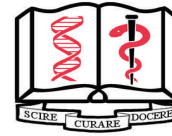


VITAL SIGNS



THE NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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JUSTICE AT LAST !

*Dr. David Eidelman
Chair, Department of
Medicine*

The end of the academic year is a time for reflection. Working in an academic environment and a health care system that frequently lack resources, we easily fall into the trap of seeing things with a jaundiced eye. However, even a brief moment's reflection on the conditions in places that truly lack resources makes us realize that things aren't really that bad. In reality, our department continues to excel in all of its primary missions. As every year, we can rejoice in the many successes of our faculty members whose publications, grants and accomplishments have an important impact around the world. Moreover, despite many significant challenges, we celebrate the excellence of the teaching that we are able to offer to our students and residents.

In addition, the year that is ending was marked by many important events, including the announcement on April 1, 2010 that the Glen site project is finally underway. Due to the anticipated transformation of the MUHC into a referral hospital, the advent of the Glen will not only

change the way we do things at the MUHC, but at all of our teaching hospitals as well as the institutions within the McGill RUIS. Whilst these changes carry many risks, they also bring excellent opportunities to improve the health care services and academic life.

However, another change took place this year that is even more remarkable and which will have a major impact on our Department. Recently, the Board of Governors of McGill University approved a change in the definition of a "full-time" professor. Throughout its history, Faculty members who spent the majority of their time in teaching hospitals, but who didn't receive McGill salaries (the GFT-Hs), were considered by McGill to be part-time. This unfair classification, already denounced in these pages in 2006 and 2007, affected the great majority of our Department members. Now, thanks to the work of many spread over a number of years, Dr. Mara Ludwig, Associate Dean, Faculty Affairs, has announced that this problem is now solved. Henceforth, those who work on a "geographic full-time" basis in hospitals as clinician teachers or clinician researchers will be accorded full-time status regardless of the source of their income. As a result, all of our Faculty members will benefit from professorial privileges that were previously available only to those who received a university salary. Moreover, academic performance and promotion of these professors will be based on accomplishments in their own field of expertise such as teaching and clinical innovation. A detailed announcement from the Faculty of Medicine is expected imminently.

The unprecedented recognition of the contributions of all members of the Faculty corrects an important injustice and augurs well for the future. From now on, instead of serving as a sort of honorary nomination, the professorial status of full-time clinicians will recognize their involvement in University life and provide a valid

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basis for evaluation and promotion. There is no doubt that these changes correct a longstanding injustice and, as a result, will for the first time establish a strong link between the Faculty of Medicine and all its members.

THE DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

By: Drs. James Martin and Ernesto Schiffrin

On the afternoon of May 7th, the Department of Medicine held its first McGill-wide departmental research symposium at the Mount Stephen Club on Drummond. The event was held with a view to bringing together researchers across the McGill Academic Health Network to present their latest research findings and to exchange ideas. After introductory remarks by Dr. Schiffrin, Vice-Chair (Research) and Physician-in-Chief at the Jewish General Hospital, Dr. Howard Bergman, Vice-President, Scientific Affairs FRSQ, detailed the roles that the FRSQ plays in the Provincial research agenda and the opportunities available through the agency for our institution. Dr. Stephanie Lehoux provided an update on atherosclerosis and showed compelling evidence of the inflammatory nature of the processes leading to the atheromatous lesions. The protective nature of shear stress was also presented. Dr. Stella Daskalopoulou followed with a presentation that detailed the potential for the assessment of atherosclerosis by non-invasive means and the new capacity for such studies in her laboratory at the MGH site. Dr. Tomoko Takano provided a clear explanation of the basis for podocyte dysfunction in glomerular disease



Front row: Drs. Cindy Varga, Ning-Zi Sun and Davide Maggio; back row: Drs. Patrizia Zanelli, Louay Mardini, Michael Palumbo, Patrick Lawler, Thomas Maniatis and Michelle Elizov

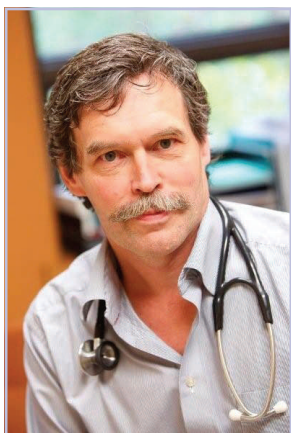
and the mechanisms by which the cellular cytoskeleton is involved. Still on the cellular and molecular basis for disease, Dr. Salvatore

