# Department of Pediatrics

## Departmental Acknowledgements

**September 2016 – June 2017**

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Hi Everyone,

I know summer is over when I start composing the first Departmental Acknowledgement of the academic year, which traditionally goes out the first Friday after Labour Day. I hope everyone had a great summer and all are ready to get fully re-engaged in their segments of our academic mission. The careful reader will note that I have retired Dylan & Berra as my quote masters for the year and will give myself more free range this year.

Our first DA is prompted by a note from grateful parents and goes to Laurent Legault. No greater compliment can be given to a health professional than praise from a patient or their family. Here is what parents wrote about Laurent and it's high, well-earned praise indeed:

“We, the parents of a 7-year-old boy with special needs, can say:

Dr. Laurent Legault is proactive and always available to help. We are impressed by his passion for helping children and families and his natural instinct to resolve medical problems. We have observed on many occasions how he is responsive to us (parents), and how he always exhibits a pleasant dialogue with the parent/child. Also, we observed how he is very organized and methodical in his work.

His positive attitude combined with his passion for working with children and families makes it a pleasure to speak with such a professional doctor.

Dr. Laurent Legault is a great doctor and a humble person in the same time who knows how to develop a good relation with the child and parents. His door is always open to greet you with a smile and a proactive answer.”

Laurent is a member of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and an Assistant Professor in the Department. He did his pediatric residency at Hôpital Ste-Justine as well as his subspecialty training. He joined our active staff in 1999 after a decade long stint at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont. Laurent served for a decade as Director of our Diabetes Clinic and the insulin pump program. He has also been a leader in pediatric obesity and weight reduction, establishing both hospital-based and community outreach programs on this now well-established ‘epidemic’ in child health that had significant long-term health consequences. He has become adept at health promotion practices, pursuing advanced level training on the topic and has been a national leader in collaborative clinical and research networks formed to address various aspects of this problem.

Coincidentally, I heard Laurent’s name mentioned while doing a brief Visiting Professorship at the National University of Singapore in late August. I had meetings there with senior Departmental representatives to explore the possibility of clinical fellowship training here for their leading trainees. It seems Laurent had already beaten me to the punch and a Singaporean pediatrician, Yvonne Lim, was already here in Montreal doing a 6-month stint with Laurent. The NUS reps were quite pleased by how things were going for Yvonne and the future bodes well for us for hosting more trainees from the leading medical school in Asia.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

Some members of the Department are pleuripotential, like stem cells able to excel in more than one discipline of life. One such individual is Francisco Noya.

Born and raised in Peru, Francisco received his medical degree from the Universidad Peruana Cayetano Heredia in Lima. He then ventured to the US where he undertook his residency in Miami at Jackson Memorial Hospital. If you know anything about South Florida demography and geography, this has got to be amongst the most toughest and grittiest of urban neighborhoods. This was followed by sub-specialty fellowships in infectious disease and allergy/immunology that included research experience at the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas and at Texas Children's Hospital.

Francisco continued his personal journey northwards joining our Department in 1991 as an Assistant Professor and an Attending Physician in both the Division of Infectious Diseases and the Division of Allergy & Immunology. For 25 years now, Francisco has provided superb clinical service in both of these Divisions in outpatient clinics and as the hospital-based consultant ‘on service’. Along the way, he also directed for over 15 years our Asthma Centre, emphasizing not only evidenced-based clinical management, but also by educating children and their families in the ways to prevent and control exacerbations in this chronic disorder that prompt either restrictions in the child’s participation or the need to present to the hospital for an acute intervention. I would like to think that Francisco’s efforts over the years are partly responsible for the substantive drop in ER visits and hospital admissions for asthma. He also has spent many a shift as an attending in our ER.

Francisco is recognized as a dedicated and passionate teacher. I am always impressed by his command of the medical literature on a topic in his various fields. This is perhaps the result of his resolute attendance at Departmental CME events including Grand Rounds even when food is not being served! (this is an in-joke between Francisco and I). He is invited often to give talks at the UGME and PGME level and in varied community settings. He was an Osler Fellow for the MDCM Class of 2011.

I always look forward to seeing Francisco. He has a gentle warm demeanor that oozes kindness and caring. This is sprinkled with an easy humor that is equal parts observational and self-deprecating. Negativity does not seem to be part of his molecular fabric. I always leave an encounter with Francisco feeling lighter, with a smile on my face.

As I said at the onset, some of us are indeed pleuripotential.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
September 23, 2016

“If an expert says it can’t be done, get another expert”

David Ben-Gurion

Hi Everyone,

One of the unadulterated joys of being a Faculty member in an academic health setting is to observe the successful trajectory through the early stages of a career of a former trainee. The pleasure one feels is akin to a degree to what a parent feels (without the extended monetary responsibility). Watching a young person achieve ‘lift-off’ is just so satisfying. One such former trainee that I am taking delight in these days, though I honestly can take no responsibility for his success other than being willing to bring him on staff, is this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement recipient, Robert Sternszus.

A native Montrealer and McGill MDCM grad, Rob completed his residency in General Pediatrics here at the MCH before undertaking formal advanced training in education. A natural, passionate teacher who relates easily to everyone, Rob undertook and completed a MA in Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education at McGill. To support this, he received both a prestigious Royal College Fellowship for Studies in Medical Education and the Jonathan Campbell Meakins and Family Memorial Fellowship. Both of these competitive awards are meant to recognize existing educational excellence and to foster its professionalization and academic development. Rob is amongst those in the Faculty across a variety of disciplines who are evaluating, critiquing, innovating and measuring educational efforts in the health professions to improve the learning experience with the ultimate goal to create empowered successful life-long learners.

Though early in his career as Faculty, Rob is already emerging as a natural leader. He is the Director of the Transition to Clerkship course in UGME impacting on all of McGill’s MDCM students at an important point in their professional journey. He has led workshops in inter-professional education, not a buzzword but an essential paradigm now and moving forward, as well as in the resident’s role as teacher. Rob has also brought forward and put into place a Departmental Task Force now underway that will reconcile our missions of clinical service and training in the setting of declining resident numbers that effectively preclude us from continuing with the status quo.

Rob’s passion and skills for academic education is being nurtured by his being a Core Member of the Faculty’s Centre for Medical Education where he is supported as a designated Stevenson Faculty Scholar. Our Department has a long and deep history with the Centre and one can see this involvement as essential for our success as medical educators.

With his track record, I am just going to enjoy watching Rob for years to come.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCP, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
September 30, 2016

“The human mind will not be confined to any limits”

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

Hi Everyone,

A fundamental truism of pediatrics is that if you want a healthy baby, start with a healthy mother. Nowhere is this more true on our planet than in Low Resource Settings, where poor maternal health has devastating and substantial impacts on child health. For doing something about this challenge, this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Julia von Oettingen.

Julia recently received a seed grant from the Steinberg Fund for Interdisciplinary Global Health Research administered by McGill’s Global Health Program. Julia’s project is entitled: “Building capacity for non-communicable disease care in pregnancy in Haiti”. Situated in the impoverished Artibonite region of Haiti, Julia’s project seeks to screen for and develop a treatment strategy for hypertension and diabetes during pregnancy. Both of these conditions have substantial adverse impacts on the health of offspring. As part of her efforts, Julia will seek to measure the impact of her efforts on health outcomes for both mothers and children.

