Department of Pediatrics
Departmental Acknowledgements
September 2016 – June 2017

January 12, 2018 – Dr. Marc Beltempo ................................................................. 2
January 19, 2018 – Dr. Robert Sternszus ............................................................. 3
January 26, 2018 – Dr. Myriam Srour ................................................................. 4

February 2, 2018 – Dr. Elisa Ruano Cea ............................................................... 5
February 9, 2018 – Pediatrics Emergency Room Core Staff .................................... 6
February 16, 2018 – Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt ....................................................... 8
February 23, 2018 – Dr. Elene Khalil .................................................................. 9

March 2, 2018 – Dr. Sharon Abish ...................................................................... 10
March 9, 2018 – Aude Exertier and Patricia Gauthier ............................................. 11
March 16, 2018 – Dr. Kolja Eppert ..................................................................... 12
March 23, 2018 – Drs. Aris Hadkinicolao and Matthew Maygar, Chief Residents 13
March 29, 2018 – Dr. Meranda Nahkla ................................................................. 14

April 6, 2018 – Dr. Ilana Bank .............................................................................. 15
April 13, 2018 – Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan ........................................................... 16
April 20, 2018 – Dr. Sasha Dubrovsky ............................................................... 17
April 27, 2018 – Dr. Mariam Oskoui ................................................................. 18

May 4, 2018 – Dr. Pramod Puligandla ................................................................. 19
May 11, 2018 – Dr. David Zielinski ................................................................. 20
May 18, 2018 – Dr. Lianne Kopel .................................................................. 21
May 25, 2018 – Drs. Julia von Oettingen, Catherine Goudie, and Meranda Nahkla 25

June 1, 2018 – Dr. Paul Goodyer .................................................................. 26
June 8, 2018 – Team Effort ........................................................................... 27
June 15, 2018 – Dr. Robert Brouillette ............................................................... 29
June 22, 2018 – Graduating Residents ................................................................. 30
January 12, 2018

Hi Everyone.

Its baaaaaaackkkkkk......

I took a hiatus from the weekly Departmental Acknowledgements in the Fall (did you notice?). I needed to refresh my batteries and re-assess both format and personal time commitment (they were taking 1-2 hours per week x 40 weeks per year).

I have concluded that they are valuable and worthwhile as a communication effort, but need to be done in a briefer tight format. So going forward no quotes, no set-up, no extended personal narrative and a one paragraph limit. I will however reserve the prerogative of a longer DA for an important issue or value I wish to highlight to our membership and stakeholders.

This week's DA goes to Marc Beltempo. I attended an excellent RI Seminar he gave this past Monday on the richness of the data in the Canadian Neonatal Network. Marc presented his work done during his fellowship training and highlighted trends in mortality and morbidity amongst premature births and their evident links to practice in the NICU. It was an example of the value of Big Data and rigorous analysis undertaken by a well-trained clinician investigator who innately understands the pragmatic clinical challenges faced in caring for these vulnerable infants. It was an example of what we do so well in academic medicine. I am glad to say that Marc has landed at the MCH and McGill as a clinician investigator in our Division of Neonatology. I foresee a bright academic future for him.

Have a great weekend.

Michael

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January 19, 2018

Hi Everyone

There are few DA's in the hopper due to the Fall hiatus.

This one has been waiting awhile, but the wait does not diminish its well-deserved merit. Robert Sternszus was awarded this year's Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award last Spring from our General Pediatrics residents. Rob is not only a superb teacher, he also is a superb educational administrator, ably serving in the challenging position of Program Director, where he is assisted to the n'th degree by Olivia Tse. A hospital-based general pediatrician, Rob is one of our many educational superstars who enables me to boast repeatedly of our "culture of educational excellence". Teaching the next generation of health professionals is one of the core businesses of an academic centre and we can be proud of what we do because of folks like Rob.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

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Hi Everyone

Continuing the theme from last week that highlighted a teaching Award, I would like to acknowledge Myriam Srour for her receipt of the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery’s 2017 Teaching Award. An MD-PhD member of our Division of Pediatric Neurology, Myriam has a clinician-investigator profile and holds a Chercheur-Boursier Clinicien Jr1 Salary Award as well as a CIHR-HSC New Investigator Operating Grant. Somehow while establishing her lab hunting for genes responsible for cortical malformations, Myriam found the time and passion to be the PGME Program Director for pediatric neurology for several years. A marvellous and engaging teacher, she adroitly mentors and models the disparate roles of the academic triple threat as teacher, researcher and clinician. Though relatively new to the Faculty, her excellence has been quickly recognized by the Neurology trainees (both adult and child) who thought it fitting to bestow this Award on her.

