I HIGHLIGHTS

A) Segal Cancer Center

After more than four years of operation in the new Segal Cancer Center, the activity of the hematology-oncology clinical service continues to expand with increasing clinical and research activities as part of the integrated cancer team on the 7th floor of the Cancer Center.

The number of out-patient visits to the hematology-oncology clinics including the CML clinic and the newly formed MPD clinic includes more than 9,000 recorded visits. In addition, more than 300 new patient consultations for hematology-oncology were recorded. The division has expanded its out-reach program by establishing corridors de service with the Lakeshore General Hospital, St. Mary’s Hospitals, and more recently the Jean Talon Hospital. Several of our Jewish General Hospital physicians play crucial roles in the design of trials in lymphoma, myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes. Under the leadership of Dr. Sarit Assouline, Director of Clinical Research in Hematology-Oncology and Associate Director of the Clinical Research Unit, enthusiasm for development of new trials has created opportunities for patients to access new therapeutic agents and strategies. The increasing role of our Infirmière-Pivot has also significantly contributed to the improvement in supportive therapy, psychological support and communication with families. In her role as Infirmière Pivot, Chantal Cloutier has also played a pivotal role in establishing links with other institutions and with local CLSCs to ensure bilateral effective communications.

B) Stem Cell Transplant Program

The Jewish General Hospital’s hematology stem cell transplant program remains a strong component of the McGill bone marrow transplant program. The Jewish General Hospital continues to perform 38 autologous stem cell transplants with the main focus of activity in multiple myeloma, Hodgkin’s, non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma and acute leukemia. Dr. Martin Gyger continues to provide leadership for efforts in this area and maintains close collaboration with our MUHC partners and with colleagues at Hôpital Maisonneuve Rosemont. The Jewish General Hospital continues to perform its activity with official designation from the Ministry of Health as a center for performing autologous stem cell transplants.

C) Clinician-scientists

Unfortunately Dr. Jacques Galipeau left the division to take on the role of Director of Regenerative Medicine at Amery University in Atlanta. Dr. Galipeau’s contributions as
research and as a spokesperson for the hospital will be sorely missed.

Dr. Blostein has contributed significantly to the area of protein biochemistry of factor IX coagulation protein and also has been an integral part of the clinical trials effort of the Thrombosis Group at the Jewish General Hospital.

Dr. Sarit Assouline had been awarded a FRSQ Chercheur Boursier Clinicien one year ago for her clinical research program in hematology-oncology. She continues to be an active member of the hematology-oncology group at NCIC and has brought to the hospital a number of innovative phase I and phase II clinical trials through the Clinical Research Unit at the Jewish General Hospital.

D) Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory

The Jewish General Hospital remains as the referral hospital for molecular diagnostics for the entire McGill hematology university network. New molecular studies have been initiated for chronic lymphocytic leukemia, myeloproliferative disorders and lymphoma. Our molecular laboratory serves as the sole laboratory engaged in teaching of molecular diagnostics to hematology fellows and continues to perform chimerism studies for patients undergoing non-myeloablative conditioning regimens.

E) CML Clinic

Dr. Sarit Assouline has continued as Directorship of the CML clinic which now follows more than 75 patients with this rare disorder, the largest clinic for this disease in Quebec. Dr. Jaroslav Prchal, from St. Mary’s Hospital, and Dr. Shireen Sirhan are also active participants in the clinic and help provide the highly specialized care to these patients, offering innovative clinical trials for patients with relapsed and refractory disease.

F) Myeloproliferative disorder - MPD Clinic

The MPD clinic has now been in operation for approximately one year supported by a substantial donation from a donor to support the activities of the MPD clinic. The clinic has now registered more than 100 patients to the MPD registry and also has entered 5 patients into a clinical trial assessing the activity of a new Jak2 inhibitor in the treatment of patients with severe symptomatic myelofibrosis.

Dr. J Prchal is a member of a large international consortium which has successfully applied to the National Cancer Institute in the United States for funding for research and clinical trials in myeloproliferative disorders. His contribution and members in the consortium is an essential part of the development of this specialized clinic which will provide not only highly specialized care to patients with essential thrombocytemia and myelofibrosis but also offer participation in innovative clinical trials.
II EVALUATION OF THE PAST ACADEMIC YEAR

1) Teaching Activities

Blöstein, Mark, M.D
Department Course
-Medicine Hematology for First year Medical Students
-Medicine Laboratory teaching to hematology fellows
-Medicine IIM
-Medicine Back-to-Basics
-Medicine Senior Physician Rounds
-Physiology Course Coordinator for PGY 515A
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-Weekly outpatient Thrombosis and Hematology clinics
-In-patient consult service in Hematology and Thrombosis
-In-patient attending on 7NW inpatient ward

Caplan, Stephen N., M.D
-Consult service
-Laboratory teaching to hematology fellows
-Teaching: Small group tutor – McGill University
-Clinical Teaching Unit Attending 7NW

Gyger, Martin, M.D
-Consult service
-Laboratory teaching to hematology fellows
-Teaching: Small group tutor – McGill University
-Organization: Hematopathology Rounds; Stem Cell Transplantation Rounds

Patenaude, Francois, M.D
-Consult service
-Laboratory teaching to hematology fellows

Rosenberg, Arthur, M.D
-Laboratory teaching to hematology fellows

Shamy, April A., M.D
-Consult service
-Laboratory teaching to hematology fellows
-Teaching – Small group tutor – McGill University
-Clinical Teaching Unit Attending 7NW
-Ward sign in rounds 7NW
-Organization: Hematology Journal Club; Hematology lecture series; Core Hematology Rounds
-CTU Director- Hematology-Oncology-7NW
2) **Research**

Both Drs. Blostein and Assouline have been involved in collaborative projects.