Julia is a global citizen. Born and raised in what was then West Germany, she undertook her medical studies in Leipzig, which had been on the eastern side of the barriers that brutally divided her native country for close to two generations. This included a habilitation research thesis. Residency training in pediatrics followed at Massachusetts General Hospital and then a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology at Children’s Hospital Boston. Along the way, she completed formal training in both Clinical and Translational Investigation and Global Health Delivery at Harvard. Fortunately for us, a personal attraction helped to bring her recently to our Department which she joined last year.

Julia’s global citizenry is evident in her fluency in four languages and conversational capability in a further three. It is even more evident in her commitment to global health efforts throughout her personal journey. Her receipt of this seed grant is both recognition of these efforts and an investment in a future that is rich with potential in her chosen field.

Have a great weekend everyone.
And for those celebrating the Jewish New Year, Shana Tova.

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCP(C), FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
October 7, 2016

“At the end of the day, money is just a proxy for votes. That is what makes politics so vulnerable to social media”

Sean Parker

Hi Everyone,

In this social media saturated age, it had to happen eventually. This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement is prompted by a tweet and goes to Robert Platt. He tweeted the following on October 1st:

Robert Platt p@robertwplatt Oct 1
Exactly 20 years ago today I started @McGillU @McGillPeds @McGillEBOH. Can't see how it could have turned out any better than it did.

He let me and his ‘Twitterverse’ know that twenty years had passed since joining our Departmental community. Fitting that Robert, a math guy, would mark the number and use the algorithms and the connections of Twitter to convey the message. I was especially delighted to see in his message the personal joy he took in an extended affiliation with our University and the two Departments in the Faculty of Medicine (Pediatrics & Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health) that he calls home.

A First Class Honours graduate in Math from McGill, Rob pursued a Master's in statistics at the University of Manitoba before heading to the Pacific Northwest and the University of Washington for an MSc and PhD in Biostatistics. His PhD was entitled “An Evaluation of Saddlepoint Approximations in the Generalized Linear Model” ($5 to any member of the Department other than an epidemiologist who can explain to me what this is about). He joined the Department in 1996 and was appointed a Full Professor in 2011. Over this interval, he has done yeoman service on the RI’s Biostatistical Consulting service providing methodological input to clinician investigators with ideas and data to ensure rigorous analysis and results that are valid and meaningful. His own work as an independent investigator has focused over the years on meta-analysis, causal inference based on observational data, perinatal epidemiology and now pharmacoepidemiology. He has held external salary support awards from the FRQ-S up to and including the Chercheur-National level. Indeed, he has recently been appointed to the University's first Chair in Pharmacoepidemiology. He has also served his peer community as President of the Biostatistics Section of the Statistical Society of Canada (they must have great fantasy sports leagues…) and as President of the Society of Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research.

Twenty years is a long time to spend in one place in academia. Obviously, both Rob and our Department have been blessed by the association as I replied on Twitter.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone and have a great long weekend!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

If anyone knows what it takes to win championships, it’s Michael Jordan who anchored five consecutive NBA Championships for the Chicago Bulls in the 1990s.

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to a team that came together uniquely for just one game but in my opinion brought home a championship with their intelligence and teamwork. I am talking about a group I call the Renewal Day Crew. Brought together by Emmett Francoeur, they included co-Chairs Elisa Ruano-Cea & Rob Sternszus with members Farhan Bhanji, Evelyn Constantin, Mylene Dandavino, Lily Nguyen and Saleem Razack. They were backed up administratively by Sylvie Lafleur from my office.

Our Departmental Renewal Day is held annually and takes place ‘off-campus’. It focuses on a theme that highlights a challenge for the Department. This year’s theme was on Competency Based Education (CBE).

Embraced by the Royal College as a new paradigm in medical evaluation, it has been likened to a tsunami or oncoming locomotive that will drastically impact education and service delivery. While we can complain about another change we have to deal with it, it’s a wave we have to ride and a train we need to catch a ride on.

The assembled team put together a stimulating, interactive day that featured lectures and workshops that took a packed house of attendees through the philosophy, concepts, techniques and practicalities of CBE. We were informed as adult learners as well as energized to meet the challenge ahead. CBE is many things. It’s about partnerships between learners, teachers and patients. It’s about directed practice on specific skills. It’s about defining desired outcomes and working towards achieving these. It’s about providing constructive feedback that engenders improvement and skill acquisition. It’s about defining success, not in terms of time served in training, but in demonstrating the skill set necessary to being a trustable physician in a particular specialty.

The devil will of course be in the details, and there will be lots of those. However, in observing the interactions between the participants, I was reassured that we will succeed. I am also reassured that the Department has a national leader (Farhan heads up evaluation at the Royal College) and a faculty leader (Evelyn as Assistant Dean of PGME has CBE as a specific mandate) in this field. Not only will we succeed, we will be, as we often are, leaders.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

Last week the DA went to a Departmental group that put together a superb internal event. It’s a fitting bookend that this week’s DA goes to Ernest Seidman, Veronique Morinville and Sylviane Forget. This trio from gastroenterology played a big role in putting on the recent World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (WCPGHAN).

This event was held in Montreal from October 5-8th and broke attendance records for this Congress with over 3000 registrants. Ernie, a Tier I CRC in Inflammatory Bowel Disease was the Congress’ President, Organizer and all around ‘go-to’ guy. WCPGHAN was organizationally divided into nine sections, with Veronique heading up the section on pancreatology and Sylviane, the section on endoscopy.

Being selected to host a World Congress is not only the product of a city being considered a valued tourist destination with first-rate convention and hospitality facilities, but also signifies enormous trust and respect by the international peer community for the local individuals who will be needed to step and lead its organization. A World Congress has multiple organizational and ‘political’ challenges. It takes commitment, patience, intelligence and perseverance to see things through despite the inevitable bumps in the road. Our GI trio did so, thriving more than just surviving, pulling off a successful event that was both fiscally responsible and scientifically challenging. In the end, it is about disseminating information to improve care for affected children and providing networking opportunities that offer the potential to lead to new research and therapeutic breakthroughs.

Please join me in congratulating Ernie, Veronique and Sylviane on their accomplishment. It reflects extremely well on our Department.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
October 28, 2016

"Curves are the essence of my work because they are the essence of Brazil, pure and simple"

Oscar Niemeyer

Hi Everyone,

It’s exceedingly difficult at this time to get an external operating grant. So, successful grant requests need to be celebrated. That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Patricia Fontela.

Originally from Brazil, where she completed her medical studies and paediatric training in Porto Alegre, Patricia became an attending specialist in critical care in Brazil before venturing to Montreal and the Children's for her Paediatric Critical Care Fellowship. This was followed by research, under the supervision of Departmental members Robert Platt and Caroline Quach, culminating in her being awarded a PhD in 2011. Patricia joined our staff in 2012 both as an attending physician in the PICU and an Assistant Professor.

Building on her PhD studies, Patricia’s research focuses on the surveillance and risk factors for infection in paediatric critical care. Infection is a major complication in this population of vulnerable children, setting back recovery and adding considerable morbidity. Patricia’s granting success, from the New Investigator Program of CIHR (IHDCYH) & HSCF that prompted this DA, is titled "Evolution of Infection Markers in Children with Severe Bacterial Infections". In this project, Patricia is systematically evaluating potential biomarkers as guideposts to tailor antibiotic treatment in critically ill children.

In addition to her operational granting success, Patricia holds, since 2013, a prestigious Career Development Personal Award from the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program. She is known throughout the Department as a thoughtful dedicated clinician and patient and thorough teacher at the bedside in the PICU.

