Annual Report  
Division of Rheumatology  
April 1, 2005 - March 31, 2006

We continue to direct research projects at McGill in early inflammatory arthritis and in Canada we direct the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group. We have also been very involved in developing programs for musculoskeletal teaching for residents in internal medicine.

Under the direction of Dr Baron, the Canadian Scleroderma Research group has submitted and presented multiple abstracts in its first year. Manuscripts are under preparation and several grant applications have been submitted. Similarly, we have been very active in our research projects in early inflammatory arthritis. We have been working on a large project in cooperation with Drs Looper, Zelkowitz and Purden concerning the role of family distress in our patient group and have submitted and presented multiple abstracts.

Laeora Berkson continues to be supported by the Arthritis Society Clinician Teacher Award. In this capacity, she has been developing and delivering a rheumatology curriculum for the internal medicine trainee. In 2005-2006, the curriculum was converted from a site (hospital)-specific series of seminars to a McGill-wide series of six half-day educational sessions. There will be eight half-day sessions in 2006-2007.

Dr. Marie Hudson will join our staff in October 2006. She has completed post-doctoral training in epidemiology and will be doing research in several areas including scleroderma.

We would like to expand to 4 full-time rheumatologists. The heavy clinical load requires this if we are to continue our academic activities. To this end we are in the process of designing new space to accommodate 4 full-time rheumatologists and multiple clinical research assistants. Fund raising will be necessary to cover all the costs of this expansion.

Grants:

Understanding Care Trajectories in Early Inflammatory Arthritis  
Source: - Canadian Initiative for Outcomes in Rheumatoid Arthritis

The Development of Classification Criteria for Scleroderma: Source: The Arthritis Society

Mental Health and Family Functioning In Early Inflammatory Arthritis (Santé mentale et fonctionnement familial chez les patients souffrant d’arthrite) 
Source: FRSQ Recherches Cliniques Ou Recherches En Santé Des Populations

Refining Methods to Assess Adherence to Multidisciplinary pain Treatment 
Source: SSHRC – Standard Research Grants

An economic analysis of cognitive-behavioral therapy as an adjunct to standard care in early rheumatoid arthritis: Source: CIHR

Articles and Abstracts Presented, Published and Submitted 2005-06:
2. Baron M. Development of the McGill Range of Motion Index. Submitted 2005


26. Hashim Gazi B, Pope J, including Baron M. Outcome Measurements In Scleroderma. submitted 2005


32. Hudson M, Baron M, McGill Early Arthritis Research Group. Morning Stiffness is a Better Predictor of Function in Early Inflammatory Arthritis than are Swollen and Tender Joints. Arthritis and Rheumatism 2005;52(9(suppl)):S402 (abstract).


42. Looper K, Baron M, Zelkowitz P, Purden, and the Mcgill Early Arthritis Research Group. High Levels of Distress in Patients with Early Inflammatory Arthritis (abstract). In: Canadian Rheumatology Association Annual Meeting; 2005; Mont Tremblant Quebec; 2005


53. Taillefer S, Baron M, Hudson M, the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group. Gastrointestinal Symptoms Are Associated With Worse Sf36 Scores In Systemic Sclerosis (ssc). Arthritis and Rheumatism 2005;52(9(suppl)):S588 (abstract).

54. Taillefer S, Baron M, Hudson M, the Canadian Scleroderma Research Group Disability, Pain And Dyspnea Predict Levels Of Depression In Systemic Sclerosis (SSc). Arthritis and Rheumatism 2005;52(9(suppl)):S587(abstract).