Congratulations Myriam!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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February 2, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Elisa Ruano-Cea for being awarded the Emerging Scholar in Medical Education Award from the Centre for Medical Education.

A member of our Division of General Pediatrics, where-in she works primarily as a hospitalist, Elisa has undertaken several major educational mandates early in her academic career. This builds logically on her Fellowship training which included a Masters in health Professions Education from the University of Illinois at Chicago. Elisa is the Department's lead on the Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) implementation in our PGME program as mandated by the Royal College. She has also diligently been our Grand Rounds Coordinator, the Department's major regular ongoing CME effort, for now close to two academic years. In that role she has increased the diversity and breadth of the Grand Rounds experience.

The Emerging Scholar Award, which is granted competitively, will enable Elisa to participate more readily in the educational scholarship activities of the Faculty's Centre for Medical Education. This will no doubt enhance her own educational scholarship and we can look forward to much in the way of both product and excellence from Elisa in the near future.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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February 9, 2018

Hi Everyone

Harley insisted on writing this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement for the **Peds ER Core Staff**. It is timed with the innovative Open House Grand Rounds of the ER which occurred earlier this week.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

“You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been” - -- Maya Angelou

The trajectory of Pediatric Emergency medicine at McGill and the Montreal Children’s Hospital parallels that of the development of the specialty in Canada.

Montreal Children’s Hospital records make mention of a “Night Clinic” staffed by residents as far back as 1955, and hospital meeting minutes refer to an “Emergency Clinic” with volumes of 15,000 patient per year in the ensuing years. The staff and leadership were borrowed from the pediatrician (both community & hospital-based) and surgeon groups. This arrangement continued into the late 1970’s when Dr. Donald Clogg, a native Montrealer who had learned acute care skill in the McGill Pediatric Project in Kenya, returned to the Children’s to become the first Medical Emergency Director. Don left for Alberta in the early 80’s. Don incidentally became the first Chair of the CPS Section of Pediatric Emergency in 1986. Our Medical Emergency was staffed by pediatricians, notably under the directorship of DR. Anne-Marie MacLellan for a period of time until the arrival from Peterborough of former Winter Olympian David McGillivray in 1989.

This was about the time that the “unofficial” Pediatric Emergency Medicine fellowship-training program began at the Children’s. Despite only receiving Royal College Subspecialty status in 2000, the fellowship program at the MCH has graduated close to 100 fellows who are practicing and in leadership positions in almost every corner of the world.

David McGillivray laid the foundation for the “modern” Division of PEM at the MCH by developing with the growing team of full time PEM Physicians important unique competencies in care, education research and knowledge translation. David’s successor, François Belanger, cemented the future success of the group by negotiating with the provincial authorities to authorize 12 of what today would be called PEMs at the MCH for the nascent division in 1995. François also had the foresight to allow as a fellow’s project the deployment of an electronic clinic-administrative system (SIURGE) in the ER. This was a first for a dedicated pediatric emergency in Canada. Today SIURGE has accumulated data on over 1.6 million visits and is the backbone of any outcome query.

Despite the capacity to hire dedicated Pediatric Emergentologists, and the efforts of subsequent directors Drs Chalut and Eisman, staffing remained tenuous till the 2010’s. Fortunately the Pediatric Emergentologists enjoyed the cooperation and support of a dedicated group of hospital and community pediatrician and pediatric surgeons to deliver care to over 80,000 patient annually. In 2013, the medical and surgical ERs, which probably existed for the better of 60 years, were reunited and a single ER staffed by the over 20 core pediatric emergentologists was put into operation. This was a pivotal step in our preparation for our move to the Glen in 2015 and a remarkable 21st century physical space for our ER.

As we look forward to 2020, the challenge has shifted from who is staffing the “Night Clinic” to delivering on our comprehensive mission of providing and promoting pediatric emergency
services to those in need, fostering clinical innovation, delivering on our educational mandates and engaging in research. Laurel, Dominic, Laurie, Elene, Dubravka, Anne-Marie, Ilana G, Suzanne, Phil, Jessica, Eva, Sasha, Ilana B, Adam, Caroline, Raphael, Danny, Jennifer, Samir, Tammy, Audrey, Jade and Brett’s combined skill, wisdom and leadership are making this happen.