Dr. Blostein has been an integral part of the Canadian Thrombosis Group.

Dr. Assouline has made major contributions to the development of clinical trials in hematologic malignancies with the National Cancer Institute of Canada. Collaborative projects within and outside McGill, international activities, seminal publications and new research activities. Collaboration with BC cancer agency, University of British Columbia, Ryan Brinkman, CIHR grant to examine flow cytometry data in diffuse large B cell lymphoma CML chart review to examine importance of baseline FISH data in patients with cytopenia, collaboration with Dr. Jean Khoury at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. ILTE (Imatinib Long Term Effect) Study in CML, international collaboration headed by Dr. C. Gambacorti, University of Milan in Bicoca, Italy

Dr. Assouline was awarded the Jewish General Hospital Department of Medicine Clinical Research Award for her project of the treatment of acuter myeloid leukemia subtypes M4 and M5.

3) **Clinical Activities**

The relocation of the hematology-oncology component of the division to the 7th floor of the Segal Cancer Centre has now been well established. The divisions activities in cancer are now concentrated in the Segal Cancer Centre and also in other units including thrombosis continues to be evaluated in the existing location on the first floor of pavilion E. The initial challenge related to staffing and physical distance between members of the division has been, for the most part, over come. The addition of examining rooms and office space in the Segal Cancer Centre has, however, resulted in the ability to significantly expand the out-patient oncology program and allow for rapid evaluation of new consults in hematology-oncology.

The major challenges for the future include incorporation of the electronic medical records for visits in the Segal Cancer Centre and continued problems in dealing with shortages in manpower particularly in nursing and clerical support for the clinic.

Clinics:

Assouline, Sarit: 1 – 1/2 day/wk-malignant; 1 - 1/2 day/wk-CML clinic; 3 - 1/2 day/wk - CRU
Blostein, Mark: 1-1/2 day/wk – benign; 1-1/2 day/wk-thrombosis; 2-1/2 days/wk - coumadin
Caplan, Stephen: 1-1/2 day/wk – benign; 2-1/2 days/wk- malignant; 1-1/2 day/wk - coumadin
Gyger, Martin: 1-1/2 day/wk – benign; 2-1/2 days/wk-malignant; 1-1/2 day/wk - coumadin
Johnson, Nathalie: 1-1/2 day/wk-malignant; 1-1/2 day/wk-AYAC;
Patenaude, Francois: 1-1/2 day/wk – benign; 1-1/2 day/wk-malignant
Rosenberg, Arthur: 2-1/2 days/wk-benign; 1- ½ day/wk – malignant; 2-1/2 days/wk - coumadin
Shamy, April: 1 ½ day /wk– benign; 2 ¾ days/wk – malignant; 1-1/2 day/wk - coumadin
CML Clinic: 1 – ½ day/wk
MPD Clinic: 1-1/2 day/wk

4) Academic Staff

Recruitment

Dr. Nathalie Johnson commenced her activities at the Jewish General Hospital and the Lady Davis Institute as of July 1st, 2010. Dr. Johnson recently received her Ph.D. in molecular hematopathology at UBC under the supervision of the Dr. Randy Gascoyne. Her research will be focused on the significance of molecular markers on prognosis in patients with B cell lymphoma. Dr. Johnson also will be a member of the Young Adolescence/Adult Clinic at the Jewish General Hospital and will be responsible for seeing and following new patients with both Hodgkin’s and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma.

Dr. Chantal Cassis has been appointed as a part-time member of the division. Dr. Cassis is currently completing her master’s degree in medical education and is currently involved in out-patient clinics and in the consultation service of the division. Dr. Cassis is working closely with the hematology training program director to develop a website for hematology trainees and will utilize her involvement in the hematology training program in developing her project for her master’s thesis.

Dr. Shireen Sirhan is an additional part-time member of the division who has been recruited primarily to run the new MPD (myeloproliferative disease) clinic in conjunction with Dr. Prchal. She is also an active member of the CML clinic assisting Dr. Assouline in the follow up of patients with CML and with the clinical trials program in that disease.

5) Consulting Activities: None reported

6) Publications


--Charbonneau S, Peng HT, Shek PN, Blostein MD: Amphipathic peptides can act as an anticoagulant by competing with phospholipid membranes for blood coagulation factors. Biochemical and Biophysical Research Communications 391:1197-1202, 2010


III OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

Recruitment for future years will continue to focus on the addition of clinician-scientists. Dr. Francois Mercier has completed his 1st year of a 3 year fellowship at the Massachusetts General Hospital at Harvard University in Boston. It is anticipated that he will rejoin the division in July 2013.

A major focus for the next year will be to attempt to recruit an academic physician to take on the leadership role of the division to replace the current Director of Hematology who has been in the position since 1997. In conjunction with a possible sabbatical of the McGill Division of Hematology with the support of Dr. David Eidelman, Chairman of Medicine, it is hoped that the director of the Jewish General Hospital division will take on the role of the university division chief.

The principle goals for the future will be to recruit young physicians with academic ambition and appropriate training to accomplish their goals. This identification early on of residents during their training, assisting them in finding the best academic programs to further their goals, and providing an attractive environment to which they could be recruited and flourish as clinical or laboratory researchers. The success of clinician-scientists hinges on planning to ensure mentoring by senior physicians or scientists, protected time for research and a strong financial base to support their research activities.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen Caplan, MD
Chief, Division of Hematology