

Lupus Clinic Celebrates 40th Anniversary

By Dafna Gladman, MD, FRCPC

The University of Toronto Lupus Clinic at the Toronto Western Hospital celebrated its 40th anniversary on April 2nd, 2011. It was a great cause for celebration, with the clinic also recognizing the more than 1,600 patients registered in what is one of the largest databases of lupus patients in the world, and probably the only one following patients prospectively, according to a standard protocol, since 1970. Moreover, it was an opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Murray Urowitz, the clinic's founder and director, for his contributions to lupus care and research.

This milestone was celebrated by a symposium, attended by at least 100 people. The symposium included several podium presentations from previous Lupus Fellows, who presented work they have pursued since completing their training at the clinic. The presentations included the following:

- Dr. Ian Bruce of Manchester, England, presented "Accelerated Atherosclerosis in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) and Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA): The Manchester View."
- Dr. Lai-Shan Tam from Hong Kong, China, discussed SLE and the human papilloma virus (HPV) infection.
- Dr. Mahmood Abu-Shakra of Be'er Sheva, Israel, discussed "Quality of Life, Coping and Depression in SLE" in his presentation.
- Dr. John Hanly from Halifax, Nova Scotia, presented on "Classification, Epidemiology and Outcome of Neuropsychiatric SLE."
- Dr. John Esdaile of Vancouver, British Columbia, was provocative as usual with his presentation, entitled "Patient Registries: Are they worth it?"
- Dr. Proton Rahman from St. Johns, Newfoundland, discussed potential advantages and limitations of incorporating recent genetic discoveries in a lupus clinic.
- Dr. Mandana Nikpour of Melbourne, Australia, discussed risk factors for atherosclerosis in SLE, a topic of her PhD thesis.
- Dr. Christian Pineau from Montreal, Quebec, presented "The Wolf Who Bit My Heart: Non-Atherosclerotic Cardiac Involvement in SLE."
- Dr. Zahi Touma of Toronto, Ontario, presented on "Responder Indices in SLE".



Front (left to right): Dr. Bevra Hahn, of Los Angeles; keynote speaker, Mr. Al (Sonny) Gladman; Dr. Dafna Gladman. Back (left to right): Dr. Jorge Sanchez Guerrero, incoming director, Rheumatology Division, University Health Network/Mount Sinai Hospital; Dr. Simon Carette, current Division Director UHN/MSH; Mrs. Judi Urowitz; and the man of the hour, Dr. Murray Urowitz.

In addition to the podium lectures, nearly 20 posters were presented by current and previous fellows attending the Lupus Clinic, on topics ranging from a combination of periodic peritonitis (FMF) and lupus, to renal disease, to patients with serologically active, clinically quiescent disease. Dr. Bevra Hahn of Los Angeles, California, was the keynote speaker on the topic of Treatment of SLE in 2011.

The day concluded with a gala dinner attended by more than 200 people, and at which it was announced that \$300,000 had been raised towards the total goal of \$600,000 for the Murray Urowitz Lupus Fellowships.

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