Annual Report  
Division of Medical Genetics  
Department of Medicine  
Jewish General Hospital  
April 1, 2005-March 31, 2006  

1. **Highlights**

The most important change over the last year is that Medical Genetics at the JGH has now been established as a department in its own right. This designation makes the JGH the first hospital in the McGill system to establish its own Department of Medical Genetics. There have also been a major expansion in personnel; Dr. Marc Tischkowitz, a medical geneticist trained in the United Kingdom, joined the Department in September 2005 and he is the first full time medical geneticist at the Jewish General Hospital since the departure of Dr. Leonard Pinsky. Maria Lalous, genetic counsellor, also joined the department in August 2005 and has taken over the prenatal diagnosis work from Jennifer Fitzpatrick who now works full time as director of the McGill M.Sc. program in Genetic Counselling. Razia Chanda also joined in August to take over the administrative work from Sabrina Notte who is now administrator to the McGill cancer genetics program.

The major clinical focus of the Department of Medical Genetics at the Jewish General Hospital continues to be in the areas of Hereditary Cancer and Prenatal Diagnosis. Nora Wong and Sonya Zaor are full time counsellors, primarily responsible for cancer genetics. Marc Tischkowitz trained in both medical oncology and clinical genetics and his main clinical and research interest is hereditary cancer predisposition. Dr. William Foulkes also continues to play a major role in clinical and research aspects of hereditary cancer predisposition at the JGH. Maria Lalous works full-time in prenatal diagnosis - this post was previously a part-time post and the expansion of the post has brought additional capacity for seeing prenatal diagnosis cases and provides greater flexibility for patients in booking their appointments.

The department has undergone a major refurbishment and now has a dedicated counselling room, primarily used for prenatal diagnosis cases. Much of the departmental work continues to take place in the Cancer Prevention Centre, which has been incorporated into the new Segal Cancer Centre and provides state of the art facilities for managing individuals and families with a hereditary predisposition to cancer. This new space has also improved integration of the cancer genetics service with other oncology services.

The Program in Cancer Genetics, shared between the McGill Departments of Oncology and Human Genetics is now well established (www.mcgill.ca/cancergenetics/). This program is led by Dr. William Foulkes.
2. Evaluation of past academic year

a) Faculty

Dr. David Rosenblatt continues to be Director of the University Division of Medical Genetics in the Department of Medicine at both the JGH and MUHC sites; this enhances integrated service delivery. He is also Chair of the McGill Department of Human Genetics. The report of his academic activities for the past year can be obtained at www.mcgill.ca/finestone/.

Dr. Marc Tischkowitz is primarily responsible for the day-to-day clinical activity in the department. He shares cancer genetics clinics with Dr. Foulkes and has started a monthly multidisciplinary hereditary gastrointestinal cancer clinic with Dr. Polymnia Galiatsatos, a gastroenterologist at the JGH. In addition he has started a monthly general genetics clinic where he sees referrals for all types of genetic disorder. He also sees ward referrals (including neonatal referrals) where a genetic disorder is suspected and is the medical supervisor for the prenatal diagnosis service.

Dr. William Foulkes continues to run the cancer genetics service, dividing his time between the MUHC and the JGH. There are close links to the Departments of Oncology and Pathology, and to a number of surgical divisions, reflecting the multidisciplinary nature of the clinical service. Please also refer to the annual report of the Program in Cancer Genetics for additional information: www.mcgill.ca/cancergenetics/.

b) Clinical Activities

Cancer Genetics Clinical Activity

The following table and figures indicate the change in workload in cancer genetics over the years.

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<tr>
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<td>111</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>146</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>183</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>283</td>
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<tr>
<td>visits</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>289</td>
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<tr>
<td>ward</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>phone</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>40</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total (excludes phone consults)</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>256</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>585</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>576</td>
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</table>
Prenatal Genetics Clinical Activity
During the past year, a total of 358 patients were seen for genetic counselling for prenatal diagnosis as compared to 322 patients last year. From the total 358 patients, 83 visits occurred during the period of April 1st 2005 to August 20, 2005, when the genetic counsellor, Jennifer Fitzpatrick, was working part-time in prenatal diagnosis. This averaged to 16.6 visits per period (~1month). Upon the hiring of a full-time prenatal diagnosis genetic counsellor, (August 21, 2005 to March 31, 2006) 273 visits occurred, averaging 34.12 visits per period (~1 month).

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Visits</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>358</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ward</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>3</td>
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</tbody>
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c) Honours and Awards

Since 2002, Dr. William Foulkes has been a Chercheur-Boursier clinicien at a senior level at the SMBD-Jewish General Hospital. This award was given to him by the Fonds de la recherche en Santé. He holds this award until 2007.