Please join me in congratulating Patricia on her personal accomplishment.

Have a great weekend and Happy Halloween!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

National awards given to a Departmental member are to be especially savored as these represent a recognition of excellence and accomplishment that reaches far beyond our walls. That is why this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Farhan Bhanji.

On October 22 in Halifax, I had the pleasure of presenting Farhan and joining him as he received the 2016 Pediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC) Clinician-Educator Leadership Award. One of three annual awards (the others are in research and practice) given by the PCC, Farhan is the fourth member of the Department to receive this particular Award in education since its inception in 2007 joining Wendy MacDonald, Saleem Razack and Ron Gottesman. Michael Kramer and Constantin Polychronakos have received the PCC Clinician-Research Leadership Award and Emmett Francoeur, the one in practice. Our Department, one of 17 across Canada, has received 7 of the 30 National Awards thus far granted by the PCC! This is why a common refrain by myself is that we punch well above our weight.

Attached below is an excerpt from my letter of nomination for Farhan which provided the manifold reasons for his recognition.

Farhan is presently an Associate Professor in the Department and doubly certified in both Paediatric Emergency Medicine and Paediatric Critical Care Medicine. Due to his considerable on-site commitments at the Royal College in Ottawa, Farhan presently restricts his medical practice to an attending role in our intensive unit where he devotes many long hours to caring for our most critically ill and technology dependent children. It is at the bedside, in the noble tradition of Osler, that Farhan’s innate skill and enthusiasm for the medical educator role is first and readily apparent. Farhan always seeks to find the ‘teaching moment’ that rewards the learner in a busy, demanding, and emotionally stressful clinical context with a pearl of science, knowledge or wisdom that can then be grafted into the learner in a hard-wired way that is particularly enduring and relevant.

Farhan’s teaching skill has been recognized by our residents with his receipt of the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Annual Teaching Award (2007) and by the University with his induction into the prestigious Faculty Honour Role for Educational Excellence (2014).

From an early stage in his academic career, Farhan has consistently assumed positions of leadership locally, nationally and internationally in the educational domain. He was among the first physicians to undergo formal post-graduate training in education. Farhan graduated with honours from the Master of Science Program in Health Professions Education from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands (2008). In a foreshadowing of his future pursuits, his thesis focused on a rigorous evaluation of the assessment of physician learning. Locally, Farhan served as a Program Director for our Emergency Medicine Fellowship program (2007-2013) and as Fellowship Director for the Faculty’s Postgraduate Fellowship in Health Sciences education that includes physicians from all specialties (2011-present). He is a longstanding member (2006-present) of the Faculty’s Centre for Medical Education that is both a strategic educational ‘think-tank’ and a forum for the academic evaluation of medical education and Faculty development efforts. Indeed, Farhan has secured external operating grants in medical education and published extensively on the topic of educational assessment and curriculum development. Farhan’s skill in education was recognized by being awarded the inaugural Richard and Sylvia Cruess Scholar Award in Medical Education (2011).

At a national level, rare for a paediatrician, Farhan has assumed a leadership role at the Royal College that transcends the discipline of paediatrics. Effectively, he has been
seconded to the Royal College for roughly 50% of his time currently. Initially his focus was as a Clinician Educator focusing on CanMEDS roles and Faculty Development, but since 2013, Farhan is now the Associate Director for Assessment in the Office of Specialty Education. Farhan has the daunting task of overseeing specialty assessment in all 69 specialties certified by the Royal College. As if that was not enough of a challenge, he has the even more daunting task of overseeing the introduction of the new paradigm of competency based education as a metric of post-graduate training trajectory and eventual certification. In these roles, Farhan impacts every specialist trained and certified (and to be trained and certified) in Canada at a national level.

At an international level, Farhan is a leader in two fields. First is Simulation Education where he is pioneering the role of teams in simulation training coupled with in-situ simulation experiences that best approximates the 'real-world' situation. A second area of quite remarkable impact on a daily basis that is a considerable leveraging of his expertise, Farhan is the Chair of the Education Science and Products Subcommittee of Emergency Cardiovascular Care of the American Heart Association. In this role, he oversees the educational component of the AHA’s resuscitation programs that trains 15 million (that is not an error!) individuals each year in 'out of hospital' resuscitation techniques. He has played a similar role with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and as present co-Chair of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. Thus Farhan is actively shaping how resuscitation after cardiac arrest is both undertaken and taught. For these efforts, at an international level, Farhan has been recognized with a Fellowship by the American Heart Association and a Visiting Professorship in Medical Education at Gifu University in Japan (2013).

As his Chair, I am remarkably proud of what Farhan has accomplished in education as a leader. He has done so on his own initiative propelled by a natural skill and intelligence tempered by an innate drive that is fired by a personal passion for what he does. He embodies the very best of our educational culture and serves as a role model to his peers and younger physicians of what can be accomplished.

Please join me in congratulating Farhan on this tremendous personal accomplishment.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
November 11, 2016

Better to pass boldly into that other world, in the full glory of some passion, than fade and wither dismally with age.

*James Joyce*

Hi Everyone,

This Departmental Acknowledgement comes too late as it goes to **Gus O’Gorman** who passed away suddenly and all too abruptly recently at the age of 75.

Gus was part of the fabric of this hospital for four decades. He served as Chief of Radiology for a good part of his time here during a period of rapid and substantive technological changes in medical imaging in multiple domains. His subspecialty was neuroradiology so I got to know him well professionally.

Gus began his career here when neuroradiology consisted of skull X-Rays and pneumoencephalography. For those under 50 years of age, that consisted of injecting air into the subarachnoid space and then turning the child this way and that so that the air would eventually outline the ventricular cavity. This was replaced by computed tomography (incidentally developed by EMI the company that recorded the Beatles) and then the miracle of magnetic resonance (MR). Previously, we would only know what the patient really had on the autopsy table; with MR, we can diagnose accurately, rapidly and without exposure to ionizing radiation.

Gus adapted to all these changes. He more than adapted, he was an expert astute radiologist who always looked at images in the context of what was known clinically. He was not one to give an extensive differential reproduced from a textbook, rather he would put forth the most probable diagnosis with confidence and then give a restricted number of possible alternatives. He was an essential part of the treatment team in the clinical neurosciences, always available to review a challenging case and expedite a request that merited it from a clinical perspective. If truth be told, if a resident told me that Gus had reviewed the images, I would rest easy.

It was said at his funeral service, that Gus had spent his life in medicine and had spent it well. But he was more than a physician. As the priest conducting the service noted, he had never seen the church so full. This was a testament to Gus’ character and how he touched folks he came in contact with. He had a wicked sense of humor and a quick wit. Coupled with a ready smile and chuckle. He was a master mimic of voices and mannerisms with an innate sense of the theatre of which he partook in many productions. His rendition of Kipling’s poem Jabberwocky that would close our annual Preston Robb Neuroscience Dinner is forever lodged in my memory and those who witnessed it over the years.

All who met Gus took away from him his enormous pride in his Irish heritage. It was indelibly woven into his fabric of being. He was incredibly knowledgeable about Irish history, literature, culture, dancing and sports. It was from him that I learned about Ireland’s pint-sized but vibrant Jewish community. He never ceased to point out to me that Joyce’s protagonist in Ulysses was a Jew: Leopold Bloom. His essential Irishness led to him being President of Montreal St Patrick’s Society. The world was shades of Irish green to Gus.

