

News from British Columbia

By Stuart Seigel, MD, FRCPC

The southern interior of British Columbia (BC), with its mountains and lakes, continues to attract rheumatologists. Dr. Jackie Stewart, a long-distance runner from Toronto, endured culture shock moving to Penticton to join Dr. Bob Offer's practice. She happily discovered that it is the site of the ultimate marathon, the Canadian Iron Man. She has entered the New York Marathon, and has raised \$8,500 for Joints in Motion.

A little bit north, Kamloops has three rheumatologists (Dr. Jan Navratil, Dr. Barbara Blumenauer, and Dr. Nancy Hudson). Kelowna, in the central Okanagan Valley, is becoming the tertiary center for the interior, and there are plans to establish another site for the University of BC medical school. Dr. Michael Puttick, Dr. Dan McLeod and Dr. Stuart Seigel all have fulltime practices in Kelowna.

Dr. McLeod is Chair of the local Medical Advisory Committee (MAC) when he is not in his office or practicing the bagpipes. Dr. Puttick, Dr. Offer and Dr. Stewart hiked the Inca trail to Machu Picchu after attending the Pan American League of Associations for Rheumatology (PANLAR) in Peru. Dr. Seigel spends his spare time ski

touring (and avoiding avalanches) or kayaking the local rivers. Kelowna is also the site of the annual Western Alliance Rheumatology (WAR) conference, a chance for western rheumatologists from BC to Manitoba to gather and enjoy the best in Okanagan sun and wine.



Dr. Bob Offer on the Reed Island of Lake Titicaca in Peru.



From left to right: Dr. Jackie Stewart, Dr. Bob Offer and Dr. Stuart Seigel enjoying a hike to the Burgess Shale at BC's Yoho National Park in August 2005.



Lake Okanagan with views of Kelowna, BC in the distance.

News From Hamilton

By Alf Cividino, MD

In Hamilton, rheumatology is flourishing. Dr. Jonathan Adachi continues to lead the way in his 15th year as Division Head. Dr. Adachi has developed a network of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows such as Karen Beattie who have enhanced our research efforts. His body of work was recently acknowledged when he was presented with the North American Menopause Society Award for Innovation in Osteoporosis Research last month in Nashville, Tennessee.

We have had a major impact in musculoskeletal (MSK) teaching by developing a new curriculum for the undergraduate program. As we have expanded to welcome 150 students with an expectation of 170 students by next year, a new approach to teaching clinical skills was required. An objective structured clinical examination (OSCE) based approach to teaching clinical skills, with direct observation and opportunity for practice, proved very successful. Kudos go to the special efforts of Dr. Tulio Scocchia and Dr. Raja Bobba and the rest of the rheumatology group for a well-received program.

Dr. Nader Khalidi is the Rheumatology Program Director. Under his guidance, the rheumatology program has become a popular choice for internal medicine trainees. This year we have three rheumatology trainees with several applicants for next year from within our program. Dr. Khalidi has developed a Vasculitis clinic which continues to grow and provides regional sub-specialty expertise.

We have a new recruit with Dr. Margaret Larché joining us from Imperial College at the University of London (United Kingdom), with a special interest in MSK ultrasound.



Dr. Cividino preparing for his 1,902-metre ascent!

View of Mont Ventoux in Provence, France



Furthermore, among his varied research interests, Dr. Walter Kean is currently investigating the MSK problems of the 4,600-year-old Similaun Iceman with colleagues at the South Tyrol Museum of Archeology in Bolzano, Italy. Dr. Sam Pillersdorf continues to work closely with the Immunology program at the McMaster site while providing clinical service there.

From my perspective, I have been appointed Director of Medical Foundations Five in the MD Program. My major focus has been curriculum development in MSK medicine. Our innovative MSK Boot Camp experience continues to attract clerkship students for a four-week hands on experience with the rheumatology group, physiatrists and orthopedic surgeons alike.

An instructional DVD on the gait, arms, legs and spine (GALS) musculoskeletal screening exam done in conjunction with Dr. Paivi Miettunen will soon be distributed to all medical students across the country.

In a different vein, I have met some personal goals outside the field of medicine by cycling up Mont Ventoux, the giant of Provence, France last May. The ascent is a 1,902-metre peak, which beats anything east of the Rockies with a ten percent grade. For the cyclists in the crowd, a must-do event. The decent is as fast as the climb is arduous and the view is breathtaking.

P.S. Our new website is:

www.fhs.mcmaster.ca/medicine/rheumatology/faculty.htm

News From Newfoundland and Labrador

By Majed Khraishi, MD

Greetings from Newfoundland and Labrador! Well, things are most definitely on the up and up here in Newfoundland. The Arthritis Centre with a multi-disciplinary team, was established in Newfoundland and has been up and running since September 2005.

We would like to extend a warm welcome to two new colleagues in rheumatology, Dr. Irene Vasiliu and Dr. Yatish Setti, both of whom practice out of St. Clare's Mercy Hospital. Dr. Vasiliu arrived in September 2005 and also holds clinics outside of the city of St. John's in Corner Brook, Stephenville and Goose Bay, Labrador. Dr. Setti came on the scene in March 2006. With the addition of our two new colleagues (giving us a grand total of five adult rheumatologists), in addition to Dr. Paul Dancey who is the pediatric rheumatologist in St. John's, the wait list is shortening despite the large population with rheumatoid arthritis (RA), osteoarthritis (OA), Psoriatic arthritis (PsA) and other arthritides.

On another front, the Newfoundland and Labrador Government is considering establishing a Central Provincial Ethics Committee (similar to that in Alberta). The research community in the province is somewhat



A classic Newfoundland rose garden in the summer.

concerned about the speed of approvals of studies in the future with the new committee.

The Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association (NLMA) and the Provincial Government finally came to an agreement in the last year with no increase in fees, unfortunately, and that continues to leave the rheumatologists' fee schedule one of the lowest in the country.

Looking back over the past year, I still see that things are just rockin' here in Newfoundland and Labrador. Until next time...



Dr. Khraishi's son, Zayd, in Western Brook Pond in Gros Morne National Park (a UNESCO world heritage site), Newfoundland and Labrador.