

June 12, 2020

Hi Everyone,

Our final Departmental Acknowledgement for a departing Divisional Director goes to **Geoff Dougherty**. Geoff steps down as Director of the Division of General Pediatrics on September 1st before the DA returns from its summer hiatus.



Geoff is a native of Montreal. With an honours undergraduate degree in anthropology, he followed that up with degrees at McGill in both medicine and epidemiology. He managed to wedge in some time at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, where he starred on the university hockey team (all expat North Americans I imagine). There, he learned a seemingly endless array of words unique to the Queen's English that have challenged my vocabulary over the years (my personal favourite is 'rustication'). I had the pleasure of being his Junior resident on Pink service (6C1 at the old MCH) and it was two months of learning what was then the rudiments of evidence-based medicine mixed with a lot of what was to me then high-brow intellectual discussions.

When Geoff was recruited as Faculty and staff, he was a pioneer amongst academic general pediatricians. He forged a research effort in which he hit the full cycle of FRQ-S salary support awards providing the rigor of data to underlie treatment decisions in common problems in pediatrics. He was part of the CDE group that included such giants as Barry Pless, Mike Kramer and Ron Barr. His work made an enduring impact on practice. He was among the first to venture into what we now call complex care.

Geoff is the founding (2002) Director of the Department's largest Division of General Pediatrics. It is actually hard to believe that no such Division existed before the 21st century. This Division incorporates a myriad of programs and activities that woven together comprise one of the transversal cores of the Department to which the branches of subspecialty services are attached and interact with. These programs include; in-patient medical wards, the Medical Day Hospital, Complex Care Services, Social Pediatrics, Developmental & Behavioural Pediatrics, Palliative Care, Child Protection, the Northern & Native Health, Multiculturalism, 'Normal' Newborn nurse, Asthma and the Pediatric Consultation Clinic. Members of our Adolescent Medicine Division and our Neonatal f/u team are also included in this group as per their PEM assignment. In addition to this gamut of services provided, the Division hosts our largest post-graduate training programs as well as several academically oriented fellowship programs. Members of the Division are among the most heavily involved medical educators, with Decanal appointments and Centre of Medical Education roles to their credit. If that wasn't enough, the Division has a research profile largely focused on health service delivery issues. With 40 PEM holders, the Division's adroit administrative and personnel management (managing so many PEMs is like being a GM for a sports team tight against the salary cap) over the years and its staffing by Geoff has been well evident and should not be taken for granted.

The proximity of the offices of the Division Director of General Pediatrics and the Chair/Chief is not by accident. A close working relationship and open and frank dialogue is critical. Geoff does not hesitate to speak to truth, always doing so in a calm and understated way. He is rapier smart with humor that is dry like a martini replete with vermouth. But what has impressed me, is how he has put the wellness and quality of the activities of his Division and its members first and foremost. He puts a lot of time into mentoring and nurturing the younger members of the Division to ensure a successful launch of their academic careers. This is a careful nurturing of a seeded garden that will bear much fruit in the coming years long after we are both gone from the academic scene.

If these were normal times Geoff would be giving the Department's 50th Annual Goldbloom Lecture at Grand Rounds next week. We will just have to wait to September for an erudite perambulation.

Please join me in thanking Geoff for his dedication and leadership over almost two decades.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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