Harley

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February 16, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Bernard Rosenblatt and is also long overdue and is very much a personal shout out.

Bernie, as he is universally known, retired this past July. For me Bernie was many things; teacher, mentor, colleague, and most importantly, friend.

Professionally, there a few individuals I owe the lion share of credit for whatever I have accomplished and Bernie is one of these individuals.

More importantly, Bernie stands out for his steady contribution of 45 years to the MCH, beginning as a resident and continuing as an attending physician, Division Director and Head of our Neurophysiology Diagnostic Laboratory. In these roles, he can take responsibility for the robustness of clinical neurosciences at the MCH, including one of Canada's leading comprehensive epilepsy programs, as well as a cutting edge neurodiagnostic laboratory.

When it came to epilepsy, there was no more masterful a diagnostician and clinician than Bernie. He always kept up with the literature and insisted that all members of the Division of Pediatric Neurology do so as well. It was a rare Monday AM in the past few years when a member of the Division did not wake up to an InBox that included a paper culled from the epilepsy literature highlighting an advance in diagnostics or therapeutics.

Bernie was also renowned for his love of practical jokes, eclectic original (no Pop or Rock for him) music that frequently loudly played in the EEG reading room, and a frank willingness to call out Emperors when they were wearing no clothes.

Bernie will be missed (he already is). Please join me in wishing him a long retirement filled with health, joy and only good things.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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February 23, 2018

Hi Everyone
We can all take pride when one of our members gets a leadership position outside the Department. Elene Khalil gets this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement for her appointment as Director of Education for the MUHC.
Elene is an ER physician with a particular niche in overseeing our institutional response to Disaster Planning. As Director of Education, she will oversee the efforts of the MUHC in health professional education as an academic tertiary University affiliated centre. The MUHC needs to be sure that education is one of its core businesses and is woven into its clinical efforts. I am sure Elene will work hard to achieve this.
Please join me in congratulating Elene on her new appointment.
Have a great weekend everyone!
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March 2, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Sharon Abish.

A devoted hard-working 'no-fuss' clinician in our Division of Hematology-Oncology, Sharon stepped up at the last moment when an invited external speaker was unable to come to a recent Grand Rounds due to a personal emergency. Without hesitation, Sharon volunteered to give Rounds despite the short notice. Her willingness to do so is an example of the community-minded spirit that has always been a feature of Sharon's steadfast physicianship and professionalism at the MCH. It is one we can all aspire to model.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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March 9, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to two non-Departmental members, Aude Exertier and Patricia Gauthier, for their launch of a medical-legal partnership at the MCH. Aude is a legal counsel with Pro Bono Quebec, while Patricia is Director of Social Services at the MCH. Together they have formulated and launched Quebec’s first hospital based medical legal partnership.

This partnership recognizes that social factors that have legal implications, and more importantly legal means of possible redress, have a substantive impact on the health of children. These factors include immigration status, housing, income security and family matters.

The recognition of these factors, to be aided in the near future by a screening tool, should prompt the initial referral to a hospital-based pro bono non-means tested legal consultation. Subsequent legal intervention if necessary can then be carried out with the assistance of Pro Bono Quebec.

We should all be proud that the MCH is the first hospital in Quebec to offer this service. A ‘shout out’ to the MCH Foundation for providing the initial funding support to this important initiative and Pro Bono Quebec for contributing their expertise and organizational support.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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March 16, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Kolja Eppert for his recent success in obtaining a 5 year CIHR Project Grant.

Kolja is a PhD basic scientist in our Department affiliated with the Division of Hematology-Oncology. He holds a Tier 2 Canada Research Chair and focuses on stem cells in leukemia. His project grant indeed focuses on identifying novel therapeutics in stem cells in leukemia and should have long term treatment implications for this most common of subsets of pediatric tumors.

Please join me in congratulating Kolja on his granting success.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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March 23, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Aris Hadjinicolaou and Mathew Magyar, the Chief Residents who just completed their year of service.