Carbonetto explained the molecular basis for muscular dystrophy and the strategies evolving from the mechanistic studies of the disease. Moving to the most important organ (without apologies), Dr. Don Sheppard, in his usual animated style, explained how *Aspergillus* hyphae may cause activation of mast cells and lead to allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis and other forms of airway dysfunction without recourse to usual immunological mechanisms involving T cells and antigen presenting cells. Dr. Rob Sladek provided a masterful overview of the genetic basis for diabetes and led us through complicated concepts, leaving us with the pleasant illusion of having understood it all. Dr. Maya Saleh demonstrated her mastery of immune mechanisms involved in inflammatory diseases such as colitis and illustrated the power of her current murine models in understanding the role of caspase enzymes in injury and repair in a chemically induced colitis. Dr. Thomas Jagoe discussed the problems of cachexia in chronically ill patients and the current concepts of the mechanisms responsible for muscle wasting in cancer. Dr. Eidelman closed the meeting in acknowledging the contribution of the organizing committee (Louise Pilote, Marcel Behr, Ernesto Schiffrin and Jim Martin) and of course the invaluable assistance of Domenica Cami in organizing the venue and all of the important aspects of the program. A delightful wine and cheese reception topped off the afternoon and the participants left in eager anticipation of the next occasion when we will again be regaled with the best of biomedical research in the Department.



Drs. Schiffrin, Behr, Martin, Pilote and Eidelman

PAN-CANADIAN INITIATIVE FOR COPD



Dr. Jean Bourbeau, Associate Professor in the Respiratory Division and Director of the Respiratory, Epidemiology and Clinical Research Unit at the Montreal Chest Institute of the MUHC.

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), the fourth leading cause of death, accounts for the highest rate of emergency visits, admissions and prolonged hospital stays

among all major chronic illnesses in Canada. Unfortunately, although diagnostic tools and treatments exist for COPD, current approaches are inadequate to the task of dealing with this important disease. We need to greatly improve our understanding of COPD if we hope to improve its management and reduce its burden on society.

In this regard, I am extremely proud to announce that on April 15, 2010 the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and McGill University launched the Canadian Cohort of Obstructive Lung Disease (CanCOLD) project involving researchers at nine sites across the country. I am the lead investigator with Dr. Wan Tan, of The James Hogg iCAPTURE Centre for Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Research at UBC. This project would not be possible without the financial support of a CIHR/Rx&D Collaborative Research Program, in partnership with AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, GlaxoSmithKline, Pfizer, Novartis and the Respiratory Health Network of the FRSQ.

CanCOLD will be the first prospective study (5

years or beyond) dedicated to COPD with the goal of helping us to better understand the contribution of lifestyle risk factors to COPD. In addition to smoking, we will examine the impact of diet, physical activity, environmental exposure, and co morbid conditions. The overall goal is to shift from management of a single risk factor (tobacco control) to a comprehensive approach to COPD risk management. To accomplish this, we will enroll 2000 subjects, men and women, grouped into 4 subsets matched for sex and age (± 2 years): 1 and 2) moderate to severe COPD subjects and mild COPD; 3) subjects at risk (smoker or ex smoker); and 4) subjects who have never smoked and are free of lung disease. Measurements will include questionnaires, spirometry, exercise test, CT scans, and blood tests.

CanCOLD is creating a new research platform for COPD in Canada that can be leveraged for future research projects. In addition, this project will help improve surveillance of COPD in Canada and assist health care decision makers in the development of policies to improve the diagnosis and the management of COPD and to optimize the use of health care services. An important side benefit of CanCOLD will be the establishment of a biobank that will be an essential resource for high impact studies of all aspects of COPD from epidemiology to genetics and biomarker identification.

More than simply a COPD research program, CanCOLD will establish an approach for the application of the principles of chronic disease management to COPD. We hope that it will serve as an example as a strategic action-oriented consortium focused on knowledge transfer, tangible clinical impacts, and short to long-term patient care.

MENTORING R2'S AND R3'S IN THE CORE INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

The McGill Internal Medicine Residency Training Program is developing a mentorship program for its trainees, and is looking for faculty who are interested in acting as mentors to R2s and R3s in the Core Internal Medicine Residency Training Program.