We will all miss Gus, none more so then his wife Karin and his children Aisling and Michael.
Wear a bit of green for him this weekend!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCP, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
November 18, 2016

«Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver»

Gilles Vigneault

Hi Everyone,

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement is an easy one for me to write. I also do so with considerable joy and a bit of pride as it goes to a colleague, Chantal Poulin, on the occasion of her promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Neurology/Neurosurgery.

Chantal comes from a small town in the Gaspesie; so small they did not have a stop sign until recently. She left home after completing high school to attend CEGEP then medical school at Université Laval. She did her years of pediatric residency there in Quebec City and came to us for her residency in pediatric neurology.

Indeed, my first memory of Chantal is her interview for a residency spot. She spoke barely any English then and most of her answers were monosyllabic delivered softly and shyly. This was of course a marked contrast to her voluble outgoing self now. Despite an underwhelming interview, she was an outstanding resident; hard working, quick, great with patients and families, with a natural flair for diagnosis. She also demonstrated a remarkable ability to first grasp and then keep up with the literature and advances in neurosciences.

With Kenneth Silver’s departure for Chicago, it was obvious that Chantal would be invited to join our staff after completing her residency. Though this occurred but 20 years ago (sorry Chantal), she was the first female staff member of the Division paving the way for Maelle, Genevieve B, Maryam, Myriam, Genevieve L and Elisabeth.

When it comes to neurology, Chantal is not a subspecialist but a polymath. She does both EMG and EEG. She can manage intractable epilepsy, including intraoperative monitoring to guide surgical resections, and provide care over decades to children with progressive incapacitating neuromuscular disorders. She is a clinician’s clinician and over the years many of the members of this Department have trusted her with a child from their family with a neurologic symptom for care.

Chantal is renowned for her teaching excellence and dedication. She teaches naturally, drawing out learners and instilling in them an appreciation and understanding of the sometimes opaque ways of neurology. She was the Division’s Program Director for a decade overseeing Canada’s largest pediatric neurology training program. She has received the Department of Neurology/Neurosurgery Annual Teaching Award on multiple occasions.

Chantal also has considerable after work hours pursuits including playing the fiddle and tap dancing. She is also quite a family person, always finding the time to make the long drive home for the holidays over XMAS and Easter.

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

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
November 25, 2016

“Safety is not a gadget but a state of mind”

Eleanor Everet

Hi Everyone,

We are all entitled to health and safety. This entitlement is perhaps of most importance when one is in a state of vulnerability. Whether we like it or not, power imbalances exist in the academic health care milieu and our learners, whether they be allied health professionals, medical students, graduate students, residents or fellows, are vulnerable. For all too long this vulnerability was a given and the excuse “I went through this, so they should too” was all too frequently given. But it doesn’t have to be so. Indeed, from a moral perspective of the just society we strive for, it must not be so.

I am happy to say that the Faculty has made learner wellness in all sectors a priority and one of our members will play an important role in this effort. That is why Debbie Friedman is getting this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement.

A physiotherapist by training, Debbie is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and Pediatric Surgery. Her major impact has been as the lead of our multi-disciplinary Head Trauma program. For close to a quarter of a century, Debbie has led our hospital efforts to coordinate care to children and youth with a concussion or traumatic brain injury. She has been quite frankly relentless in her educational efforts of the public and health professionals, the implementation of consistent care guidelines based on evidence and perhaps, most importantly, prevention efforts to minimize the occurrence and associated morbidity of an acquired head injury.

Perhaps based on her advocacy success with this patient population, Debbie was recently appointed as Assistant Dean for Student Affairs (Schools) in the Faculty of Medicine. Debbie will focus on promoting support services for students in the various schools of the Faculty (P & OT, Nursing, Communication Sciences) that aims to promote learner wellness by advocating and developing and sustaining a nurturing learning environment. As someone who has always done the walk in inter-professional education, I have no doubt that Debbie’s efforts in the Schools will draw from and inform similar wellness efforts now underway in Medicine. Emerging at multiple points in the Faculty’s landscape is a theme of interwoven professions and professionalism that will no doubt improve all.

Please join me in congratulating Debbie on her appointment. As always, the Department gains when one of our members is invited onto a larger stage.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement is suggested by David Zielinski (who just welcomed, with his wife Vicki, a new child into this world) who took the time to put forward Adam Shapiro.

What prompted David's recommendation is Adam’s remarkable work in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) over a short time interval. Also known as Kartagener Syndrome or immotile cilia syndrome, PCD is a genetic disorder in which the main effect of immotile cilia is a failure to keep the lungs and sinuses clear of debris leading to a pile up of mucus, recurrent infections and a progressive compromise in lung function.

Adam’s accomplishment in PCD is an example of an old academic axiom/truism: “call yourself an expert and in five years you will be one”. What this means is that if one takes an interest in a particular challenging disorder and makes it a focus in one’s efforts, pretty soon patients are flocking to you and you only learn more. Building on an interest in PCD acquired during his pediatric pulmonology fellowship at UNC in Chapel Hill (Go Tar Heels!), Adam established the first Quebec PCD Clinic at the MCH when he returned to Montreal in 2011 where he had completed his MDCM in 2004. Adam has leveraged this interest in a rare but devastating disorder into a leading international role and profile. He serves as Medical Director of the PCD Foundation and received earlier this year this organization’s Director’s Award for outstanding service to the PCD community. He has led the drive for consensus clinical recommendations based on evidence for diagnosis and treatment and was first author of the American Thoracic Society's Guidelines on PCD. He has multiple publications on PCD in peer-reviewed publications and plays a role in multiple collaborative research projects addressing varied aspects of diagnosis and treatment of PCD.

A transplanted Southerner, Adam’s Virginian drawl is a noticeable change to the flat cadence of ‘Canadian’ English and always reminds me of the carnivorous and primal delights of a BBQ.

Please join me in congratulating Adam on his awards, but more importantly for becoming an expert that makes a difference for patients.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
December 9, 2016

Everything is theoretically impossible, until it is done.

Robert A. Heinlein

Hi Everyone,

This Departmental Acknowledgement has been hanging around in the "To Do" file for a little while and I will apologize up front for this delay. It goes to Jacquetta Trasler for securing earlier this year a CIHR Foundation Grant.

All of those involved in the research 'game' are fully aware that it’s a difficult, dare I say brutal, funding environment currently. For the investigator, a seven-year CIHR Foundation Grant represents the proverbial cherry on top of the cake.

Jacquetta has a long record of research excellence and funding success. Her present grant is on the theme of developmental epigenetics and the prevention of birth defects. Broadly speaking, epigenetics concerns itself with how the environment and social factors modifies our genome, without altering the DNA sequence, to change genetic expression and phenotype. Jacquetta's fundamental work, which includes mouse models, focuses on the substantial segment of our population (an estimated 10-20%) that experience infertility and require the use of varied assisted reproductive technologies to conceive a child. Unfortunately, these children are at risk for enhanced adverse outcomes that are thought to be the result of epigenetic changes. Jacquetta's work is directed at figuring out the underlying mechanisms for these changes and exploring possible ways of preventing eventual birth defects. I can anticipate that her findings may be generalizable to non-ART settings of conception.

Jacquetta received a Departmental Acknowledgement in February 2015 (see below) for her leadership role in the transition of our basic research efforts to the Glen site as part of the MUHC-RI. Please join me in congratulating her on her present granting success.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
February 27, 2015

“And I’ll stand on the ocean until I start sinking”
Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

This week, the first vanguard of the MCH community moved to the Glen Site. These are our basic researchers who will populate the site's 'state of the art' new Centre for Translational Biology (CTB). For leading this move (the preparations for which has extended over several years), this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Jacquetta Trasler.