Being Chief is often the first taste of administrative leadership for a young physician. It provides both an opportunity to be the interface between trainees and academic/hospital leadership, but it also comes with the demanding roles of scheduling, plugging gaps and ensuring trainee wellness. Both Aris and Mathew did great work in all of these roles.

Aris is off next year to do a three year residency in pediatric neurology at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, while Mathew heads to CHEO in Ottawa for sub-specialty training in infectious disease and possible microbiology eventually. Let’s wish both of these bright young stars all the best!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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March 29, 2018

Hi Everyone.

Getting an external PI operational grant is the ‘sweet spot’ for a clinician investigator. This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Meranda Nakhla who got a five year CIHR Grant in the last round of project funding competition.

A pediatric endocrinologist, Meranda’s research efforts focuses primarily on the challenge of effective transition of insulin-dependent diabetics from the pediatric to adult care milieu. This is a pragmatic challenge for which identifying the determinants of a successful transition will have enormous practice implications for one of pediatrics’ most common chronic disorders. Meranda already has a FRQ-S salary support award and hopefully this granting success will enable the continuation of this salary support.

Please join me in congratulating Meranda on this personal accomplishment.

Happy Easter and Chag Sameach.

Michael

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Hi Everyone.

Spring is the time in the academic year for promotions. Thus for this week and subsequent weeks our DA will feature a Faculty member who was promoted in the last round. We can be proud that there were 5 Faculty members promoted, a particularly large cohort for our Department.

First up is Ilana Bank who was promoted to Associate Professor. Ilana is a member of our Division of Emergency Medicine who has made significant contributions in Simulation Education. Indeed she heads up our Pediatric Simulation Centre on the MCH site. Ilana has also been recently selected to the Faculty's Honor Roll for Educational Excellence reflecting her skills and passion in the educational domain. In addition, Ilana has played a significant role with colleagues in the hospital's planning for potential disasters involving mass casualties.

Please join me in congratulating Ilana on her well-deserved promotion.

Michael

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Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Moshe Ben-Shoshan** on the occasion of his promotion to Associate Professor.

Moishe is a clinician-investigator who is a member of our Division of Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology. Moishe has made his mark in furthering our understanding of diverse food allergies, a common 'challenge' in child health (that's a pun folks). Moishe has secured substantial external funding and is a publishing machine despite also being an extra-ordinarily busy clinician. Comparisons to the Energizer-Bunny has been made in his case. He has also secured external salary support funding from the FRQ-S.

Please join me in congratulating Moishe on his promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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April 20, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Sasha Dubrovsky on the occasion of his promotion to Associate Professor.

Sasha is a member of our Division of Emergency Medicine. Sasha's promotion is largely derived from his substantial efforts, together with Nadine Korah and Samara Zavalkoff, inputting the issue of Patient Safety on our collective academic agenda. Together with his colleagues, Sasha can take the credit for the "Let's Talk" campaign, an innovative effort in knowledge translation and mobilization which has really moved the needle in our institutional culture and no doubt has contributed to improved clinical outcomes for the children that come under our care.

Please join me in congratulating Sasha on his promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Maryam Oskoui on the occasion of her promotion to Associate Professor.

Maryam is a member of our Division of Pediatric Neurology. Maryam is a clinician-investigator and neuro-epidemiologist who has had a remarkably successful launch to her career as an independent investigator. She has secured multiple external peer-reviewed operating grants and two external salary support awards from the FRQ-S. She is already an international leader in pediatric neuromotor disorders with substantial contributions to furthering our understanding of cerebral palsy, practice guidelines in Duchenne's Muscular Dystrophy and novel interventions that improved outcomes in spinal muscular atrophy.

Please join me in congratulating Maryam on her promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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May 4, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Pramod Puligandla on the occasion of his promotion to Professor.

Pramod, a general surgeon by trade, is a member of our Division of Critical Care Medicine. Pramod is an essential component of our Pediatric Critical Care team providing a specific and complimentary perspective and expertise to the care provided to critically ill infants, children and youth. Promotion to Full Professor at McGill largely hinges on recognition of an international stature as an expert in a particular area and for Pramod this has been his work in furthering, through a Registry, our understanding of congenital diaphragmatic hernia, a complex and both medically and surgically challenging congenital anomaly. Pramod's work in this area has no doubt contributed to improved survival and outcomes for these children.

