

We publish this newsletter quarterly, with information on what's new in MPN care and research. Each issue we bring together MPN advances and news, and keep you up to date with the work of the Canadian MPN Group. Comments, ideas and suggestions can be sent to info@mpncanada.com

Spotlight – Juravinski Cancer Centre, Hamilton

Every newsletter we highlight a leading centre for MPN care and research in Canada. In this issue we look at the Juravinski Cancer Centre.



Dr. Chris Hillis and Dr. Brian Leber see MPN patients within the malignant hematology clinic at the Juravinski Cancer Centre. Dr Chris Hillis tells us more.

The MPN team at the Juravinski Cancer Centre

The malignant hematology team at the Juravinski Cancer Centre is made up of oncology nurses and hematologists. Integral to the team are the highly skilled pharmacists, social workers, dieticians, and drug access facilitators who work across the cancer program. MPN patients who require transplant are cared for by a multi-disciplinary team including nurse practitioners. Both Drs. Leber and Hillis have a clinical focus on the MPNs. Dr. Leber additionally focuses on acute leukemia, myelodysplastic syndrome and allogeneic stem cell transplant.

The program sees the range of MPNs including new referrals and is a regional referral centre for tertiary care of patients with MPNs. There are approximately 10 new MF patients, 20 CML, and 10-25 new ET/PV patients seen each year.

What are your MPN research interests?

Dr. Leber's successful career as a clinician-researcher spans the bench to bedside. His main focus is new drug development and leads an active clinical trials program in leukemia and myelodysplastic syndrome. Dr. Hillis' research focusses on cardiovascular risk in patients with MPNs.

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What clinical trials are active in the MPN clinic?

Currently we have a clinical trial open for ruxolitinib in patients with polycythemia vera who are hydroxyurea resistant or intolerant and for whom no treatment alternatives are available (clinicaltrials.gov ID NCT02292446). A trial is also open for patients with CML (clinicaltrials.gov ID NCT02268370), which is investigating the safety of discontinuation of tyrosine kinase inhibitor therapy.

ORCHID MPN registry

We are the founding site of the ORCHID study – Ontario Registry of CHronic Myeloproliferative Neoplasms and Incident Cardiovascular Disease. This study is investigating the epidemiology of MPNs, including cardiovascular events, MPN outcomes, and function and frailty in patients with MPNs. It is a voluntary study.

Cardio-oncology care

Through a close collaboration with the Population Health Research Institute and the Division of Cardiology we have developed a **comprehensive cardio-oncology program** that supports our MPN patients. Each MPN patient can be seen in a cardio-oncology clinic to obtain expert advice on cardiovascular risk modification. Patients' treatment plans are then determined by the multidisciplinary team. We also have a close relationship with a local benign hematology centre with expertise in thrombosis medicine. This allows access for our patients to world experts in venous thromboembolism.

Significant publications

We recently published a review of antithrombotic therapy in ET: Derek K. Chu, Christopher M. Hillis, Darryl P. Leong, Sonia S. Anand, Deborah M. Siegal. Benefits and Risks of Antithrombotic Therapy in Essential Thrombocythemia: A Systematic Review. *Ann Int Med* 2017 (in press)

Referrals

Juravinski Cancer Centre
Contact: Drs B Leber and C Hillis
699 Concession St.
Hamilton, ON L8V 5C2
Tel: 905.575.7820
Fax: 905.575.6316
Referrals accepted from physicians only.



Brian Leber
MD, FRCPC

Dr. Brian Leber is a clinical hematologist and Professor of Medicine with an interest in the pathophysiology of leukemia and investigational new drug trials. As an Associate Member of the Department of Biochemistry he collaborates with Dr. David Andrews, investigating basic biochemical mechanisms in apoptosis. He is also a member of the Hamilton Regional Laboratory Medicine Program and in that capacity the Director of the Molecular Hematology Laboratory. He graduated from McGill Medical School, internal medicine at McGill, and Hematology Training at McMaster followed by a research fellowship at the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine (University of London, UK).



Chris Hillis
MD MSc FRCPC

Dr. Hillis completed his undergraduate degree at UWO before heading to McMaster for a planned brief stint as a medical student. The brief stint quickly turned into further training and ultimately coming on staff as a malignant hematologist. His academic work focuses on quality improvement and patient safety. @HemeHillis



MPN fundraising

We're proud to announce that one of our MPN centres, the Elizabeth and Tony Comper MPN Program at Princess Margaret Cancer Centre, raised over \$25,000 for MPN care and research in the Princess Margaret Cancer Centre Journey to Conquer Cancer Walk or Run 2017 on June 18th as Team MPN.

Together MPN patients, their family, friends and the MPN team at Princess Margaret did a fantastic job fundraising for their first year participating in the Walk and even made the top 10 teams! They will be walking again next year and hope to grow Team MPN and raise even more for MPN care and research. If you'd like to walk with them or donate next year, keep a lookout on the Run or Walk website (www.runorwalk.ca).

The Elizabeth and Tony Comper MPN Program wish to thank every member of Team MPN, as well as everyone who so generously donated. All funds raised go directly to the program for care of MPN patients and research of MPNs.

Update on momelotinib

Momelotinib is the most advanced JAK inhibitor currently in development for myelofibrosis, with several ongoing phase 3 clinical trials. Abstracts outlining the results of two of these major trials, SIMPLIFY-1 and SIMPLIFY-2 were presented at the American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Annual Meeting 2017 in Chicago, Illinois.

Ruben Mesa (MD), presented results from the SIMPLIFY-1 study (clinicaltrials.gov ID: NCT0196983), which compared the efficacy of momelotinib vs ruxolitinib in patients with MF that had not received prior JAK inhibitor therapy. Momelotinib was found to be non-inferior to ruxolitinib for spleen response but not for symptom response. Momelotinib treatment was associated with reduced transfusion needs. (Abstract #7000)

Results of the SIMPLIFY-2 study (clinicaltrials.gov ID NCT02101268) were presented by Claire Harrison (MD). The trial investigated whether momelotinib was superior to the best available therapy (as determined by the physician) in patients with MF who had previously received ruxolitinib and who had thrombocytopenia (low platelet count) or anemia. Momelotinib was superior to ruxolitinib in reducing MF symptoms and reducing transfusion requirements. However, it failed to meet its primary goal, which was superiority over the best available therapy in reducing spleen size. (Abstract #7001)

Given the disappointing results of these trials, it is currently understood that momelotinib's developer Gilead will not seek regulatory approval of momelotinib. For details of MPN clinical trials in Canada, see our [clinical trials page](#).

MPN e-SIMPLE App

The MPN e-SIMPLE app was developed with the support of Novartis. The app provides data, resources and guidance to assist Canadian physicians in daily management of MPNs. The goal is to improve the management of MPNs across Canada by providing point-of-care guidance to our colleagues on therapeutic approaches for each MPN patients.

The app includes disease risk calculators (IPSS, DIPSS, DIPSS Plus and IPVS), resources for MPN diagnosis and risk assessment, and information on treatment options. At present the app covers MF and PV, with ET coming soon. MPN e-SIMPLE can be used through your web browser or downloaded (Android & iOS, optimized for tablets) at www.mpnesimple.ca



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For further information, please contact info@mpncanada.com

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