. “Vascular remodeling in hypertension and cardiometabolic disease: from mice to humans”

1. Research and Publications:

Internal Medicine Division for 2017 has secured research by Dr. Susan Kahn for her research in grants Epidemiology & Venous Thrombosis, Dr. Vicky Tagalakis received a one million dollar grant for Multi site Cancer – VTE study. Dr. Schiffrin received $3,250,000.00 over seven years for CIHR First Pilot Foundation Grant.

In addition to our divisional members presenting world-wide they have also been given recognition for their articles published in many well-known medical journals. Below are listed some of the more notable publications of our Division:


2. Young M, **Cummings BA** & St-Onge C (2017). Ensuring the quality of multiple-choice exams administered to small cohorts: A cautionary tale. Perspectives in Medical Education. 6:21. doi:10.1007/s40037-016-0322-0


2. Teaching and learning (undergraduate and graduate)

Internists participate in teaching medical students, residents and fellows on Clinical Teaching Units, Internal Medicine, Thrombosis and Perioperative clinics as well on consult services including in the Emergency Room. They participate in journal clubs and the McGill Simulation Center.

Teaching awards or recognition:

Kahn, Susan was named «Grands noms de la médecine au Québec» (Great Name in Quebec Medicine) by Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec (FMSQ).

Teaching Activities:

Schiffrin, Ernesto L
Repeated invitations to give CPD lectures

- Quantity of formal teaching:
- Courses for Internal Medicine Clinical Scholars Program on Clinical Research (1h), CIP (2h)
- MD-PhD program 1.5h on Hiring and Tenure, all at McGill
- Teaching of Masters, PhD students and postdocs at LDI, mentoring of young scientists (1h per week).
- Chair of Medical Grand Rounds at JGH, the major CME accredited activity in the hospital.

Research trainee supervision

- (MSc and PhD graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, medical students, residents).
- Thesis committees
- 1-2 hrs per week per trainee
- 2 PhD students received their PhDs, 1 PhD student committee for a 3rd PhD student.
- 2 MSc students
- 2 Postdocs

Tagalakis, Vicky

- CanVECTOR QE Platform co-Leader
- Associate Editor, Thrombosis Research
- Research post doc fellows excelled with two international oral presentations and two awards
- Mentorship, research training, and teaching
- Supervision of Resident Justin Tabah, “ Appropriateness of direct oral anti-coagulant prescriptions in tertiary care Emergency Department outpatients with acute Deep Vein Thrombosis” Awarded: CanVECTOR Research Start-up award (2,000.00)

Group Leader, Unit 8, Clinical Epidemiology, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University
Group leader, Evidence based medicine, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University CME

3. Involvement in the community:

Hoffer, L John
1. Diagnosis and Treatment of Malnutrition in Hospitalized Patients. Lecture to 2/3 to one-third of McGill Med 3 MDCM UGME grad year 2018, February 14, 2017 (4 hours)
2. Diagnosis and Treatment of Malnutrition in Hospitalized Patients. Lecture to 3/3 to one-third of McGill Med 3 UGME grad year 2018, May 30, 2017 (4 hours)

Kahn, Susan R

Schiffrin, Ernesto L
1. “Debate: Animal models are or not an appropriate for study of human hypertension”. Invited speaker, Quebec Hypertension Society Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, January 17, 2017.
2. “Vascular remodeling in hypertension: From structure to therapeutic targets with a systems biology approach”. Medical Grand Rounds, Department of Medicine, Miller School of Medicine, University of Miami, Miami, FL, March 22, 2017.
3. "How low should BP be lowered and a new definition of hypertension following SPRINT". Invited lecture to “Capri Cardiovascular Conference 2.0”, Capri, Italy, April 7, 2017.
5. “Messages to leave the meeting with: the news regarding the SPRINT trial and Guidelines”. Invited lecture, Argentine Society of Hypertension Scientific Meeting, Mendoza, Argentina, April 22, 2017.


Tagalakis, Vicky
McGill University Departments
Tagalakis V. The SOME trial. Oral presentation at: Epidemiology Rounds, Center for Clinical Epidemiology, Jewish General Hospital, McGill University, Montreal, Canada, 2017.

International
Tagalakis V. The Complexity of Cancer and Thrombosis. Oral presentation at: Chilean Hematologic Society; 2017 November 17-19; Santiago, Chile.

