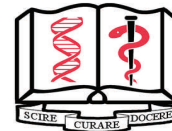


VITAL SIGNS



THE NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

Volume 4. Number 2

June 2009

FIVE YEARS LATER

*Dr. David Eidelman
Chair, Department of
Medicine*



As my first term as Chair of the Department of Medicine is up at the end of June 2009, this seems a good time to share some of my reflections about the department with you. Firstly, I must thank everyone in the Department, the members of the Executive, all of the Division Directors as well as the extraordinary administrative team with which I work daily. Any success that I have had has been entirely due to your efforts, for which I am very grateful. Five years later, I still consider myself extremely fortunate to hold the position of Chair of this excellent Department, a position which had always been my dream job.

While it may be the job of my dreams, the management of such a department is not always easy. Looking back, our greatest challenge was “complementarity”, a struggle that held the attention of the University and the MUHC for many months (and which could reappear at any time). Happily, after a very tumultuous period of

uncertainty, our programs came out relatively intact. More importantly, we learned that if we wished to avoid a repeat of this experience, we would have to change our ways of doing things. Of course, there were other challenges such as the RUIS, the PREM, the hiring freeze in tenure track and the MUHC redevelopment project that has seemed endless. Nevertheless, we can be proud of having successfully confronted these problems (most of the time) and that progress in the department has continued unabated despite them.

Fortunately, in this job successes are always more common than challenges. Indeed, when it comes to opportunities, I consider myself extremely lucky. I took my position at exactly the time when the MUHC redevelopment project began to become realistic for the first time in more than a decade. As a consequence, I was able to live the academic adventure of a lifetime working on the CFI grant that got us \$100 million from the federal government. Moreover, with respect to MUHC redevelopment, we have finally started to see the light at the end of a very long tunnel. I also had the luck to be named Chair just at the right time to help promote the concept of the Department as a McGill-wide unified entity rather than a collection of hospital departments. In this regard, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Ernesto Schiffrin and Todd McConnell without whom no progress in this area would have been possible.

The end of a mandate is also the time to reflect on the future. I would like to mention four themes that I believe will be crucial in the next 5 years. 1) We need to really start “thinking McGill”. Instead of our traditional approach of emphasizing hospital affiliation, we need to deal with our “internal complementarity” and work together to ensure excellence in research, education and clinical practice. 2) The core internal medicine

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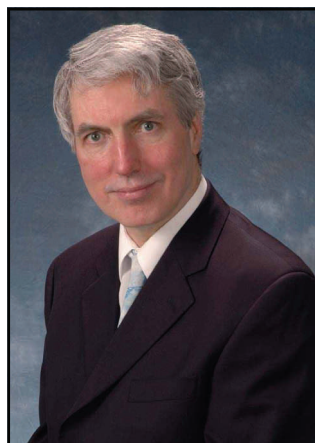
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training program is essential to the future of the Department of Medicine. Our training program is our best chance to recruit excellent future clinicians and clinician-researchers. This program must be a priority in all of our planning. 3) We need to reexamine our research programs to ensure that we can adapt to the rapid growth of scientific knowledge, while aligning our research efforts with the priorities of funding agencies. Most importantly, we need to promote multidisciplinary research teams capable of bridging the clinical world and the world of bench research. 4) The Department and the Faculty need to reinforce their international impact by contributing to care delivery and medical education in the developing world. More and more of our sister institutions are becoming active in this area, which was once a priority for McGill. This aspect of international medicine is both an opportunity and the fulfillment of an obligation. It is time that we got back into this.

Despite the many challenges we face, I am extremely optimistic and enthusiastic about the future of our Department. With the coming of the new MUHC, the extraordinary progress of the JGH, and the recent designation of St. Mary's as a CHA-U, the Department of Medicine finds itself in a time of unprecedented opportunities. Let's make the most of them.

WELCOME

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Michael Bonnycastle** as the new Physician-in-Chief for the Department of Medicine at St. Mary's Hospital. Dr. Bonnycastle mixes broad interests in internal medicine with a particular passion for geriatrics. He graduated from McGill and completed his internal medicine training at the Montreal General Hospital followed by post-graduate training in geriatrics in England. Dr. Bonnycastle comes highly qualified to his new position, having devoted much of his career to student and resident education. Previously he has served as Associate Director of the Division of Gerontology and as CTU director at the MGH. He is currently the Chair of the Research Ethics Committee at St. Mary's and an active member of the Geriatric Residency Training Committee and the Geriatric Medical Education Sub-Committee. We are delighted by this appointment and we wish Dr. Bonnycastle success in his new role.



