

**Annual Report**  
**Division of Rheumatology, Department of Medicine**  
**Sir Mortimer B. Davis - Jewish General Hospital**  
**April 1, 2006 - March 31, 2007**

## **I. Highlights**

The Division of Rheumatology is heavily involved in clinical, research and teaching activities. The clinical practices remain very busy with long waiting lists, and the division needs to recruit two new rheumatologists to maintain its current clinical and academic endeavors.

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

### **1) Teaching Activities**

We continue to be active teaching at all levels. We provide teachers for medical student physical exam and medical student internal medicine tutors. We attend on 7 West and we provide sessions to the internal medicine residents on rheumatology

### **2) Research**

Since last year Dr. Marie Hudson has come on staff time as the third in-hospital rheumatologist. She will dedicate 80% of her time to research and already has received her first CIHR New Investigator award and a CIHR Operating grant to develop a patient self reported disease activity score in scleroderma.

Dr. Baron as the Director of the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group along with Dr. Hudson as a co-investigator has received two important grants from the CIHR in the past year. One is a Strategic Training Grant to institute a training program for researchers across the country in multiple areas of scleroderma. The second is the new emerging team grant also to continue studies in scleroderma at multiple sites across the country where data is now being collected by over 15 rheumatologists. There are multiple other researchers associated with this project including statisticians, epidemiologists, psychologists, and several basic scientists.

In addition, we continue to direct the McGill Early Arthritis Registry. With the grant received from the FRSQ we are continuing a long term study of the role of Family Distress in Outcome Measures in this illness. We have added Maisonneuve-Rosemont as a site and are co-operating with the University of Sherbrooke Division of Rheumatology as well for this particular study. The principle investigator on this grant is Dr. Karl Looer from the department of psychiatry.

### **3) Clinical Activities**

The division continues to be very busy clinically. Dr. Laeora Berkson will be on sabbatical in 2007-2008 and we will require additional personnel to be able to fill our roles both in research and clinical service as well as teaching. The division will hopefully be moving to new physical space on the 7<sup>th</sup> floor in the A wing in the fall of 2007.

#### **4) Academic Staff**

Dr. Hudson joined the Division of Rheumatology in October 2006. There are now three full-time staff (Drs.. Baron, Berkson, Hudson) and one part-time (Kapusta)

#### **5) Consulting Activities**

None

#### **6) Honours, Awards and Prizes**

#### **7) Publications**

Publications and Articles Submitted:

-Baron M, Hirsch A, Langleben D, Granton J, Abu-Hakima M, Pope J, Hudson M, LeClercq S, Levy R, Docherty P, Provencher S, Mehta S, Sutton E, Markland J, Smith D, Fagan K, Jones N, Khalidi N. An Algorithm for Cardiopulmonary Testing in Systemic Sclerosis. Submitted 2007

-Baron M, Hudson M, Schieir O, Berkson L, Fitzcharles M, Gagne M, Garfield B, Gutkowski A, Kang H, Kapusta M, Krasny J, Menard H, Starr M, Stein M, Watts C. Evaluation of the Clinometric Properties of an Early Inflammatory Arthritis - Self Administered Co morbidity Questionnaire. Submitted 2007.

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-Baron M, Sutton E, Hudson M, Thombs B, Markland J, Pope J, Robinson D, Jones N, Docherty P, Abu-Hakima M, LeClercq S, Smith D, Mathieu JP. The Relationship of Dyspnea to Function and Quality of Life in Systemic Sclerosis: Submitted 2007.

-Dobkin P, De Civita M, Bernatsky S, Filipski.M., Sita A, and Baron M. Preliminary Validity of the Barriers to Treatment Questionnaire in Fibromyalgia: Combining Quantitative and Focus Group Data submitted 2007.

