

**Annual Report  
Division of Rheumatology  
Department of Medicine - Jewish General Hospital  
April 1, 2009-May 31 2010**

## **I. Highlights of Past Year**

Dr. Sabrina Fallavollita joined the division in April as a new rheumatology staff. Her major interest will be in the area of recent onset inflammatory arthritis and musculoskeletal ultrasound. Dr. Brett Thombs from the department of psychiatry was cross-appointed to Rheumatology. He is a psychologist who has developed a strong interest in scleroderma, one of the conditions researched by our division and has collaborated extensively on projects in this area.

## **II. Evaluation of Past Academic Year**

### **1) Teaching activities**

The divisional members participate in medical student, resident and fellow teaching at all levels.

### **2) Research**

Dr. Baron, Chief of the Division, created a group called the Canadian Consortium of Rheumatology Research Cohorts (CANCoRC) of which he is the first director. This group of directors of multiple research groups will try to pull together resources and ideas from multiple research cohorts in Canada to improve the efficiency of each of the cohorts in their research activities. He also received a grant from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation to harmonize databases between research cohorts. This is a very novel use for infrastructure funds and may ultimately help CANCoRC reduce their research costs and permit better cross-disease projects. The group led by Dr. Baron has become a leader on the world stage of scleroderma research, thanks in large part to the incredible productivity of Dr. Marie Hudson, an academic rheumatologist on staff who spends 80% of her time in research activities.

Dr. Genevieve Gyger is a recently graduated rheumatologist who is spending a year with us as a scleroderma research fellow. She started in January 2010 and will be with us for at least one year.

### **3) Clinical activities**

The staff continue to be busy with out- and in-patients and in fact likely have the highest burden of inpatient consultations within McGill.

### **4) Academic Staff**

As mentioned above, Dr. Sabrina Fallavollita joined the division in April 2010 as a new Rheumatology staff. Dr. Morton Kapusta, who has spent many years on active staff, has retired from that position but will continue as a consultant staff. Dr. Kapusta's contributions to our division have been extensive over a long period of service. In fact he originally had a laboratory in the LDI and was long recognized as a leader in rheumatology research. He continues to be active in the weekly problem rounds in our division and at the weekly McGill rheumatology rounds and his input will continue to be valued. Dr. Laeora Berkson, Dr. Marie Hudson and Dr. M. Baron are full-time rheumatologists with a heavy commitment to research and teaching.

**5) Consulting activities: None**

**6) Honours, Awards and Prizes: None**

### **III. Objectives and Priorities**

We look forward to integrating Dr. Fallavollita in our team and to be able to provide quicker and more extensive coverage of rheumatology problems in the community. Research is a priority and we look forward to Dr. Fallavollita's participation in that domain as well.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Baron, MD  
Chief, Division of Rheumatology