Dr. Bonnycastle succeeds **Dr. Todd McConnell** who served St. Mary's as Chief of Medicine for thirteen years. Dr. McConnell will continue his long affiliation with the hospital and McGill by working on special projects in teaching and ambulatory care. Recognized now as a CHA-U, the Ministry has challenged the St. Mary's community to expand its role in teaching. Reputedly a great, small place for learning, the hospital will need to find new resources to accommodate the much-welcomed influx of students and residents. We take this opportunity

to thank Dr. McConnell for his contributions as Physician-in-Chief and we wish him well in his new challenges.



CONGRATULATIONS

To the Faculty members for their achievements:

PROMOTIONS & AWARDING OF TENURE

ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS (WITH TENURE)

Dr. Christina Haston is an authority in the application of murine genetic models to the study of lung disease. She has particular interests in cystic fibrosis and idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis.

Dr. Andrew Mouland studies the molecular biology of HIV-1 and other retroviruses, focusing on the proteins involved in intracellular trafficking of HIV-1 transcripts.

Dr. Keith Murai is an internationally recognized expert in the field of neuroscience. Winner of several prestigious prizes, he is best known for his

work in the field of neuron-glia interactions and synapse formation.

Dr. Salman Qureshi uses experimental models for the genetic analysis of mammalian host defenses to determine the molecular mechanisms and impact of infectious diseases on human health.

AWARDED TENURE

Dr. Jean-Pierre Routy, Associate Professor, is an internationally recognized translational researcher who focuses on the immunological response to HIV with the goal of developing novel vaccine strategies against HIV and hematological malignancies.

BURROUGHS WELLCOME FUND

Dr. Maya Saleh's work focuses on immune mechanisms. Her successful application was entitled "*Regulation and molecular mechanisms of NLR-mediated innate immunity*".

CFI-LOF AWARDS

Dr. Maia Kokoeva, Endocrinology, for *Investigation of the role of adult neurogenesis in energy balance regulation*.

Dr. Brent Richards, Endocrinology, for *Study of the genetic epidemiology of aging-related disease*.

JAMES MCGILL AWARD

Dr. Nancy Mayo (renewal) is internationally recognized for her work in health services and outcomes research as applied to the study of populations with chronic disease.

WILLIAM DAWSON SCHOLAR

Dr. William Foulkes (renewal) is the Director of the Program in Cancer Genetics and is internationally recognized for his work on the genetic determinants of breast cancer.

SALARY AWARDS

CIHR Clinician Scientist
Phase II – Renewal

- **Dr. Dao Nguyen**

CIHR New Investigator

- **Dr. Brent Richards**

FRSQ Chercheurs Nationaux

- **Dr. Chantal Autexier**
- **Dr. Susan Kahn**
- **Dr. Kostas Pantopoulos**
- **Dr. Louise Pilote**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier – Senior

- **Dr. Christina Haston**
- **Dr. Elham Rahme**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier – Junior 2

- **Dr. Nandini Dendukuri**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier – Junior 1

- **Dr. Monzur Murshed**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier
Clinicien – Senior

- **Dr. Marina Klein**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier
Clinicien – Junior 2

- **Dr. Christina Greenaway**

FRSQ Chercheur Boursier
Clinicien – Junior 1

- **Dr. Stella Daskalopoulou**
- **Dr. Brent Richards**

DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARDS

MUHC

Congratulations to this year's recipients who were recognized at the MUHC Departmental Annual Dinner on Thursday, June 4, 2009.

Physician-in-Chief Award
For highly distinguished service to the MUHC Department

- **Dr. Joseph Shuster**
- **Dr. Gordon Crelinsten**

Department of Medicine Award for Innovation in Clinical Care or Quality

- **Dr. Murray Vasilevsky**

Department of Medicine Award
For Research by a Core Internal Medicine Resident

- **Dr. Michelle Sholzberg**

Department of Medicine Award
For Research by a Subspecialty Resident

- **Dr. François Mercier**

Department of Medicine Staff Research Award

- **Dr. Jean-Pierre Routy**

The Louis G. Johnson Award
For excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident – selected by RVH Residents

- **Dr. Michelle Sholzberg**

The Lorne E. Cassidy Teaching Award
For Excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident – selected by MGH Residents

- **Dr. Shadi Akhtari**

The Douglas G. Kinnear Award
Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC

- **Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman**

The W.H. Philip Hill Award
Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC

- **Dr. Patrick Doran**

The Harold Frank Prize
For Excellence in a Clinical Case Presentation
Winner of the Clinical Vignettes evening on April 7, 2009

- **Dr. Nazila Bettache**

JGH

The JGH Department of Medicine Staff and Residents Year-End Party took place on June 4, 2009. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Dave Feder Award

Presented to the resident who practices medicine with most compassion and sensitivity, displays kindness, respect and camaraderie towards colleagues and educators and carries a positive outlook enabling him/her to enjoy a meaningful balanced life beyond his/her profession.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Beauchamp**
- **Dr. Sultan Al-Touri**

Sheldon Zemelman Memorial Award
For academic excellence and outstanding contribution to patient care.