Jacquetta began her involvement in this enterprise as the Scientific Director of the Montreal Children’s Hospital in 2007. Over time, with administrative restructuring, her position has morphed into that of being the Director for Pediatric Research and Deputy Executive Director/Deputy Chief Scientific Officer of the Research Institute of the MUHC. In this role, Jacquetta has been the 'voice' of the entire pediatric research community, both clinical and basic, in multiple forums. These have been challenging times at multiple levels and Jacquetta has always been there to put the needs of the Children on the table, front and foremost. Much of her time these past few years has been devoted to the myriad details of the move, which is complicated, to say the least, from aspects of space assignment, adjacencies, access to core facilities, and the health and safety of animal research populations. The goal at all times was assuring the vitality of pediatric research and minimizing disruptions to ongoing research efforts. At many times during the process this was a thankless task, but we would be quite remiss in not actually thanking Jacquetta publicly and explicitly for these efforts.

Jacquetta is a McGill MDCM graduate who after a few years of clinical training (Ob/Gyn) switched completely to basic research obtaining a PhD in pharmacology with a MRC funded post-doctoral fellowship at Tufts. Intriguingly, her research focus has, throughout her career, been on the effects of external factors on embryonic development and gametogenesis, in particular that of spermatogenesis (an interesting turn for someone originally in Ob/Gyn). She has embraced new technologies and scientific advances as they emerged to deepen her study of her chosen field. Currently, she focuses on epigenetics as expressed in alterations in established DNA methylation patterns and the developmental origins of adult disease. Evidence of the impact of her work is reflected in a long string of awards and external recognition including the full gamut of FRQ-S salary support awards (including Chercheur Nationaux), the 2000 Prix d'Excellence for significant contributions to child health research, the Young Andrologist Award for the American Society of Andrology, the 2009 Aldo Award for Excellence in Pediatric Research, and the R Howard Webster Foundation Award for research in reproductive medicine. Previously a William Dawson Scholar of McGill University, she is currently at the beginning of her second term as a University James McGill Professor. She holds Professorial status in three Departments of the Faculty of Medicine: Pediatrics, Pharmacology & Therapeutics and Human Genetics.
Jacquetta has over 100 peer-reviewed publications and a long history of continuous peer reviewed external funding support. In a most difficult competitive environment, with substantial administrative responsibilities, in the past year she received renewal of her CIHR operating grant ranking second of 68 proposals reviewed in her competition as well as played a key role in a successful CIHR team grant on Boys’ and Men’s Health. In addition, she is Chairing the Program Committee for the upcoming 23rd North American Testis Workshop.

Jacquetta, like all successful scientists, has demonstrated a passion for, and a focus on, her scientific efforts. With the move to the Glen now accomplished, she will be stepping down very shortly from her Research Institute administrative responsibilities. A replacement has been selected and will be announced shortly.

Please join me in thanking Jacquetta for her administrative work on behalf of our research community and wishing her all the best in the next phase of her most productive career.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MD CM, FRCP, FAAN, FANA, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor (with Tenure)
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery
McGill University

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief
Montreal Children’s Hospital/
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)
Hi Everyone,

For the last Departmental Acknowledgement of the year I usually try to think a bit outside the box. That is why this week’s Acknowledgement goes to a group I had dinner with last week; the MCH Affiliated Community Pediatricians.

This diverse group represents the medical ‘home’ for many of the patients cared for at the MCH. They are the familiar face that parents and families turn to for guidance, assurance, continuity and most importantly that initial recognition that their precious child requires referral to what the hospital-based group of academic subspecialty physicians offer. In this era of Plan Cliniques and Clinical Networks these physicians are playing an increasing role in service delivery.

Yet this role is often under-appreciated and has challenges that are unnecessary which act as roadblocks to delivering our goal of high quality family centered care. Chief among these challenges are providing communication in a timely and comprehensive way that their patients have visited the MCH and obtained care. While automatic computer generated notification of an ER visit or admission or open access to the information contained in OASIS seem logical, bureaucratic barriers exist. Unfortunately, the collegiality of a phone call to a child’s pediatrician or the professionalism of a written consultation is all too often missing.

Aside from these challenges, what I also heard from the 20 pediatricians in attendance was a willingness to be part of our community, to be partners in care and education. It’s a partnership we should explore and actively embrace. To minimize barriers to care and to optimize what should be a mutually beneficial and synergistic relationship I have asked our Vice Chair Emmett Francoeur, a community-hospital hybrid, to assemble and head up a Task Force to explore actionable items that we, as a Department, can undertake. This Task Force will bring together key representatives from both the community and hospital milieu and are expected to report before next summer.

I am already looking forward to see what we can do to improve things.

As noted, this will be the last DA of 2016. Next week will see distribution of our Winter newsletter. I will resume the Acknowledgements on January 13th after a holiday hiatus.

I just want to close by wishing everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. All the best to you and your families for 2017.

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCP, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
January 20, 2017

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating. Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family.”

Kofi Annan

Happy New Year everyone!

Time to shake off the holidays and get the weekly Departmental Acknowledgement back up and running.

This week’s Acknowledgement goes to a trio involved in care to newborns here: Alexandre Barbier, May Khairy and Pia Wintermark. It’s for their efforts in family-centered care through knowledge mobilization and patient empowerment.

For the vast majority of parents, term birth results in a normal child. Sometimes however, things can go suddenly and horrifically wrong with the newborn suffering a substantial lack of oxygen delivery to the brain. This can result in signs of neurologic injury both acutely (ie seizures) or in the long term (ie cerebral palsy, developmental delay). Until less than a decade ago, there was little we could do acutely to reduce the likelihood of an adverse outcome. However, borrowing from the experience of the adult world, several studies demonstrated that therapeutic hypothermia, involving the reduction of body temperature to 34 degrees Celsius for three days initiated within 6 hours of birth, may lessen the later risk of cerebral palsy in survivors of moderate birth asphyxia. The NICU at the MCH was one of the first regional cooling centres to get up and running in Canada and it is rare now not to have at least one newborn being cooled at any time in our unit.

For a parent expecting a normal birth and outcome, to be thrust into a NICU and to watch your child being cooled and hooked up to a myriad of monitors is a scary and unsettling thing that is a far cry from the usual joy and bonding that follows birth. This is even further aggravated by the uncertainty of what the future will be for the child and family.

Alexandre, a neonatologist and educator, May a pediatrician in our neonatal follow-up clinic, and Pia a neonatologist and clinician scientist with a robust investigative program in brain injury, brought their collective expertise and varying perspectives together to fashion an animated movie and an informative website to help inform parents finding themselves with a child being treated with therapeutic hypothermia. Knowledge is power and in this situation enables parents caught up in a most challenging context to better understand what exactly is going on. One would assume that this would help reduce parental stress and anxiety, enable better participation in care decisions and probably improve outcomes. Our trio received a well-deserved prize from the CIHR Institute for Human Development Child and Youth Health for their efforts.