Please join me in congratulating Pramod on his promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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May 11, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to David Zielinski on the occasion of his promotion to Associate Professor.

David is a member of our Division of Respiratory Medicine. A clinician-educator, David's promotion was largely derived from his superb contributions to our educational mission and his recognition as a superb teacher. In addition, David was recognized for his substantive contributions in clinical innovation, especially as applied to children with respiratory insufficiency secondary to profound neuromuscular disorders and his key role in the formulation of provincial home ventilation guidelines and supports. Finally, David presented a profile of an emerging leadership role in national and international professional organizations.

Please join me in congratulating David on his promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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May 18, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Lianne Kopel** for her recent victory at the Just For Kids (JFK) Dancing with the Stars event

JFK is a long running organization that raises funds annually through various events to purchase needed equipment for the MCH. Look around and you will see evidence of their generosity and support everywhere in the MCH.

Lianne is a relatively recent recruit to our Division of Respiratory Medicine who now joins a line of Departmental "winning dancers" (Preetha Krishnamoorthy and Nadine Korah come to mind).

Lianne is proud that her dad and her raised $14,180 for equipment for the MCH! The event overall raised over $200,000!!

Lianne was involved in the campaign last year, which raised money for NICU and respiratory-related equipment such as a video laryngoscope and cough assist devices. The JFK also started the sibling park, so the siblings of hospitalized NICU patients can get fun babysitting under the same roof as their hospitalized sibling, reducing stress for NICU families.

This year, Lianne wanted to "pay it forward" and the funds raised will go to purchase equipment for neurosurgery, craniofacial surgery, a cardiac, and continued support of the sibling park.

A word document describing the equipment JFK will purchase is attached as well as a link to Lianne's personal fundraising page if you fell so inclined. In addition I have been permitted to include a picture of Lianne in her dancing regalia with her dancing partners is below


Please join me in congratulating Lianne on her success and more importantly the kindness of her philanthropic efforts on behalf of the MCH.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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Echocardiography Machine & Lab support: $300,000
The top equipment priority for the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and the Research Institute (RI) is an echocardiography (ECHO) machine required to support the clinical research of Dr. Gabriel Altit, a new recruit from Stanford University who specializes in neonatology.

Among its many functions, ECHO acquires live images of the heart, allows technicians to define the anatomy from different angles, and measures the performance of the different portions of the heart and how this performance is affected by the baby’s condition(s). It is a painless technique that captures images without radiation. It is well tolerated and safe.

The new echocardiography machine that the NICU wishes to acquire will allow 3D assessment of cardiac structure, 3D assessment of function and deformation analysis of the heart. These are highly sophisticated indicators that give better appreciation of the 3D behavior of the heart but also interaction between the left and right side of the heart. These are especially important as they will give new insights in patients with cardiac anomalies or with complex neonatal conditions.

This new machine allows for advanced quantification of muscular contraction and relaxation, looking at different segments of the heart and how: a) they move in time and b) how they rotate in time. These techniques provide new insights about how the heart behaves and how it impacts the health of our small patients.

In the context of Dr. Altit’s research, this machine will allow him and his team to evaluate their patients in order to provide state-of-the-art care with ongoing cardiac monitoring. This machine, only dedicated to the advancement of research, will be available at all time for the neonatal unit but also to further understand their NICU graduates at a pediatric, adolescent and adult age.

Examples would be:
- Understanding the cardiac behavior in babies that had a lack of oxygen at birth and how it may impact their neurological outcome.
- Defining the progressive adaptation of babies with congenital cardiac defects after birth and in their pediatric/adult life.
- Studying targeted management strategies, in at risk patients, based on physiological cardiac data and monitor the cardiac response to these strategies for ongoing fine-tuning in the intent to improve outcomes.
- Appreciating the impact of prematurity on cardiac function and pulmonary vessels in the long term.
- Following and studying longitudinally and in an integrated manner with the outpatient clinics their cohort of patients to better understand cardiovascular differences that put them at risk for mid and long-term adverse conditions.

Finally, images acquired with this machine will augment teaching and academic opportunities for the students rotating within the NICU.

Equipment for Neurosurgery
The Division of Neurosurgery has two urgent needs that will help provide state-of-the-art operative approaches to children suffering from neurosurgical ailments.