The mentorship program is being developed as follows: All incoming R1s in Internal Medicine will be assigned a senior resident (R3) mentor for their first year of training. For R2s and R3s, they would be provided with a list of

(Continued on page 7)

PROMOTIONS & AWARDING OF TENURE

Congratulations to our Faculty members for their achievements

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS (WITH TENURE)

Dr. Arnold Kristof: A member of the Critical Care and Respiratory Divisions, Dr. Kristof's research is focused on cellular signaling in epithelial cells and understanding the role of abnormal cellular proliferation in lung disease.

Dr. Donald Sheppard: A member of the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Dr. Sheppard's laboratory is involved in identifying the molecular mechanisms whereby pathogenic fungi cause human disease.

Dr. Peter Siegel: A member of the Goodman Cancer Centre, Dr. Siegel and his team are trying to identify the molecular mediators of breast cancer in order to better understand the biology underlying progression of this important disease.

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

Dr. Lorraine Chalifour: Based at the Lady Davis Institute, Dr. Chalifour is using rodent models to investigate the nature of sex differences in the cardiac stress response so as to better understand the role of female hormones in cardiac health.

Dr. Serge Lemay, a member of the Nephrology Division, studies the role of signaling pathways in renal epithelial cells in the pathogenesis of ischemic renal injury and proteinuric diseases.

In the next September issue of our Newsletter, we will present our 2010 Emeritus Professors.

SALARY AWARDS

CIHR New Investigator

- ◆ **Dr. Nitika Pai**
- ◆ **Dr. David Stellwagen**

FRSQ Chercheurs Nationaux

- ◆ **Dr. Marcel Behr**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier – Junior 2

- ◆ **Dr. Sasha Bernatsky**
- ◆ **Dr. Momar Ndao**
- ◆ **Dr. Peter Siegel**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Junior 1

- ◆ **Dr. Sarit Assouline**
- ◆ **Dr. Ines Colmegna**
- ◆ **Dr. Vidal Essebag**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Junior 2

- ◆ **Dr. Ronald Postuma**

CFI-LOF AWARDS

- ◆ **Dr. Danielle Malo,** Allergy and Immunology, for *Functional and comparative genomics of the interaction of the host with Salmonella.*
- ◆ **Dr. Dao Nguyen,** Respiratory, for *The study of Pseudomonas aeruginosa biofilm and antibiotic tolerance.*

MUHC DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARDS

Congratulations to this year's recipients who were recognized at the MUHC Departmental Annual Dinner on Thursday, June 3, 2010. [Please click here for pictures.](#)

Physician-in-Chief Award
For highly distinguished service to the MUHC Department

- **Dr. Thomas Maniatis**
- **Dr. Patrizia Zanelli**

Department of Medicine Physicianship Award
Exemplary Physician

- **Dr. David Dawson**

Department of Medicine Award for Innovation in Clinical Care or Quality

- **Dr. Anne Gonzalez**

Department of Medicine Award
For Research by a Core Internal Medicine Resident

- **Dr. Patrick Lawler**

Department of Medicine Award
For Research by a Subspecialty Resident

- **Dr. Jonathan Afilalo**

Department of Medicine Staff Research Award

- **Dr. Henri Ménard**

The Louis G. Johnson Award
For excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident – selected by RVH Residents

- **Dr. Stéphane Beaudoin**

The Lorne E. Cassidy Teaching Award
For Excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident – selected by MGH Residents

- **Dr. Jeffrey Segal**

The Douglas G. Kinnear Award
Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC

- **Dr. Laurence Green**

The W.H. Philip Hill Award
Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC

- **Dr. Suzanne Morin**

The Harold Frank Prize
For Excellence in a Clinical Case Presentation (Winners of the Clinical Vignettes evening on Feb. 11, 2010)

- **Dr. Véronique Naessens**
- **Dr. Anita Au**

The JGH Department of Medicine Staff and Residents Awards Year-End Party will take place on June 10th, 2010 and we will announce the awardees in the September 2010 issue of our newsletter.

RECRUITMENTS



It is a great pleasure to announce the arrival of **Dr. Carolyn Baglole** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Respiratory Medicine, based at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories. A graduate of the University of Prince Edward Island, Dr. Baglole pursued an MSc at PEI before moving on to Calgary for her PhD. Following her graduation in 2002, Dr. Baglole pursued postdoctoral research training in the Lung Biology & Disease Program of the Department of Environmental Medicine at the University of Rochester. Dr. Baglole has been a highly successful student and investigator, garnering a series of awards including a prestigious American Lung Association Fellowship and the Parker B. Francis Fellowship. She published numerous papers, most notably in the field of lung fibroblast biology and her work has garnered significant funding from both the American Lung Association and the American Thoracic Society. Dr. Baglole's work is focused on the discovery and exploration of novel molecular pathways regulating pulmonary inflammation and cancer.