I have pasted below links to the English and French versions. Unfortunately I have my concerns whether these links will work on the ancient MUHC browsers. I have also pasted the website.

https://youtu.be/w8-wGLnUzIs
https://youtu.be/GRTl2mTP1MI
www.neobrainparents.org

Please join me in congratulating Alexandre, May and Pia on their work and prize.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

One of our core ‘businesses’ as an academic centre is education. We are a teaching institution and it is this aspect, together with ongoing research efforts, that distinguishes us from a community hospital. This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Laurie Plotnick, our Associate Chair for Education, in recognition of her being put forward by McGill University as one of their three designates for a 2017 Canadian Association for Medical Education Certificate of Merit. Laurie joins Preetha Krishnamoorthy (2016), Richard Gosselin (2009), Saleem Razack (2007) and Ron Gottesman (2007) as our current Departmental members who have received this Certificate.

I have attached below my nomination letter for Laurie which outlines the many reasons she has been selected by the Faculty for this honour that recognizes at a national level valuable contributions to medical education.

A Pediatric Emergency physician, Laurie excels as a clinician and is also a dedicated, passionate and committed educator. Despite the ‘busyness’ and ‘chaos’ that is the matrix of any urban ER, Laurie always finds the teaching moment that she can share with trainees. The Faculty has recognized Laurie’s superior teaching skills by her induction in 2011 into the Faculty Honour Roll for Educational Excellence.

Beyond being a superior teacher, it is Laurie’s considerable efforts and track record as an educator and innovator that truly stands out. Remarkably her efforts are evident at all levels of medical education. In UGME, Laurie has been an Osler Fellow on several occasions serving as a guide to professionalism and a mentor/role model for an impressionable student’s professional journey. Perhaps the most important and fragile step on this journey is the transition from the classroom and book/group learning to the clinic and the medical apprenticeship that is at the root of the Oslerian tradition. Laurie has put a lot of effort into this critical phase in our MDCM program. She served as Director of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) Committee and as course Director from 2012-2014. She oversaw the development and implementation of the Transition to Clinical practice segment of the new curriculum and continues the same roles as she had with the prior ICM segment. She is responsible for curriculum content, evaluation and adherence to standards in this mandatory segment for all MDCM students. Thus Laurie’s efforts touch all of the School of Medicine’s graduates.

At the PGME level, Laurie spent 15 years (1997-2012) as the Residency Rotation Coordinator for our ER. This impacted 20 post-graduate trainees monthly from six different residency programs in a substantive way including the establishment of learner specific objectives consistent with CanMEDS roles together with the objective assessment and evaluation of attainment of relevant skills. Laurie also has had an extensive role in Continuing Professional Development. For many years, she oversaw the Department’s extensive and regular outreach to teach Pediatric Advance Life Support (ie resuscitation) skills to health professionals. No doubt Laurie’s teaching of these skills and multiple knowledge translation efforts have led to the survival of numerous children suffering either an out-of-hospital or in-hospital cardiorespiratory arrest.

Laurie has undergone Leadership training in Medical Education and indeed she has been appointed the Department’s Associate Chair for Education recently with a broad
mandate to oversee, improve and, where possible, innovate our educational efforts. She is clearly a leader in medical education.

I have always been impressed by Laurie’s intelligence, ‘out of the box’ thinking and passion to put forward actions and ideas that matter. I wholeheartedly support her consideration for the CAME Certificate of Merit.

Please join me in congratulating Laurie on this important career recognition. As past is prologue to the future, I am sure that Laurie’s energy and enthusiasm for teaching and education will no doubt yield even more substantial dividends in the future.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
February 3, 2017

“Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four. If that is granted, all else follows.”
   Eric Blair (George Orwell)

Hi Everyone,

In a perfect world, some roles within a hospital structure would not be needed. By definition, these roles are often thankless and more often than not flies under the proverbial radar. For entering his tenth year (!) as the hospital’s Medical Examiner, Dominic Chalut receives this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement.

Dominic received his medical degree at Universite de Montreal, followed by his pediatric residency (including a year as Chief Resident) at the Montreal Children's Hospital. He then followed this with fellowship training in emergency training here that was capped by a year at Children's Hospital Boston where he acquired a highly special expertise in medical toxicology. Fortunately, he returned to Montreal, McGill and the MCH where he has remained since.

Presently an Associate Professor in the Department. Dominic is part of the core Emergency Medicine staff where he has always impressed me as a supremely calm physician amongst what can at times be 'organized' chaos who is on top of his game. When I am on service and one of my residents tells me we have a consult from Dominic, I know that the i's have been dotted and the t's crossed and I can look forward to an appropriate and often challenging consultation experience. Dominic has been the Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program Director and from 2002-2007, its Division Director. His reputation amongst his peers is such that he is on the Royal College Pediatric Emergency Medicine Subspecialty Board.

In recognition for his intelligence and ability to handle difficult situations without losing his cool, Dominic was appointed the MCH's Medical Examiner a decade ago. This role implicates Dominic as the point person in evaluating complaints of unprofessional behaviour or less than quality care. He needs to investigate these matters by rigorously ascertaining the facts, reconciling perspectives (which can often widely differ), respecting process that is fair and respects rights and be adherent to preserving confidentiality like a priest in a confessional. These situations, as you can imagine, are extremely difficult, yet what has impressed me over my time as Chair is that no one involved ever questions Dominic’s integrity and impartiality. He is dedicated to truth and fairness and both of these qualities can often be beyond absolute objectivity. He gets my admiration as he is doing a 'job' that I know is tough with little in the way of the typical tangible rewards that drives much of human activity these days.

Please join me in thanking Dominic for doing a 'thankless' task

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

I will admit that this Departmental Acknowledgement is long overdue and could have been given over my time as Chair for multiple ‘serious’ reasons. However it’s being given this week for simply bringing people together over a dinner and goes to Geoff Dougherty.

Geoff is the founding and current Director of the Department’s largest Division of General Pediatrics. This Division incorporates a myriad of programs and activities that is essentially the core of the Department to which the branches of subspeciality services are attached and interact with. These programs include our in-patient medical wards, the Medical Day Hospital, Complex Care Services, Social Pediatrics, Developmental & Behavioural Pediatrics, Palliative Care, Child Protection, the Northern & Native Health, 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. If that wasn't enough, the Division has a research profile largely focused on health service delivery issues. With over 40 members, the Division's adroit administrative management over the years and its staffing by Geoff has been well evident and should not be taken for granted.

Geoff is a native of Montreal, educated at McGill with degrees in both medicine and epidemiology. He also spent time in Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar. 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'-look it up in the OED). He is 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.

This quality was evident last night when I attended a dinner organized by Geoff for his Division. He took care to arrange all the details, including background musicians and put nothing on the Agenda other than an opportunity to get together socially over good food and wine, to share conversation and perhaps to get to know each other a bit better and build even more of a team. In a time when many members of the Department bemoan the loss of a community feeling with the move to the legacy site, Geoff took action to try and do something about it. He smartly included Associate Members of his Division with a research focus and no doubt some synergistic collaborations will come forth. It was nice of Geoff to invite myself and Annette to this dinner and we appreciated the warm camaraderie.

Please join me in thanking Geoff for his enormous efforts on behalf of his team.

Have a great weekend everyone and Happy Valentine's Day

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
February 10, 2017

“Store windows are like landing pages on the website”

Angela Ahrendts

Hi Everyone,

Our Departmental Acknowledgement this week goes to one of our Departmental unsung heroes, Sally Crawford.

A member of the McGill Administrative staff supporting both the Department and the Office of the Chair, Sally’s particular contribution that I would like to single out is as our Department’s webmaster (webmistress).