- **Dr. Natalie Dayan**

Dr. Allen Spanier Internal Medicine Award

To the resident who exhibits an enduring passion for the practice of medicine through the enjoyment of solving the challenges of patient care and sharing the solutions with others, while maintaining a high level of professionalism, which best embodies the unique legacy of Dr. Allen Spanier.

- **Dr. Blair Carl Schwartz**

Teacher of the Year voted by the residents

- **Dr. Mark Lipman**

Research Award

- **Dr. Blair Carl Schwartz**

Dr. Ezra Lozinski Prize

- **Dr. Blair Carl Schwartz**

APPOINTMENTS & NEW CHALLENGES

Congratulations to our members on the following appointments and new challenges:



We are very proud to report that, on recommendation of the *Comité directeur de la Table régionale des chefs de département de médecine spécialisée de l'Île de Montréal*, the Agence SSS has nominated **Dr. Ernesto Schiffrin** as President of *la Table régionale des chefs* for a period of 3 years.



Dr. James Martin, Professor in the Department of Medicine and former Scientific Director of the [Meakins-Christie Laboratories](#) (MCL), has been appointed to the newly created part-time position of Executive Vice-Chair, Faculty Affairs in the Department of Medicine, as of April 1, 2009. With a prolific scientific career, an outstanding 15-years as head of the MCL and demonstrated dedication to the promotion of interdisciplinary research, Dr. Martin will provide invaluable assistance to the Department, McGill University and the MUHC-RI by assuming leadership for key dossiers, most notably analysis of departmental research performance, divisional reviews and academic renewal.



Dr. José Morais, Associate Professor in the Division of Geriatric Medicine and Physician at the MUHC and JGH, has been appointed as Director of [Geriatric Medicine, McGill University](#), as of April 15, 2009. Dr. Morais is a Senior clinician-scientist of the FRSQ and Coordinator of the Axis of Nutrition and Successful Aging of the Network for Aging Research - FRSQ. Dr. Morais' prolific scientific career has focused on protein and

energy metabolism in healthy and frail elderly, the relation of fat free mass to functional capacity in the elderly and assessment methods for amino acid requirements with age. Under his leadership, this crucially important division will benefit from his insights and achievements in the field of geriatric medicine and from his dedication and commitment to excellence in clinical training.

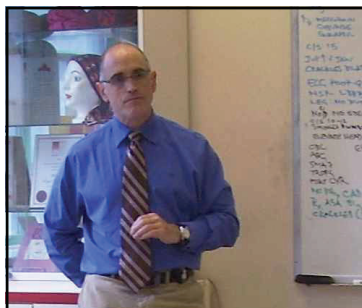
Dr. Morais succeeds **Dr. Howard Bergman**, recently appointed as Vice-President and Scientific Director of the FRSQ. Professor in the Departments of Medicine, Family Medicine and Oncology, Dr. Bergman is the first holder of the Joseph Kaufmann Chair in Geriatric Medicine. Amongst numerous leadership roles, he heads the Quebec Network for Research on Aging of the FRSQ, chairs the CIHR Institute of Aging Advisory Board, co-directs [Solidage](#), the McGill-UofM Research Group on Frailty and Aging and chairs a task force whose mandate is to prepare the Quebec Alzheimer Plan. We would like to take this opportunity, once again, to recognize the exemplary leadership of Dr. Bergman as former Director of Geriatric Medicine and wish him well in his new role at the FRSQ.



Dr. Josée Parent, Assistant Professor in the Gastroenterology Division, has been elected Vice-President of the [FMSQ](#) for a two-year term. This is her third term on the FMSQ Board of Directors. Dr. Parent will serve on over fifteen committees, including those related to the conditions of practice of medical specialists, remuneration, technical and coordinating committees for the COGEMS, the MSSS-FMSQ joint committee for the review of the operating blocks and the internal negotiating committee with the MSSS.



Photo by FMSQ



HONOURS

On June 11th, 2009, **Dr. Jeffrey Wiseman**, Assistant Professor in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Director of Undergraduate Teaching, will be presented with the **Faculty Honour for Educational Excellence Award** in recognition of his outstanding contributions to teaching in the Faculty of Medicine.

