

Annual Report
Division of Rheumatology
April 1, 2007 - March 31, 2008

I. Highlights

Our division has continued to be productive in clinical care, teaching and research. As of Sept 2008 Dr. Berkson has been on sabbatical in Ottawa learning methods of Knowledge Translation. Dr. Baron has extended the McGill Early Arthritis Registry to include patients from Maisonneuve Rosemont. The Canadian Scleroderma Research Group, Directed by Dr. Baron, has recruited over 800 patients and continues to be productive. In addition to the New Emerging Team Grant and the Strategic Training grants received in 2007 and the operating grant received by Dr Hudson, we have received additional operating grants in partnership with Dr M. Gornitsky to study oral health in scleroderma and with Dr Brett Thombs to study aspects of the psychosocial health of patients.

II. Evaluation of Past Academic Year

1) Teaching Activities

Dr. Baron: 1 month on a general medical ward as attending staff. Lectures to phase 2 students

Dr. Hudson: 1) Epidemiology and Evidence-based medicine tutor in Basis of Medicine (medical students, year 2); clinical tutor in POM and IIM; lectures to medical students and residents.

Dr. Berkson: On July 1 2007, she completed a 5-year project in resident education funded by a Clinician Teacher Award from the Arthritis Society of Canada.

2) Research

Our research has been productive as measured by the publications listed under “7) Other”:

3) Clinical Activities

The division continues to be very active. The clinical inpatient consultation service has an average of 3-4 consults per day which is likely the highest within the McGill system.

4) Academic Staff: No change

5) Consulting Activities: None

6) Honours, Awards and Prizes

Hudson, MP: CIHR New Investigator award, FRSQ chercheur-clinicien boursier award (declined), CAN Network Scholarship (declined). Dr Hudson is also a spokesperson for The Arthritis Society and has made several presentations to the lay public and participated in a documentary recorded by TV Ontario on their behalf.

7) Other

Publications and Articles Submitted:

-Baron M, Schieir O, **Hudson M**, Steele R, Kolahi S, Berkson L, Couture F, Fitzcharles MA, Gagne M, Garfield B, Gutkowski A, Kang H, Kapusta M, Ligier S, Mathieu JP, Menard H, Starr M, Stein M, Zummer M. The clinimetric properties of the world health organization disability assessment schedule II in early inflammatory arthritis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;59(3):382-90.

-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 dyspnoea to function and quality of life in systemic sclerosis. *Ann Rheum Dis* 2008;67(5):644-50.

-Thombs BD, **Hudson M**. Problems using aggregate scores of the Medical Outcomes Study 36-item Short Form Health Survey in knee and hip osteoarthritis: possible solutions. *Osteoarthritis Cartilage*. 2008 May 2.

-Bernatsky S, **Hudson M**, Pope J, Vinet E, LeClercq S, Robinson D, Jones N, Markland J, Abu-Hakima M, Mathieu J-P, Docherty P, Khalidi N, Sutton E, **Baron M**, and the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group. Assessment of Reproductive History in Systemic Sclerosis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;in press.

-Hudson M, Bernatsky S, Taillefer S, Fortin PR, Wither J, **Baron M**. Patients with systemic autoimmune diseases could not distinguish comorbidities from their index disease. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2008.

-Hudson M, Rojas-Villarraga A, Coral-Alvarado P, Mantilla R, Chalem P, Canadian Scleroderma Research Group., Colombian Scleroderma Research Group, **Baron M**, Anaya J-M. Polyautoimmunity and Familial Autoimmunity in Systemic Sclerosis. *Journal of Autoimmunity* 2008;in press.

-Hudson M, Steele R, Taillefer S, **Baron M**. Quality of life in systemic sclerosis: psychometric properties of the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule II. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;59(2):270-8.

-**Hudson M**, Thombs BD, Steele R, Watterson R, Taillefer S, **Baron M**. Clinical correlates of quality of life in systemic sclerosis measured with the World Health Organization Disability Assessment Schedule II. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;59(2):279-84.

-Langleben D, Orfanos S, Hirsch A, **Baron M**, Senécal J, Armaganidis A, Catravas J. Pulmonary Capillary Endothelial Metabolic Dysfunction: Severity in Connective Tissue Disease-Related Versus Idiopathic Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;58(4):1156 - 64.