In 2017, a website is an essential component of any organization’s communication strategy. It is often the first door through which future potential trainees or recruits pass to get an idea of our Department. It is very much our public face. It also should be a regular reference for the members of the Department seeking information, both particular and general to keep informed about the Department’s activities and progress. Every week, new information is being added and existing information modified as need be. The Grand Rounds schedule, our Faculty list, researcher profiles, Divisional structures, Rules & Regulations, our Mission/Vision/Values statement, past Departmental Newsletters, Annual reports and Departmental Acknowledgements are all posted and easily accessible to all. There is even now a newsfeed. When I look at other Departmental websites within the Faculty and at other Pediatric Departments across Canada, I am proud of our content, presentation and timely relevance.

Much of the credit for our website goes to Sally. She is fluid in website design and frequently takes the initiative in adding content. She responds quickly to requests for additions and modifications, whether they arise from myself or others within the Department. She can be justifiably proud of what she has accomplished. We are a large organization and it is important that all members have a good sense of what is going on. Often emails get overlooked in the context of a busy day, and thus the website provides a forum to be informed on one’s own terms. I strongly encourage each of you to take the time to visit the website today (mcgill.ca/peds) and bookmark it as a regular stop on your webtours. Sally and I also remain open to your suggestions about new content, links or toggles.

Of course, Sally is much more than a webmaster. She is a friendly calm presence in our office who gets her work done quickly and quietly without fuss. She is also the one who handles much of our financial transactions and reimbursements. At a personal level she enjoys travelling, cooking and reading (she always has a book nearby for breaks). She is also quite knowledgeable about hockey and the NHL, which probably comes with having had the Stanley Cup twice in her family home.

Please join me in thanking Sally for her work on behalf of our Department.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Richard Haber and is timed so that he gets it in the midst of his annual monthly Mexican siesta with the sun on his face and the sand between his toes.

One of the wry observations that Rick and I regularly share is noticing how often after 6 PM we both seem to be in our offices. Rick is a community-based pediatrician with a busy West Island practice who for many years has been a vital in-hospital presence in the Division of General Pediatrics. As Associate Division Director, he provides sage leadership and advice that is the fruit of his extensive experience in medicine. He heads up both the Resident Continuity Clinic (RCC) and the Pediatric Consultation Clinic (PCC). The former is a pedagogical milieu that provides for our General Pediatric trainees a continuity clinical setting that enables them over the years to follow their own patients, who are a combination of well-children and former admitted patients in the hospital with varying challenging issues. It is meant to simulate for the learner an office pediatric experience, which is a practice setting many will find themselves in upon graduation. The PCC is a clinical setting that offers specialty pediatric consultation expertise for primary physicians struggling with a challenging case in the pediatric age group. A third effort of enormous administrative effort by Rick is his leadership for many years of the pediatric component of training for McGill's Family Medicine residents. There are a substantial number of such residents and Rick does the herculean job of scheduling their clinical exposure on the wards and in clinics, as well as assembling their evaluations. In this way, Rick has a large impact on future care to children as increasingly such care will be provided by family medicine physicians.

Rick is a Renaissance man with undergraduate and graduate degrees (two) in philosophy and theology. He was in the first graduating class at McMaster Medical School that broke the mold for undergraduate medical training with a case-based approach that employed many pedagogical innovations that became the norm over the years (eg group learning). He did his pediatric training here, where he served as Chief Resident and then was a fellow in gastroenterology. He is an astute physician with a wonderful bedside manner who is a model of professionalism and physicianship. Over the past few years, with our offices now in close proximity, I have many a time dropped in on him, pulled a chair up and enjoyed many far ranging conversations. Sometimes I find it therapeutic and I am glad it’s free and given with warmth and a smile.

Please join me in wishing Rick a great holiday. Somehow I can taste that next margarita.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

It is not often that the Governor General, the Queen’s Canadian representative and titular Head of State, comes to you but he did so this week and on Wednesday in the PK Subban Atrium of the MCH awarded the Sovereign’s Medal for Volunteers to our very own Nicolas Steinmetz.

Nicolas has had a remarkable life and professional trajectory. Originally from South America, he migrated to Canada as a teen adding both of Canada's official languages to his native Spanish and German. An MDCM graduate of McGill, after a brief stint as a GP in Newfoundland, he returned to Montreal for a residency in both pediatrics and community (public) health. He then became instrumental in our first forays into both social pediatrics and global health, being instrumental in establishing outreach clinics in Pointe-St-Charles, Little Burgundy, Kahnawake and the McGill-Baffin Island Program (a forerunner of our Northern Program) as well as the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Nairobi School of Medicine in Kenya. He then shifted over to administration where he served two terms as Director General of the MCH. It was Nick who can claim credit for the seed of an idea that became the MUHC where he oversaw as Planning Director (he started with a bridge table and a rotary dial phone) the extended and challenging planning process from conceptualization to functional design. Probably more than anyone Nick is responsible for the Glen site that brought no less than three hospitals ultimately into the 21st century. For his enormous professional contributions Nick’s name is attached, along with Gilles Julien, to our endowed Chair in Social Pediatrics.

However it is for Nick’s extensive volunteer work that he received the Sovereign’s Medal. Nick has been a generous giver of his time, wisdom and connections to both our hospital Foundation (MCHF) and the Council for Services for Children and Adolescents (CSCA) that functions as our 'Board' and voice of the MCH within the MUHC organization. Nick has served as President of the MCHF and his attendance can be counted on at virtually all meetings of both the MCHF and the CSCA where he provides continuity, institutional memory and frequently sage advice of how to get things done both within and beyond our walls. Yes these are challenging times and sometimes we feel as if we are under siege, but I shudder to think where we would be without Nick’s input.

Please join me in thanking Nick for all that he has done over the years for the MCH. Also please join me in congratulating him on being awarded the Sovereign's Medal.

Wear it proudly Nick!

Have a great weekend everyone and for all partaking, have a great Spring Break with your families.

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

As predictable as the Winter season transitioning to Spring is the University's formal announcement of Faculty academic promotions granted. This year, we have a large cohort of individuals promoted to Associate Professor who were formally notified in the last few days by McGill's Board of Governors. For their promotion to Associate Professor, this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Reza Alizadehfar, Genevieve Bernard, Gaelle Chedeville, Laurie Plotnick and Pia Wintermark.

Reza is an allergist-immunologist whose promotion recognizes his substantive contributions to education, both at the UGME level (lecturer & small group tutor in the Defence Segment of the Fundamentals of Medicine & Dentistry Pre-Clinical Block) and at the PGME level as Program Director of our highly successful allergy-immunology fellowship. He also scored points for clinical innovation in establishing an outreach clinic at the Lakeshore General Hospital and a transition clinic at the MGH site of the MUHC. Despite being a busy clinician, Reza has generated a number of publications through his participation in the clinical epidemiology portion of our food allergy program.

Genevieve, a pediatric neurologist and also a member of the Department of Human Genetics, has established herself as a national and indeed international leader and expert in leukodystrophy disorders. These complex and frequently devastating and progressive disorders affecting the white matter of the central nervous system have been her chosen research focus. In support of her activities as an independent investigator, Genevieve has been quite successful in securing external operating and salary support awards.

Gaelle is a member of our Rheumatology Division. She has combined educational and innovative efforts by leading the local introduction and adoption of point of care ultrasound (POCUS) into clinical practice that improves and accelerates diagnostic precision. She has also established an outreach clinic in Val D’Or which, for over 10 years, she has visited on a quarterly basis, thus fulfilling our RUIS mandate and importantly delivering sub-specialty care to where children and families live. She has also found the time to supervise the research projects of multiple trainees.