4. Partnerships: None to report

5. Honours, Awards, and Prizes:

Dr. Ruxandra Bunea was awarded Teacher of the Year Transition to Clinical Practice Award by McGill Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Michelle Elizov was named Assistant Dean Faculty Development. Dr. Elizov was also honoured as the Osler Fellow to the class of 2017

Dr. Susan Kahn, Elected to Fellowship in the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences (CAHS) on the basis of demonstrated leadership, creativity, distinctive competencies and commitment to advance academic health sciences. Membership in the CAHS is considered one of the highest honours for members of the Canadian health sciences community

Dr. Susan R. Kahn received a seven-year Foundation grant funded by CIHR for her research project entitled “Improving long-term outcomes after venous thromboembolism (VTE)” as Principal Investigator starting July 1, 2015 ending June 30, 2022 for a total amount of $2,050,824.

Dr Ernesto Schiffrin was awarded The Margolese National Heart Disorders Prize 2016 for advancing the understanding of high blood pressure’s effects on vasculature and for his outstanding contributions to the treatment, amelioration, or cure of heart disorders. He was one of 3 of Canada’s leading researchers in brain health, heart health and cancer to have been singled out by the University of British Columbia Faculty of Medicine for their accomplishments, and for their potential to make further contributions in their fields.
**Dr. Ernesto L. Schiffrin** received a seven-year Foundation grant funded by CIHR from its first live pilot foundation scheme for his research project entitled “Vascular remodeling in hypertension and cardiometabolic disease: from mice to humans” as Principal Investigator starting July 1, 2015 ending June 30, 2022 for a total amount of $3,164,111.

**Dr. Vicky Tagalakis** One Million dollar industry grant for a multi-site cancer-VTE study with 7 sites initiated for recruitment.

7. **Milestones:**

Dr. Maral Koolian was recruited as full-time staff.

8. **Fundraising:** None to report.

**SECTION 1 – DIVISION STATUS**

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

The Division of Internal Medicine will continue to enhance McGill University in their role as one of Quebec’s leading teaching institutions. Our Division fulfills its role in achieving high standards in all aspects of academic medicine. All physicians in the division have a clear academic role. Recruitment is the most important priority as the burden of clinical service has become increasingly higher over the years.

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

Dr. Rubin Becker, Associate Professor of Medicine, McGill University; Chief, Division of Internal Medicine, Jewish General Hospital

Dr. Ruxandra Bunea, Assistant Professor of Medicine, McGill University; Director Postgraduate Education, Jewish General Hospital

Dr. Beth Cummings: Associate Professor of Medicine, McGill University; Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education, McGill University

Dr. Michelle Elizov: Associate Professor of Medicine, McGill University, Assistant Dean Faculty Development, McGill University

Dr. L John Hoffer: Professor of Medicine, McGill University.
Dr. Susan R Kahn: Professor of Medicine, McGill University; Program Director, Thrombosis Fellowship, McGill University; Director, Thrombosis Clinic, Jewish General Hospital

Dr. Maral Koolian: Assistant Professor of Medicine, McGill University,

Dr. Jed Lipes: Assistant Professor of Medicine, McGill University, Director of Critical Care Ultrasound and Echocardiography, Critical Care Fellowship Program, McGill University, Director of bedside ultrasound training for core internal medicine, McGill University

Dr. Joseph Raffoul: Assistant Professor of Medicine, McGill University; CTU Director and
Medical Gatekeeper, Jewish General Hospital; Medical Director, Mount Sinai

Dr. Ernesto L Schiffrin: Professor and Vice-Chair (Research), Department of Medicine, McGill University; Physician-in-Chief and Director of the Cardiovascular Prevention Centre, Jewish General Hospital; Canada Research Chair in Hypertension and Vascular Research, Lady Davis Institute for Medical Research;

Dr. Blair C Schwartz: Assistant Professor, McGill University

Dr. Vicky Tagalakis: Associate Professor, McGill University

Dr. Luc Trudeau: Assistant Professor, McGill University; Director of Professional Services; Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital,