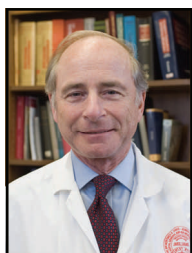
We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Nancy Winslade** as an Assistant Professor in the Division of Geriatrics. Dr. Winslade has PharmD and MHPE qualifications and previously held the position of Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Pharmacy at the University of Toronto. She has been collaborating with Dr. Robyn Tamblyn and Dr. Allen Huang of the Clinical Health & Informatics Research Group at the McGill since 2004 on research projects funded by the *Ordre des pharmaciens du Québec*. She is also finishing a PhD at the Maastricht University. Her interest and research expertise are in the areas of chronic disease management, efficacy and safety of drug therapy, and collaborative care.

HONOURS



Dr. Maya Saleh, Assistant Professor in the Critical Care Division and MUHC Medical Scientist, has been awarded the 2010 [Canadian Society for Immunology New Investigator Award](#). Dr. Saleh is known for her research program which is centered on the

molecular mechanisms regulating inflammation in innate immunity, inflammatory and infectious diseases, and cancer. She is already recognized internationally and her scientific career is most promising.



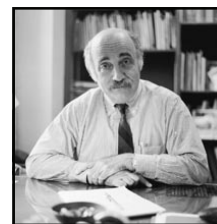
Dr. Ernesto Schiffrin has been selected for the 2010 **Bjorn Folkow Award and Lecture** of the [European Society of Hypertension](#) (ESH) in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to hypertension research. He will present the lecture during the plenary

session in Oslo on June 19th, 2010. The Bjorn Folkow Award has been established in 1987 by the ESH with the collaboration of AstraZeneca in recognition of the contribution made by Bjorn Folkow to cardiovascular physiology and pathophysiology. The award is given to individuals who have carried out important original research on pathogenesis of hypertension.



The [Canadian National Proteomics Network](#) (CNPN) Board of Directors has chosen **Professor John Bergeron** as this year's recipient of the **CNPN's Award for Outstanding Contribution and Leadership to the Canadian Proteomics Community**. Professor Bergeron has recently joined

us as a full-time member in the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism after serving as Chair of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology from 1996 to 2009.



Dr. Albert Aguayo, Professor Emeritus in the Departments of Medicine and Neurology and Neurosurgery, is one of the first recipients of the inaugural **McGill University Medal for Exceptional Academic Achievement**. The

new McGill Medal recognizes retired members of the academic staff who have made extraordinary contributions to their discipline, to McGill or to scholarship, over the course of their academic careers. Dr. Aguayo joined McGill in 1967 and was Director of the [Centre for Research in Neuroscience](#) from 1985 to 2000. He has made significant contributions in the areas of neural regeneration and repair and his work has had important influences in treating injuries to the nervous system once considered untreatable.

On June 10, 2010, **Dr. Thomas Maniatis**, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Director of the McGill Internal Medicine Residency Training Program, will be presented with the **Faculty Honour for Educational Excellence Award** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to teaching in the Faculty of Medicine.



Dr. Laurence Green, Associate Professor in the Division of Internal Medicine, Attending at the MUHC and Associate Physician-in-Chief at the MGH site for our Department, is this year's recipient of the **Osler Award**. This recognition is presented to a professor in the Faculty of Medicine who, in the opinion of the senior medical students, has made the most outstanding contribution to their medical education.



(Continued from page 3)

available Faculty in the Department of Medicine who have expressed their willingness to act as mentors, and it would be up to each resident to initiate contact. The role of a mentor would vary on a case by case basis, but might include providing career counselling, directions for research, and/or providing personal support to trainees.

With this in mind, we are developing a bank of interested Faculty from across McGill's Department of Medicine. Mentorship would be on an ad hoc basis; that is, each resident would be informed of the list of available Faculty they can choose from if they are interested.

Interested in being a mentor? Please send an e-mail with (i) your name, (ii) e-mail contact information, and (iii) hospital / division information to thomas.maniatis@mcgill.ca. The list and contact information will be distributed to trainees once it is complete.

The Department of Medicine's number of successes is prolific. Although every attempt is made to acknowledge them all at the time we go "to press", some announcements may be delayed. Do not hesitate to contact us to let us know of your successes.

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