



ABOUT THE DIVISION OF RHEUMATOLOGY

Rheumatology encompasses many complex diseases that affect multiple systems in the human body. Chronic inflammatory conditions, autoimmune disorders, and diseases of the joints, muscles and bones are among the many health issues that rheumatologists address daily, often following their patients for years, even decades.

The Division of Rheumatology conducts pioneering research on the management and treatment of rheumatic diseases in a clinical setting, emphasizing a patient-centred approach in its studies.

The division is home to a world-class centre for scleroderma and myositis, as well as the MIRA Biobank for immune-related adverse events from cancer immunotherapies, one of the few biobanks of its kind in the world.

The division also plays an important role in the training of McGill Rheumatology fellows, who are involved in the broad range of services available to patients.

Services include:

- Special Osteoporosis Clinic
- Arthritis Clinic
- Scleroderma Research Group
- Rheumato-oncology Research Program



RESEARCH ROOTED IN CARE

The highest quality of patient care is at the heart of every research endeavour carried out by the Division of Rheumatology. By embedding research into a clinical setting, the department offers patients early access to novel models of care and innovative treatment. Each healthcare encounter is an opportunity for the Rheumatology team to learn and improve on current standards in their field. Combining their academic mission with world-class clinical care leads to practice-changing research that benefits patients, the hospital and the field at large.



Your donation is an integral part of the Rheumatology team's success. Thank you for helping us offer the best possible support to patients for years to come.



AN INDISPENSABLE RESOURCE

Building a framework that facilitates groundbreaking research and high-quality patient care is the foundation for exceptional healthcare in the Division of Rheumatology. With the right personnel, the division's clinical care and research activities can evolve with their patients' health needs, and advancements in treating rheumatic diseases can continue to develop.

The research nurse, Christine Bergeron, plays a key role in seamlessly merging clinical care and research activities in the department. Adding to the outstanding reputation of the Rheumatology Division, the nurse has become a vital source of support for patients and researchers alike. She is involved in several research programs for scleroderma, myositis and rheumatoid arthritis, as well as rheumato-oncology, which deals with adverse immune-related events from cancer immunotherapies.

The department has been able to respond to emerging research opportunities as they come since the hiring of the nurse, as she contributes significantly to the success of both established and early-career researchers who conduct both independent and collaborative studies at local, national and international levels.

Furthering the department's clinical mission, the nurse provides much-needed assistance to patients struggling with complex medical issues. Since study patients can be identified at any time, her full-time availability is a huge strength of the research programs.

All patients, clinical and research staff are extremely grateful for her involvement.

NUMBER OF PATIENTS SEEN BY THE NURSE

2021-2022

More than 2000 patient visits

2022-2023

3045 patient visits, including 344 new patients

Weekly Average

3-5 research study patients per week

BRINGING PATIENTS AND RESEARCH TOGETHER

A Typical Day as the Research Nurse



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN PATIENTS' LIVES

Everyone who comes in contact with Christine Bergeron can't help but notice her dedication to her position as the research nurse in the Division of Rheumatology.

Recognized for her kindness and commitment, Christine always gives her patients her full attention regardless of how busy she is. She finds the answers to their questions regarding their care even when it requires some extra leg work to seek out the information.

Her ability to connect with patients fills them with encouragement and a sense of support throughout their journeys with ongoing health issues, and their experiences as research participants are all the more positive because of Christine's reassuring presence.

“Christine is an extraordinarily devoted nurse, who always puts her patient's wellbeing at the forefront of her work.”

– Dr. Genevieve Gyger, Division of Rheumatology



Nurse Christine Bergeron (left) and Dr. Laeora Berkson, Chief of the Division of Rheumatology

“Thank you for all your support, encouragement and genuine kindness. You all make the difference in managing my Rheumatoid Arthritis journey.”

– a grateful JGH patient

MOVING FORWARD WITH HOPE

With the right team members in place, the Rheumatology Division can continue to carry out research that will provide its patients with an improved quality of life and new possibilities for rheumatic disease management and treatment. Since notable resources help facilitate successful research initiatives, the division can attract and retain the most talented researchers to move their mission forward.

By assuring a research nurse position in the Division of Rheumatology on a long-term basis, our experts can continue to be world leaders in research on rheumatic diseases, including the rarest of conditions.

Thanks to you, our aspirations for patient care and research are becoming tangible achievements that are changing patients' lives.

The staff and patients in the Division of Rheumatology are truly grateful for your extraordinary support.

Thank you.