A) Sterilizable Ultrasound Probe - Hockey Stick: $40,000
In many cranial or spinal surgeries, once the bone has been elevated to provide access to the central nervous system, an ultrasound examination under sterile conditions is helpful in planning the surgery and in determining the extent of resection later on during the intervention. For example, this allows the neurosurgery team to decide on the best time to evaluate more formally the completeness of the resection (with the intra-operative MRI) or in the case of spinal operations to determine when it is time to terminate the resection.

The “hockey stick probe” is an important ultrasound accessory that sterilizable and can be used without a cover. The resolution of the images provided by the probe is quite spectacular. It is small and light and its shape allows it to have better contact with the small joint structures and bony prominences.

It is estimated that the ultrasound probe would be used in 70 to 80 neurosurgery cases per year. General surgery may also occasionally borrow the device for certain procedures.

B) Flexible endoscope support: $20,000

More and more conditions are treated using neuro-endoscopy in pediatric neurosurgery. This includes hydrocephalus, intraventricular tumours, intraventricular cysts, and fenestration of septations within the ventricular system. Endoscopes are also used for minimally invasive approaches to single suture synostosis. In order to free the surgeon's hand the endoscope needs to be supported by a specifically designed stand that can be placed in an ideal position. The surgeon is then able to use the working channels to perform the endoscopic surgery.

There is currently once support for neurosurgeries using endoscopy. Because the equipment needs to be sterilized between cases, unnecessary delays can occur. A second endoscope stand would ensure that a sterilized support is always available for surgery, thereby maximizing efficiencies in the OR.

Endoscopy is used on approximately 50 cases per year.

Equipment for Craniofacial Surgery

Piezo Electric Device: $40,000

The piezo electric device is an advanced bone cutting technology that allows pediatric bone to be cut without harming the delicate tissues underneath such as the brain or nerves. It uses a special energy source that creates high frequency sonication (the act of applying sound energy to agitate particles) to cut the bone, without sharp blades that could harm nearby soft tissue structures.

This high-tech device is used often in state-of-the-art craniofacial plastic and neurosurgery cases. It is particularly useful in very young children where the bones are soft and small, and the underlying structures are particularly delicate. For example, when we perform mandibular distraction (lengthening) for babies born with severely small mandibles that have significant airway issues, this device allows the jaw bones to be cut without injuring the nerves and tooth buds within the small, growing mandible. It can also be used during procedures where plastic and neurosurgery must cut the skull bones to expand a small skull that has fused to allow brain growth to proceed.

Approximately 10-15 young patients requiring mandibular distraction per year and another 10-15 cranial vault cases would benefit from this advanced, increased safety technology.
May 25, 2018

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to three young women who were successful in the recent round of FRQ-S Salary Support Awards: **Julia von Oettingen, Catherine Goudie, and Meranda Nakhla**. These external salary support awards provide the requisite financial support for a clinician investigator to devote 50% or more of their time to pursuing their research interest and are given for a four year time frame to support an integrated research program rather than a single circumscribed project.

Julia, a member of our Division of Endocrinology achieved a Junior 1 Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Award (Jr2 CBC). Julia, one of our global health leaders, will target furthering our understanding of the epidemiology and service delivery issues related to juvenile diabetes. Catherine, a new recruit to our Division of Hematology-Oncology who formally arrives only this summer, has a research program targeting understanding the genetics of solid tumors in children and extending what we know to the clinical setting using novel technologies. She too received a Jr 1 CBC Award. Meranda, also a member of our Division of Endocrinology is focusing on issues in the transition of care between pediatric and adult milieus for youth with juvenile diabetes. Her Award was a CBC at the Jr2 level.

In addition to the personal financial support garnered by these individuals, they now go (or in Meranda’s case retain) Hors-PEM status, which enables an additional recruitment by their respective Divisions. Please join me in congratulating Julia, Catherine and Meranda on their Awards.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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June 1, 2018

Hi Everyone

Quebec’s ‘Founder Effect’ has made it a rich repository for rare recessively inherited disorders. Over time genetically oriented members of our Faculty have mined this repository with great effect leveraging clinical access with scientific discovery. This week’s Departmental Acknowledgment goes to one of our more successful such miners Paul Goodyer.