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RECRUITMENTS



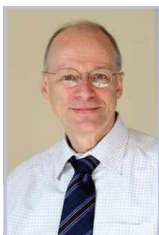
We are pleased to announce the recruitment of **Dr. Nitika Pai** to the Division of Clinical Epidemiology at the MUHC and as an Assistant Professor in our Department. Dr. Pai holds two visiting appointments at hospitals in India. She completed her medical training MD in India, followed by a Masters of Public Health and a PhD in Epidemiology at the University of California, Berkeley. Following her arrival as a postdoctoral fellow at McGill, she was awarded a fellowship from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research Canadian HIV Trials Network (CIHR CTN), which allowed her to pursue research in point-of-care diagnostics and ART response in HIV/AIDS in vulnerable populations. Dr. Pai plans to continue pursuing these research interests at McGill, with a view to combining several sub-disciplines, namely clinical epidemiology, infectious diseases, global health and women's health, as well as being involved in teaching activities.

It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of **Dr. Tommy Nilsson** as Director of Proteomics and Systems Medicine of the MUHC-RI and as Full Professor in the McGill University Department of Medicine, Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Dr. Nilsson received his PhD in Cell Biology from the University of Uppsala in 1990 which he, in part, completed at the Scripps Research Foundation in La Jolla, California. He then pursued his postdoctoral training at the Imperial Cancer Research Foundation in London, UK before taking on the role of Group Leader in Cell Biology and Biophysics at the EMBL in Heidelberg. Since 2004, Dr. Nilsson has held the rank of Full Professor for Biomedicine at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, where he also served as Scientific Manager of the Centre of Cellular Imaging and the Center of Proteomics. Dr. Nilsson is an outstanding investigator in the field of cell biology who has made a number of seminal discoveries, contributing to the advancement of our understanding in how intracellular proteins are sorted and maintained in the secretory pathway. This work has been reported in more than 40 publications in peer-reviewed journals, with more than 6000 citations so far.



We are pleased to welcome **Dr. Dao Nguyen** who takes up a position as an Assistant Professor in the Respiratory Division. Dr. Nguyen graduated from McGill medical school in 1997, completed internal medicine residency in New England Medical Center (Tufts), then Respirology training here at McGill. Following this, she completed a Masters in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill, examining the molecular epidemiology of a unique mono-PZA resistant strain of tuberculosis here in Quebec as well as the molecular epidemiology of TB among the Inuit in Northern Quebec. She then completed a 4-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Washington, in Seattle, examining pseudomonas aeruginosa biofilms in patients with cystic fibrosis. She held a CIHR Clinician Scientist Phase I award for this postdoctoral fellowship, which was just successfully renewed for Phase II, starting July 2009. She also holds a prestigious Burroughs Wellcome career award. At McGill she will continue to work in understanding chronic pseudomonas infections in cystic fibrosis.

(Continued from page 5 / HONOURS)



Dr. Donald Boudreau, Associate Professor and Director of the Office of Curriculum Development, Undergraduate Medical Program, has been selected as an **Arnold P. Gold Foundation Associate Professor of Medicine**. The purpose of this Professorship Program is to promote the importance of humanistic medicine and the values of professionalism in medical education. Dr. Boudreau's demonstrated commitment to the ideals of humanism is evidenced by his innovative work on the McGill's newly developed physicianship curriculum and he is well deserving of this prestigious honour.

**McGill Department of Medicine
Royal Victoria Hospital**

687 Pine Avenue West, Room A3.09
Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3A 1A1
Tel.: (514) 843-1578
Fax: (514) 843- 8182

<http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/deptmedicine/>

Dr. David Eidelman

Chair, Department of Medicine, McGill University
MUHC Physician-in-Chief

Dr. Linda Snell

Vice-Chair, Education, Department of Medicine, McGill University

Dr. James Martin

Executive Vice-Chair, Faculty Affairs, Department of Medicine,
McGill University

Teresa Alper, Manager, Administration

Debbie Carr, Budget Officer

Domenica Cami, Senior Administrative Secretary

Marie Harkin Talbot, Administrative Coordinator

Josée Cloutier, Senior Administrative Coordinator

Emily Di Lauro, Medical Secretary / Senior Clerk

SMBD-Jewish General Hospital

3755 Cote St. Catherine Road
Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3T 1E2
Tel.: (514) 340-7538
Fax: (514) 340-7539

Dr. Ernesto Schiffrin

Vice-Chair, Research, Department of Medicine, McGill University
JGH Physician-in-Chief

Ranjan Sudra

Administrative Assistant

St. Mary's Hospital Centre

3830 Lacombe Avenue
Montreal, P.Q., Canada H3T 1M5
Tel.: (514) 734-2660
Fax: (514) 734-2641

Dr. Michael Bonnycastle

St. Mary's Physician-in-Chief

Caroline Mackereth

Administrative Assistant

Please address questions or comments regarding the newsletter
to josee.p.cloutier@muhc.mcgill.ca.