Since June 2003, he has been a William Dawson Scholar at McGill University. This is a major award equivalent to a Canada Research Char, Tier 2, and Dr. Foulkes holds this award until 2008.

In 2005, Dr. David Rosenblatt was elected as an inaugural Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.
d) Teaching Activities-2005

GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

William Foulkes

516 – 614B Environmental Carcinogenesis
Department: Medicine (Div. Experimental Medicine)
Format: Lecture
Title: Cancer Genetics/Prevention
Role: Lecturer
Level: MSc program
Time (hr/yr): One two-hour session

516 – 0635D Experimental and Clinical Oncology
Format: Lecture
Title: Cancer Genetics
Role: Lecturer
Level: MSc program
Time (hr/yr): 1.5 hour seminar

521-690B Inherited Cancer Syndromes
Department: Department of Human Genetics
Format: Lecture
Title: Cancer Genetics
Role: Lecturer
Level: MSc program
Time (hr/yr): Four two-hour sessions

Medical Genetics
Unit 8 small group teaching in medical genetics
Format: one 2 hour lecture and 4 small group sessions, 3 hours each
Role: Lecturer
Level: Medical students

Unit 1 teaching
Format: Lecture
Role: Lecturer
Level: Medical Students
Time: One two-hour seminar

Back to Basics
Format: Lecture
Role: Lecturer
Level: Medical students
David Rosenblatt

Biology 568
Department: Biology/Human Genetics
Format: Lecture
Title: Somatic Cell Genetics
Role: Lecturer
Level: Undergraduate/Graduate
Time (hr/yr): 4 hours

Biology 575
Department: Biology/Human Genetics
Format: Lecture
Title: Inborn Errors of Folate and Cobalamin Transport and Metabolism
Role: Lecturer
Level: Undergraduate/Graduate
Time: 6 hours

Unit 8
Department: Human Genetics
Format: Lecture and Small Group Teaching
Role: Lecturer-2 sessions:
Titles: Introduction
        Huntington Disease
        Small Group Leader – 4 sessions
Level: Medical Students
Time (hr/yr): 3 hours lectures; 8 hours small groups

Marc Tischkowitz

Advances in Human Genetics – Theme course
Department: Human Genetics
Format: Small Group Teaching
Title: Cancer Genetics
Role: Lecturer
Level: MSc program
Time (hr/yr): Four 1.5 hour sessions

Maria Lalous

McGill Genetic Counselling MSc Program
Clinical Supervision:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Length Of Clinical Rotation (wks)</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Total time (wks)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First Year Student</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second year Student</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>28</td>
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Medical Genetics
Unit 8 small group teaching in medical genetics
Format: one 2 hour lecture and 4 small group sessions, 3 hours each
Role: Lecturer
Level: Medical students

Unit 1 teaching
Format: one two hour seminar
Role: Lecturer
Level: Medical students

Nora Wong
Superintegrated Small Group Session/Breast cancer
Format: one small group sessions, 3 hours each
Role: 1 of 3 tutors
Level: Medical students

Sonya Zaor
Medical Genetics
Unit 8 small group teaching in medical genetics
Format: one 2 hour lecture and 4 small group sessions, 3 hours each
Role: Lecturer
Level: Medical students

INVITED LECTURES, TALKS, PRESENTATIONS

William Foulkes
September 19, 2005
Title: Role of genetic factors in cancer & familial diseases
National Council of Jewish Women of Canada
Gelber Conference Centre
Montreal, Quebec

September 28, 2005
Title: Genetics of colorectal cancer: What’s new?
CCMG 2005 Annual Meeting
Château Bromont
Bromont, Quebec

October 12, 2005
Title: Genetic influence of breast and gynecological cancers in pre-menopausal women
10th McGill International Symposium on Reproductive Endocrinology & Infertility and Women’s Health
Centre Mont-Royal, Montreal, Quebec

October 20, 2005
Title: Overview - 10 years of BRCA1 and BRCA2
BRCA: Today & Tomorrow
First International Symposium on the Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility Genes
Marriott Château Champlain, Montreal, Quebec

October 20, 2005
Title: Outcome following BRCA1/2 related breast cancer
BRCA: Today & Tomorrow
First International Symposium on the Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility Genes
Marriott Château Champlain, Montreal, Quebec

February 2, 2006
Title: Genetic Risk Assessment
5th International “From Gene to Cure” Congress
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

