

## HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



### The CSRG Coordinating Team in Montreal

\*\*\*\*\*

From left to right:

#### Back row:

Dr. Murray Baron, Gail King, Jessica Bernstein & Marwen Naim

#### Front row:

Suzanne S. Taillefer, Kalina Borissova, Maura Buchignani & Beatrice Garfinkel



### Members of the CSRG Coordinating Team:

**Dr. Murray Baron,**  
Director

**Suzanne S. Taillefer,** National  
Study Coordinator

**Marwen Naim,** National Training  
Coordinator

**Gail King,** Administrative  
Assistant

**Maura Buchignani,** Research Nurse  
**Kalina Borissova,** Assistant  
Coordinator

**Beatrice Garfinkel,** Research Assistant  
**Jessica Bernstein,** Research Assistant

3755 Côte-Ste-  
Catherine Road,  
Room A216  
Montreal, QC  
H3T 1E2  
(514) 340-8231



## SOME OF 2007's ACHIEVEMENTS... WE HAVE A LOT TO BE PROUD OF...!

### Congratulations Dr. Hudson!



Dr. Marie Hudson is the first member of the CSRG to receive a CIHR grant to use the registry data and study one selected aspect of Scleroderma...

Dr. Hudson's research project entitled *Development and Validation of a Patient-Assessed Disease Activity Index in Systemic Sclerosis (SSc)* is a 3-year project aimed at developing the first patient-assessed disease activity index in SSc. It has been shown that patient reported disease activity scales perform well in other rheumatic diseases. They measure health status from the patient's perspective and provide valuable information to add to traditional biomedical assessments, such as physician assessments and clinical information. The Index will be provided to all patients in the CSRG Registry for the baseline and one-year visit, allowing us to measure reliability, validity and ease of use. This tool will permit us to identify important and potentially reversible aspects of SSc, to establish eligibility and measure outcome in clinical trials, making it a useful tool in epidemiological research.



### The first CSRG annual scientific meeting!

On September 29, 2007, the CSRG successfully held its first annual scientific meeting in Calgary. The meeting included renowned and knowledgeable speakers who shared their different areas of expertise on scleroderma, an interesting question and answer session with Scleroderma Society of Canada, and a plenary session consisting of ongoing projects by our researchers. We look forward to next year's meeting in Ottawa!

### CIHR Training grant

The CIHR Training grant was obtained in May 2007, and will continue for another 5 years. With this \$300,000 annual grant, we are able to fund summer students and trainees to work with mentors in different aspects of scleroderma, establish interactions among trainees by setting up weekly web conferencing sessions, publishing a regular newsletter, setting-up a new bilingual website, and plan an annual Canadian Scleroderma Research Group meeting. In addition, we are able to share our findings with the community by establishing knowledge translation activities.

### CIHR Team grant

The CIHR Team grant was obtained in June 2007, and will continue for another 4 years. With this \$180,000 annual grant, we are able to continue to recruit and assess patients from all over the country with Scleroderma once a year. As of right now, 735 patients have been seen and assessed at least once, 363, at least twice, 256, at least 3 times and 30 have been seen for their fourth visit. Thank you to all patients and to all the recruiting rheumatologists who take the time to contribute to the first and ONLY Canadian Scleroderma registry!

### 2007 Posters....

The Group presented 4 posters at the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Rheumatology Association (CRA) in Lake Louise, 3 at the European (EULAR) conference in Barcelona, Spain, and 4 at the American College of Rheumatology (ACR) Scientific Meeting in Boston.

### Publications....

In 2007, the Group had 5 papers accepted for publication, another 2 were submitted and 2 papers have been published!