Paul, a pediatric nephrologist, has focused on cystinosis, a lysosomal storage disorder in which a defective transporter leads to the accumulation of cysteine, an amino acid, and eventually the formation of cysteine crystals. A multi-systemic disorder, cystinosis has prominent renal effects that lead to progressive renal failure by adolescence or early adulthood. Paul’s work at the bench has lead to steady gains in our knowledge of cystinosis and led to his being granted earlier this Spring, as PI, a large $2M plus three year grant from a combination of public and private funders (Genome Quebec, Genome Canada, Cystinosis Foundation and Eloxx Pharmaceuticals [an Israeli biotech firm]) that will explore a novel molecular therapy that offers the prospect of substantive disease amelioration.

Please join me in congratulating Paul on his granting success.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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For a Departmental Acknowledgement, I would like to offer my thanks and recognition to a large number of colleagues who responded to an urgent call for help back on Tuesday, May 1.

Our seasonal bed closure was underway, and we always get a little nervous predicting in advance when the reduced demand will permit us to save our resources for the much busier viral season. Most days so far, we have been OK, or at least no worse (by occasionally bumping up against our ceiling) than what is commonplace in the winter.

On that Tuesday, however, “Surge happened.” Our wards were completely full, and we had many inpatients stalled in the Emergency Department for far longer than anyone would want. The Bed Management team figured out a way to reopen and staff some additional beds. It was all looking reassuring until physician availability became an acute issue to absorb a sudden bolus of admissions all at once. On a Tuesday afternoon. With protected teaching for our trainees already reducing the size of our teams. It was a perfect storm of Surge.

So the SOS call went out. Our inpatient pediatricians have a messaging system for the entire group, and I signed off on an appeal to any available physician with previous ward/SSU experience to assist with an admission or two, to set the child and family up on the ward with an admission H&P and with initial orders until the usual teams could absorb all cases safely. When we find ourselves on that steep slope of the grief curve, every little bit helps so much more.

And that’s where so many valuable colleagues came through! So much so that, by the time Dr Li and I were free to see how we could help a bit later that afternoon, we were turned away because everything was under control. After reviewing with Drs. Di Genova & Dandavino, I have the following list of colleagues (at least the ones that I know of!) who are worthy of mention and appreciation:

**Drs. Korah & Nolin** for being the superstar inpatient team pediatrician leaders at the time, rolling through discharges and admissions as safely as possible with their teams, coping with the surge in demand.

**Every pediatrician on the Inpatient Service** for quickly responding to the call for help to identify where they were and whether they could be of assistance.

**Drs. Bretholz, Karatzios and Zavalkoff** for responding to the call with concern and support despite being tied up with other commitments at that moment.

**Drs. Dandavino and Di Genova** as well as **Cindy McCartney** and **Josie Revuelta** (and many other Patient Flow participants) for their ongoing creativity and flexibility in categorizing and preparing for surge events. And for their same-day hurry-up work to open up capacity to serve our sick patients.

**Drs. Dandavino, Di Genova & Patel** for responding to the SOS call, pitching in with an admission or two on such short notice.

**Dr. Li** who joined me in actually offering to help once freed up, only to learn that all was ok.
I fear there are likely other names, unknown to me at the moment, who also deserve a shout out and thanks.

Dr. Dandavino has shared that “Surge readiness” remains a preoccupation for the inpatient service and ideas continue to be considered and implemented, particularly for those Tuesday afternoons when our teams are thin, so we may protect the dual objectives of excellent patient care and high-quality education for our trainees.

But for that Tuesday, all in all, what began as a stressful acute problem that had the makings of an overwhelming crisis… turned into a shining example of why I absolutely love working here with such fabulous and dedicated professionals.

--Robert Barnes, ADPS, MCH

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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June 15, 2018

Hi Everyone

Several weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending on one night two celebrations of remarkable individuals in our Department.

The first was a retirement party for Robert Brouillette thrown by his colleagues in neonatology. While it is sad to see Bob leave our fold, it was great to recount his substantive contributions to his field and our Department. Bob was recruited from Northwestern in Chicago in the late 1980's to McGill and the MCH to head up our Division of Neonatology, which he led for close to two decades. In addition to this substantive administrative responsibility, he continued to pursue an active research interest in newborn respiratory illness and physiology and developed a Pediatric Sleep Laboratory at the MCH. Bob can take responsibility for having trained a generation of Canada’s leading neonatologists, including many of our own Faculty. Along the way he contributed in multiple leadership roles including Director of Clinical Research, member of the Department’s Executive Committee and Interim Chair of the Department. Bob has earned his retirement, which no doubt he will share with his family and continue to be a tough competitor in tennis and a fan of Les Canadiens. Please join me in wishing Bob a retirement filled with health, happiness and only good things.

