

May 15, 2020

Hi Everyone,

Continuing our theme of **“Heroes of the Pandemic”** two obvious choices are **Mylene Dandavino** and **Tanya DiGenova**.

While Mylene recently received a DA in recognition of her most well-deserved promotion to Associate Professor her work on personnel resource planning and deployment in response to the pandemic has been superlative. When the initial crunch of the pandemic contingency planning hit, Mylene was up at her cottage with her family. That did not prevent her from immediately plugging into the laptop and swinging into high gear with a small group. As the Peds In-Patient Wards lead, Mylene was well placed to put rigor into deployment to ensure adequate staffing and redundancy throughout our matrix of care responsibilities taking into account the vagaries of infection control necessitated by COVID-19. She also oversaw not one, but two pivots of care, that saw our Department provide care well outside its usual scope in support of our adult medicine colleagues at the RVH and at local desperate (and that word is an understatement) CHSLDs, where the enemy did indeed ‘get inside the wire’ to tremendous detrimental effect.



Tanya’s effort during the pandemic is another example of superlative work. A key aspect in planning for the effects of the pandemic was adapting the capacity of the spaces and care patterns of the MCH so that if there was a hospital/ICU admission surge a la Italia or Espagna or the Big Apple, patients would be able to be cared for at the appropriate level of intervention. Tanya, working with colleagues in other hospital Departments, adapted spaces into ‘cold’ and ‘hot’ zones to minimize the possibility of nosocomial spread and created ‘wards’ and ventilator spaces where none existed before. A pediatric intensivist with an MBA, Tanya brought her formidable systems analysis twin training to bear, by breaking down problems and barriers into surmountable solutions. As if this wasn’t enough, Tanya is involved in what will hopefully be part of

the end game of the pandemic, which is the intelligent ramping up of our activities to a new normal that hopefully includes innovative practices that will now find a fertile field for rapid adaptation.

Reflecting on Mylene’s and Tanya’s efforts I see a wonderful teachable example of crisis management that merit case study and publication so that we do not reinvent the wheel when the next pandemic hits.

Have a happy long weekend!

Michael

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