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 Looper 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 7th 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:


- 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.


Abstracts


-Scheir O, Baron M, Looper K, Purden M, Zelkowitz P, and the McGill Early Arthritis Research Group. The Relation between Mental Distress and Disease Outcomes in Early
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