The second celebratory event was a gala dinner during a Festschrift for Ernie Seidman. This was organized by his colleagues in gastroenterology in recognition of his enormous contributions over the years in IBD research and the training of GI fellows that have populated the globe. The Festschrift was a special two day long conference that brought together leading IBD researchers from around the globe testifying to the esteem in which Ernie is held by his peers. It was a tangible demonstration of his enormous impact in his field.

Bob and Ernie are both examples of excellence that contributes to the vitality of our Departmental community. Please join me in congratulating them on their extra-ordinary peer recognition.

Have a great long weekend everyone!

Michael

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Hi Everyone

One of the things I am particularly proud of implementing since I became Chair is the Annual Graduating Ceremony for our finishing residents and Fellows. The Atrium at the Glen grants us a wonderful space to come together as a community to celebrate the accomplishments of our trainees and bring a point of closure to our work together. Thanks go to Evelyn Constantin and Catherine Henin for their original suggestion and to Elisa Ruano-Cea and the Graduation Committee this year for their hard work organizing a terrific event.

All of the graduates listed below deserve the Departmental Acknowledgement this week for their accomplishment and contribution over the years to our academic community.

PGY3- General Pediatrics
Dr. Alexandre Déragon
Dr. Vanessa Gadoury-Levesque
Dr. Aris Hadjinicolaou
Dr. Matthew Magyar
Dr. Natalie Mathews
Dr. Maria Psihogios

PGY4- General Pediatrics
Dr. Marie-Pier Guilbault
Dr. Rawan Hammad
Dr. Enass Raffa
Dr. Marcel Sévère
Dr. Allison Shevell

Allergy-Immunology
Dr. Alexandra Langlois

Dermatology
Dr. Sara Almutlaga

Emergency Medicine
Dr. Kristen Lambrinakos-Raymond

Microbiology & Infectious Disease
Dr. Mohammad Al-Gounaim

Nephrology
Dr. Michael Geylis

Neurology
Dr. Fatema Al-Amrani

Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Dr. Laurence Gauquelin

Dr. Salva Sadeghi

Fellowship in Advanced Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Dr. Nada Aljassim

Dr. Mohammed Almazyad

Dr. Christina Maratta

Dr. Fawaz Lanzi

I would however wish to invoke a Chair’s privilege and single out one name on the list; Allison Shevell. It’s not easy being a resident in a Department and institution where your Dad is the Chair and Physician-in-Chief, and indeed also where both your Mom and Dad spent their entire academic careers. From enquiries I made before Allison started, this was an unprecedented situation and clear boundaries to enable proper process were established before Allison started her CaRMS application process and residency.

Allison handled this challenge as she does everything that comes her way. With integrity, independence, intelligence, honesty and fortitude. As a father, a role I deem in the long run to be more important than my professional and academic ones, it was a delight for me to see Allison grow as a physician and professional during her residency. I realize that I was uniquely privileged to actually witness my child become proficient and meritorious in her chosen vocation. It was always heartwarming, and a boost for parental pride, whenever hospital staff members (physicians, nurses, therapists, unit coordinators, translators etc) would take the time to let me know spontaneously during a chance encounter how terrific she was at what she did. She started in 2014 at the MCH as “The Other Dr. Shevell”, but clearly now
given what I have heard, I have that “Other” title now. On more than one occasion, families have identified their primary neurologist as “Allison’s Dad”.

I have no doubt that this DA will hugely embarrass her, but then what are fathers for? That is the reason that despite many occasions when I could have given her one previously, I purposely held back to her last working week here as a trainee as she exits our front door. Allison has spent the last year of her Gen Peds residency focusing on critical care and she is off on July 1st to Sick Kids in Toronto for further subspecialty training in her chosen field.

Please join me in wishing Allison and all our graduates hearty congratulations and all the best on wherever their professional journey takes them. We have much to be proud of in our professional progeny.

This will be the last DA before the annual Summer hiatus. We will resume this weekly tradition the Friday after Labour Day.

Have a great long weekend and Summer everyone!

Michael

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