SECTION II – PUBLICATIONS, AND SERVICES OUTSIDE MCGILL

1. Grants and awards received

Kahn, Susan R
2015-2020: Co-director and Nominated Principal Investigator, CanVECTOR Network (CIHR- and partner-funded national research and training network in venous thromboembolism)
2015-2018: Heart and Stroke Foundation of Ontario: Age-adjusted D-dimer cutoff levels to rule out deep vein thrombosis (The ADJUST-DVT Study); Le Gal G (PI)/ Anderson D/ De Wit K/ Kahn SR (co-applicant)/ Kearon C/ Ramsay T/ Rodger M/ Righini M/ Shivakumar S / Wells P; $255,538
2014-2021: Canada Research Chairs (CRC)- Tier 1 Chairs: Improving long term outcomes after venous thromboembolism (VTE); $1,400,000
2013-2017: Canadian Institutes of Health Research: D-dimer testing, tailored to clinical pretest probability, to reduce use of CT pulmonary angiography in suspected pulmonary

Schiffrin, Ernesto L
2013-2019: Canada Research Chair in Vascular and Hypertension Research; $1,400,000
2015-2022: CIHR MOP123465 “MicroRNAs and gene regulation on vascular remodeling in hypertension from mice to humans” (2012-2017, replaced July 1, 2015 by Foundation; Grant; $583,717
2015-2022: CIHR First Pilot Foundation Grant “Vascular remodeling in hypertension and cardiometabolic disease: from mice to humans” $3,2650,000

Tagalakis, Vicky
2012-2018: Canadian Institutes of Health Research“New Oral Anticoagulants for the Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism in High-Risk Ambulatory Cancer Patients: A Randomized Placebo-Controlled Double-Blind Clinical Trial” Wells (PI) / Kahn /Anderson / Kovacs / Louzada / Carrier /Rodger / Gross / Lee / Ramsay / Tagalakis (Co-Investigator) $836,841.00
2016-2019: Canadian Institutes of Health Research “StAtins for Venous Event Reduction in patients with venous thromboembolism (The SAVER Pilot Randomized Trial)” Rodger (PI) / Fergusson / Gandara / Kahn / Kearon / Kovacs / Le Gal / Ramsay / Shivakumar / Tagalakis (Co-Investigator) / Thavorn $424,298.00
2015-2022: Canadian Institutes of Health Research: “Statistical Methods in Pharmacoepidemiology and Perinatal Epidemiology” Platt (PI) / Ernst / Kramer / Moodie / Suissa / Tagalakis (Co-Investigator) $1,071,721
2015-2020: Canadian Institutes of Health Research: “ICRH Community Development Program Grants – Sleep and Circadian Rhythms and Venous Thromboembolic Diseases Clinical Trials Grant”, Kahn (PI) / Rodger (Co-PI) / Afilalo / Anderson / Bates / Blostein /Carrier /Castellucci / Chagnon / Chitsike / Conway / Crowther / Hogg / Demers / Dolan / Douketis / Duffett / Emed / Fergusson / Esteban / Geerts / Ginsberg / Gonsalves / Grad / Gross / Guindon / Haynes / Hirsch / Iorio / Kassis / Kearon / Kovacs / Lang / Langlois / Lapner / LazoLangner / Le Gal / Levinson / Levy / Lee / Liaw / Lim / Linkins / Louzada / McLeod / Moodley / Pai / Pluye / Ramsay / Ray / Roussin / Routhier / Schulman / Selby / Shivakumar / Siegal / Smith / Solymoss / Tagalakis (Co-Investigator) / Thavorn / Weitz / Wells / Wu / Zarychanski; $1,500,000

Personal Support Awards
2017: Jewish General Hospital GFT (H), Department of Medicine; $24,000

2. Scholarly works published in the 2017 calendar year:

Hoffer, L. John

Kahn, Susan R.


Schwartz, Blair
Miller CS and Schwartz BC, A very cool electrocardiogram: Osborn waves of hypothermia.

Schiffrin, Ernesto


Takagalis, Vicky


**Trudeau, Luc**


2. Dasgupta, Kaberi; Rosenberg, Ellen; Joseph, Lawrence; Trudeau, Luc; Garfield, Natasha; Chan, Deborah; Sherman, Mark; Rabasa-Lhoret, Rémi; Daskalopoulou, Stella S. Carotid femoral pulse wave velocity in type 2 diabetes and hypertension: capturing arterial health effects of step counts. *Journal of Hypertension*, 2017 May; 35(5): 1061–1069. (peer reviewed)


Respectfully Submitted

Rubin Becker, MD
Chief, Division of Internal Medicine