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- Hudson M, Thombs B, Baron M. Are the SF-36 Physical and Mental Component Summary Scores Useful Measures in Patients with Systemic Sclerosis? *Arthritis Care Res* 2007;in press.
- Hudson M, Thombs B, Steele R, Watte R, Taillefer S, Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (CSRG), Baron M. Clinical Correlates of Quality of Life in Systemic Sclerosis Measured with the World Health Organization Disease Assessment Schedule II, Submitted 2007.
- Santiago M, Baron M, Burlingame R, Fritzler M, and the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group. Antibodies to RNA polymerase III in Systemic Sclerosis as Detected by an ELISA. *J Rheumatol* 2007;in press.
- Thombs B, Hudson M, Schieir O, Taillefer S, Canadian Scleroderma Research Group, Baron M. Reliability and Validity of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale (CES-D) in Patients with Systemic Sclerosis Submitted 2007.
- Thombs B, Hudson M, Taillefer S, Canadian Scleroderma Research Group (CSRG), Baron M. Prevalence and Clinical Correlates of Symptoms of Depression in Patients with Systemic Sclerosis. Submitted 2007.
- Thombs B, Taillefer S, Hudson M, Baron M. Depression in Patients with Scleroderma: A Systematic Review of Current Evidence. *Arthritis Care Res* 2007;in press.
- Walker JG, Pope J, Baron M, Leclercq S, Hudson M, Taillefer S, Edworthy SM, Nadashkevich O, Fritzler MJ. The development of systemic sclerosis classification criteria. *Clin Rheumatol* 2007.
- Baron M, Bell M, Bookman A, Buchignani M, Dunne J, Hudson M, Jerome D, Johnson SR, Jones N, Kaminska E, Lupton T, Mathieu JP, Pope J, Steele R, Taillefer S. Office capillaroscopy in systemic sclerosis. *Clin Rheumatol* 2006.
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-Santiago M, Baron M, Miyachi K, Canadian Scleroderma Research Group, Fritzler M. Antibodies to Cyclic Citrullinated Peptides in Systemic Sclerosis, Primary Biliary Cirrhosis and Rheumatoid Arthritis. Submitted 2006.

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#### Abstracts

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-Baron M, Hudson M, Sutton E, Markland J, Pope J, Robinson D, Jones N, Docherty P, Abu-Hakima M, LeClercq S, Smith D, Mathieu J-P. The Relative Contributions of Pulmonary Artery Systolic Pressure (PASP) and Forced Vital Capacity (FVC) to Function and Health Related Quality of Life (HRQoL) In Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). In: *EULAR; 2007; Barcelona: abstract; 2007.*

-Chung L, Baron M, Collier D, Csuka M, Fiorentino D, Gruber B, Hsu V, Kahaleh B, Martin R, Mayes M, Pope J, Rothfield N, Shanahan J, Shapiro L, Simms R, Smith E, Steen V, Sule S, Sweiss N, Matthews M, Gilbert A, Dechow F, Wigley FM. Safety and tolerability of MQX-

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- Bernatsky S, the McGill Early Arthritis Research Group, Feldman D, Baron M. Demographics And Co-Morbidity In Early Arthritis: Comparison Of A Clinical Registry Sample With A Population-Based Sample. In: Canadian Rheumatology Association Meeting; 2006; Mexico: abstract; 2006.
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-Schieir O, Baron M, Zelkowitz P, Looper K, Purden M, Berkson L, Fitzcharles M, Gagne M, Garfield B, Hudson M, Kang H, Kapusta M, Krasny J, Menard M, Starr M, Stein M, Watts C. Psychological Distress Predicts Common Health Outcomes in Early Inflammatory Arthritis. . In: American College of Rheumatology; 2006; Washington, D.C.: abstract 2006.

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

Our goals are to continue to provide services in teaching, research and patient care. In order to do all these we absolutely must expand with the addition of 2 other full time staff who will spend between 50-80% of their time doing research. To accomplish this we need new physical space.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Baron, MD, FRCPC