-Santiago M, **Baron M**, Miyachi K, Fritzler MJ, Abu-Hakima M, Leclercq S, Bell M, **Hudson M**, Mathieu JP, Taillefer S, Jones N, Docherty P, Khraishi M, Markland J, Pope J, Robinson D, Smith D, Sutton E. A comparison of the frequency of antibodies to cyclic citrullinated peptides using a third generation anti-CCP assay (CCP3) in systemic sclerosis, primary biliary cirrhosis and rheumatoid arthritis. *Clin Rheumatol* 2008;27(1):77-83.

-Thombs BD, Fuss S, **Hudson M**, Schieir O, Taillefer SS, Fogel J, Ford DE, **Baron M**. High rates of depressive symptoms among patients with systemic sclerosis are not explained by differential reporting of somatic symptoms. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;59(3):431-7.

-Thombs BD, **Hudson M**, Schieir O, Taillefer SS, **Baron M**. Reliability and validity of the center for epidemiologic studies depression scale in patients with systemic sclerosis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;59(3):438-43.

-Thombs BD, **Hudson M**, Taillefer SS, **Baron M**. Prevalence and clinical correlates of symptoms of depression in patients with systemic sclerosis. *Arthritis Rheum* 2008;59(4):504-9.

-**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* 2007;26(8):1268-74.

-**Baron M**, Steele R. Development of the McGill range of motion index. *Clinical Orthopaedics and Related Research* 2007;456 42-50.

-Dobkin P, Filipski M, Looper K, Schieir O, **Baron M**, The McGill Early Inflammatory Arthritis Research Group. Identifying target areas of treatment for depressed early arthritis patients. *Psychother Psychosomatics* 2007;in press.

-Gazi H, Pope JE, Clements P, Medsger TA, Martin RW, Merkel PA, Kahaleh B, Wollheim FA, **Baron M**, Csuka ME, Emery P, Belch JF, Hayat S, Lally EV, Korn JH, Czirkjak L, Herrick A, Voskuyl AE, Bruehlmann P, Inanc M, Furst DE, Black C, Ellman MH, Moreland LW, Rothfield NF, Hsu V, Mayes M, McKown KM, Krieg T, Siebold JR. Outcome measurements in scleroderma: results from a delphi exercise. *J Rheumatol* 2007;34(3):501-9.

-**Hudson M, Baron M**, Taillefer S, Bernatsky S, The Canadian Scleroderma Research Group. The self-administered co-morbidity questionnaire demonstrated poor construct validity in systemic auto-immune diseases. *J Clin Epidemiol* 2007;In press.

-**Hudson M**, Steele R, **Baron M**. Update on indices of disease activity in systemic sclerosis. *Semin Arthritis Rheum* 2007;37(2):93-8.

-**Hudson M**, Taillefer S, Steele R, Dunne J, Johnson SR, Jones N, Mathieu JP, **Baron M**. Improving the sensitivity of the American College of Rheumatology classification criteria for systemic sclerosis. *Clin Exp Rheumatol* 2007;25(5):754-7.

-**Hudson M**, Thombs B, **Baron M**. Are the Short Form 36 physical and mental component summary scores useful measures in patients with systemic sclerosis? Comment on the article by Rannou et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007;57(7):1339

-**Hudson M**, Walker JG, Fritzler M, Taillefer S, **Baron M**. Hypocomplementemia in systemic sclerosis--clinical and serological correlations. *J Rheumatol* 2007;34(11):2218-23.

-**Hudson M**, Walker JG, Fritzler M, Taillefer S, The Canadian Scleroderma Research Group, **Baron M**. Hypocomplementemia in systemic sclerosis may represent overlap disease *J Rheumatol* 2007;34(11):1-6.

-Santiago M, **Baron M**, **Hudson M**, Burlingame RW, Fritzler MJ. Antibodies to RNA polymerase III in systemic sclerosis detected by ELISA. *J Rheumatol* 2007;34(7):1528-34.

-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;26(9):1401-9.

-Thombs BD, Taillefer SS, **Hudson M**, **Baron M**. Depression in patients with systemic sclerosis: a systematic review of the evidence. *Arthritis Rheum* 2007;57(6):1089-97

III. Objectives and Priorities

The division would like to maintain its high standards in all aspects of academic medicine. This means maintaining our staff and seeking new rheumatologists as the burden of clinical service has become increasingly higher over the years.

Respectfully submitted,

Murray Baron, MD
Chief, Division of Rheumatology