



The Department of Medicine logo was introduced in 2006 under the leadership of Dr. David Eidelman, Chair of the Department at the time. It was chosen by the Department leadership to underscore the importance of the University Department of Medicine which brings together three hospital departments, and to help reinforce the sense of belonging of the Department's members. The Department's emblem represents its three core missions: clinical care, research and teaching.

### **Curare**

Patient care is the primary mission of any clinical department, and is the basis for all our research and teaching activities. To represent this aspect of the Department, we chose the caduceus of Asclepius, a short staff with a snake wrapped around it. Originally, in Greek mythology, this symbol was an attribute of the god Apollo who offered it to Asclepius, his son and the god of medicine. It is interesting to note that snake has been part of symbols of the medical profession for 5,000 years, as it is associated with regeneration because of its capacity to shed its skin. The caduceus of Asclepius has been known as a symbol of medicine since at least 1200 BCE, at least in the western world, and its use has been widespread since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Scire**

Research is also an essential aspect of the Department's activities, particularly a department such as ours which has such a rich tradition of research excellence. We had some difficulty finding a symbol for research because of the diversity of this activity in the Department. How does one find a representation that encompasses the broad range of research programs underway in the Department? After long reflection, we decided on the double helix of DNA which, given the centrality of the genetic code in biology and medicine, is the ideal emblem to represent all of our research activities: basic, clinical and population based.

### **Docere**

Finally, as a university clinical department, the diffusion of our knowledge and the training of the next generation are central responsibilities. The classical symbol for teaching and knowledge is the book. We therefore chose a book both as a symbol of teaching, and also as the background for the other icons, symbolizing at once the importance of the links to the two other pillars of the Department.

To complete the logo, a motto in Latin summarizes the three symbols "scire, curare, docere", in other words "research, healing, teaching".

*To obtain a copy of our logo, please address your request to [josee.p.cloutier@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:josee.p.cloutier@muhc.mcgill.ca).*