February 2, 2006
Title: Prevention of Hereditary Breast Cancer
5th International “From Gene to Cure” Congress
Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Amsterdam, Netherlands

April 20, 2006
Title: Clinico-pathological features of basal-like/BRCA1 tumors
“Basal-like and BRCA1-associated Breast Cancer” meeting
Harvard Club
Boston, MA, USA

Maria Lalous and Marc Tischkowitz

March 10th 2006
Title: “Supermen” and “Superwomen” - Why are We Afraid of Them?
Parental Decision-Making Following a Diagnosis of Sex chromosome abnormalities.
JGH Obstetric and Gynaecology Rounds

David Rosenblatt

January 14, 2005
Title: Mutation analysis in classical methylmalonic aciduria
MUHC-RI Genetics Axis and McGill Department
of Human Genetics Seminar
Montreal Children’s Hospital

March 6 – 9, 2005
Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders
Asilomar, CA

March 16 – 17, 2005
Genetic Testing for Rare Diseases
Dallas, TX

Marc Tischkowitz

November 19th 2005
DNA repair syndromes – the clinical angle
McGill Oncology Department meeting, Lac Carling

February 27th 2006
Setting up remote clinics using telemedicine: Lessons from the UK
experience with Medical Genetic Services
JGH medical rounds (also presented at MGH and RVH)

Nora Wong

September 30, 2005
Title: Workshop: Challenges in Communicating Cancer Risk
Concurrent Workshop Session I
Concurrent Workshop Session II
Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors Annual Conference-
September 28-October 2, 2005

October 20 -21, 2005
**Title:** Workshop A: *Taking a History for Cancer Risk*
*BRCA Today and Tomorrow; First International Symposium on the*
Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility Genes
Marriott Château Champlain, Montreal, Quebec

March 21, 2006
**Title:** *Cancer Genetics-Overview*
Biology 370 Applied Human Genetics

April 6, 2006
**Title:** *Atelier: Outils pour l'organisation des services de conseil génétique et pour le soutien au conseil génétique: Letter writing*
Association des conseillers et conseillères en génétique du Québec (ACCGQ) Annual Meeting-2006

April 28, 2006
**Title:** *Extra, Extra Adrenal About it*
McGill Medical Genetics Case Presentation

**Sonya Zaor**

October 20 -21, 2005
**Title:** Workshop A: *Taking a History for Cancer Risk*
*BRCA Today and Tomorrow; First International Symposium on the*
Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility Genes
Marriott Château Champlain, Montreal, Quebec

e) **Service to Academic Community and other Contributions**

Members of the Division are very active in the academic activities of the Department of Human Genetics at McGill. In addition to being Chair of the Department, Dr. Rosenblatt is the Past President of the Association of Medical Geneticists of Quebec. Dr. Foulkes is Director of the McGill Program in Cancer Genetics and plays a key role on the Board of Directors of the Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Foundation.

f) **Consulting Activities**

**William Foulkes**

University Rank: Associate Professor
Period covered: June 1 2004-March 31 2006
g) Research Operating Funds – 2005-2006

**William Foulkes**

CBCRA – Operating – 2006-2009 (PI)
CBCRA – Operating – 2005-2008 (PI)
US Army –Concept Award – 2004, extended until 2006 (PI)
US Army –Concept Award –99-02, extended until 2006 (PI)
Susan G Komen BrCa Found. –2006-2009 (Co-I)
NIH – Group Grant – 2002-2006 (Co-I)
VRQ–Group Grant– 2002-2006 (Co-I)
FRSQ – Group Grant – 2000-2005(Co-I)
CIHR –Group Grant – 2003-2007 (Co-I)
PCRFC – Operating – 2005-2007 (Co-I)
CIHR – Operating – 2003-2006 (Co-I)
CBCRI – Operating – 2004-2009 (Co-I)

**David Rosenblatt**

CIHR – Operating – 2001-2006 (PI)
MOD – Operating – 2001-2005 (PI)
Garrod – Operating – 2004-2005 (PI)

h) Publications for 2005:

**William Foulkes**


**David Rosenblatt**


**Marc Tischkowitz**


**Nora Wong**


3. **Objectives and Priorities**

Our **objective** is to provide comprehensive service to our clientele. Our **priority** is to make it clear that further resources must be made available for prenatal, cancer and other general genetics services at the JGH. With the creation of a Department of Medical Genetics at the JGH in 2005, a mechanism is now in place to make the needs of both individuals and families in the area of medical genetics better known to the hospital and the community at large.

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**David S. Rosenblatt, MD**  
**Medical Geneticist**