Laurie is a member of our ER staff who has excelled over the long term as a medical educator. She has developed and led the pivotal Transition to Clinical Practice of the Faculty's UGME program. She is now beginning to play a robust role as a leader in our Department as both the Associate Chair for Education and the lead of our Women in Leadership Task Force that will have an impact throughout the Faculty.

Finally, Pia is a neonatologist who after arriving here has established a thriving research program as an independent investigator focused on neonatal brain disorders. She has an extensive publication record, external operating grant support and a renewal of her external salary support award. She is making clinically relevant discoveries using imaging technologies that are directly applicable to asphyxiated term infants.

What I like about this year’s class is their diversity (however defined) and their impact across the spectrum of academic activities. They have all gone beyond the expected to make significant contributions to our academic mission. They do themselves, and our entire Departmental community, proud.

Please join me in congratulating Reza, Genevieve, Gaelle, Laurie and Pia on their personal accomplishments.
Also, like the seasons, the cycle never really ends. We are gearing up for another round of promotions. I would suggest that everyone have a good critical look at their dossiers and if so inclined, then sit down with your Division Director for a frank discussion to see if this year is your time to go forward.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

Last night at Holmes Hall, we celebrated formally the establishment of the Nicolas Steinmetz and Gilles Julien Chair in Social Pediatrics in the Community established through the generosity of donors acting through the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. For being the inaugural holder of this Chair, this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Delphine Collin-Vezina.

Delphine is a clinical psychologist by training and is presently the Director of the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families, an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at McGill and a holder of a CRC Tier II Chair in Child Welfare. Both well funded and well published as an independent investigator, Delphine utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to conduct community-based research that directly informs and impacts practices and policies to promote resilience and wellness in children and youth living in at-risk contexts. Her current research program aims to implement and assess an evidence-based, trauma-informed model of care in Canadian child protection systems to better address the complex needs of children and adolescents in placement with a particular emphasis on children experiencing sexual abuse or trauma. This program of research will provide a unique opportunity to influence decision-making in child protection services and to support front-line work, which holds significant promise to impact children and youth who, without appropriate services, are likely to continue falling behind their peers and growing up in the margins. Not surprisingly, Delphine’s expertise has been frequently sought to influence policy making in child protection, reflecting an advocacy element to her academic work.

With the support of this Chair, Delphine will now be spending time in our Department teaching undergraduate and graduate trainees and conducting some of her research efforts. It is envisioned that collaboration with Departmental colleagues will be facilitated and enabled. She will also be spending some time on site at the Julien Foundation in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve evaluating efforts on the front lines of social pediatrics.

To my knowledge, this is Canada’s first Chair in Social Pediatrics and reflects the pioneering work done in this area by the Department. Fittingly, the Chair’s name honors the enormous contributions of Drs Nicolas Steinmetz and Gilles Julien, both Department members, to this field.

This is the seventh Chair (five endowed and two CRC) held within our Department and the third in my mandate. It is something to celebrate both as a personal achievement for Delphine and a collective one for our community.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
March 24, 2017

"The capacity to learn is a gift, the ability to learn is a skill, the willingness to learn is a choice"

Brian Herbert

Hi Everyone

Our weekly Departmental Grand Rounds is an important forum for us to come together as a community on a regular basis and embrace our commitment to a lifetime of Continuing Professional Development. Organizing and ensuring the smooth flow of these Rounds is an enormous task and that is why this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Elisa Ruano Cea our Grand Rounds Coordinator.

Elisa is originally from Central America but made her way to Montreal where she completed her MDCM at McGill after CEGEP. By the way her academic record is replete with the descriptors such as "Honours", "Honour Roll" and "Best Academic Achievement" attached to her performance. Elisa then went on to do a pediatric residency here which included a Fellowship in Academic General Pediatrics. As a resident she dedicated herself to several very successful advocacy efforts on behalf of child health oriented towards multiculturalism and refugee health. Elisa's natural skill set in medical education was formalized with a Master's of Health Profession Education obtained last year from the University of Illinois in Chicago.

Fortunately for us Elisa was able to join our General Pediatrics Division where her clinical activities are clustered as an attending physician on our in-patient wards, in our Medical Day Hospital and at the RVH nursery. A valued and highly respected teacher, Elisa is additionally an affiliate member of the Faculty's Centre for Medical Education. She is playing a key role in the challenge of our transitioning to the Competency By Design model mandated by the Royal College that will have a substantive impact on both training and evaluation. She is also a competitive athlete in the sport of beach volleyball.

Elisa has organized Grand Rounds for the past academic year and will continue to do so into the next year. This is a complex and challenging task from interfacing with multiple Divisions to assign speakers, to liaising with the speakers to make scheduling and travel arrangements, to ensuring smooth operation of the AV systems in the RI amphitheatre where the rounds are held. In effect she functions as our hostess and external representative and she does so with a pedagogical mindset, grace, humor and efficiency that is quite admirable and could serve as a lesson to all. It was Elisa who advocated for the provision of coffee and danishes at the end of Rounds as we exit. She has also done a remarkable job at ensuring diversity and novelty in the topics presented. The result has been an increase in attendance and dare I say more networking. At a time when a common (and valid) complaint is a loss of closeness with the move to the Glen, Grand Rounds offers a regular portal to engage and connect. I thank our regular attendees and encourage all of you to make an effort to attend.

Please join me in thanking Elisa for the work she does on all our behalf.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
March 31, 2017

"What a world this will be when human possibilities are freed, when we discover each other, when the stranger is no longer the potential criminal and the certain inferior"

W.E.B. Du Bois

Hi Everyone,

Location, location, location is the mantra of the real estate industry. It also affects what we see. From my office location at the Glen, my location ensures that I regularly see how hard my across-the-hallway neighbour works. That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Louise Auger.

Louise is a longstanding member of the Division of General Pediatrics and an Associate Professor in the Department. She received her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from the University of Texas Health Sciences Centre in Houston focusing on the relationship of immunoglobulin genes to inverted DNA sequences. She then went on to do her medical training at Baylor followed by pediatric training and a critical care fellowship at Texas Children's Hospital. She then ended up in Kuwait as a Consultant Pediatrician, a position she held when Saddam Hussein and the Iraqi military invaded prompting the first Gulf War. Yet another Middle Eastern crisis was our gain as Louise then returned to her roots in Quebec and joined our hospital and Department where she has remained since.

At the MCH since her arrival, Louise has been one of our most hard-working and respected ward attending physicians. She is known for her calm demeanor, encyclopedic knowledge of pediatric hospital-based medicine, compassion and dedication to the admitted children and their families. A generation of residents and medical students have benefitted from her exemplary role-modeling of physicianship and professionalism. In addition to her ward attending role, Louise has been a steady presence in both the Pediatric Consultation Clinic and as a preceptor/mentor in the Resident Continuity Clinic. She founded (1996) our innovative Multicultural Clinic which has provided needed access to medical care in a culturally sensitive way to children and families frequently uprooted by trauma from their native lands. She has become a forceful advocate on their behalf in many forums at many levels.

What I regularly observe in Louise is how lat she stays doing the necessary paperwork, following up on a myriad of clinical details and liaisoning with families often going the extra mile to secure needed services. Her excellence and achievements have been recognized by our community on multiple occasions. Awards received include the Kaplan Award for Clinical Teaching Excellence (twice) and the hospital's Interculturalism Prize and the Immigration and Citizenship Award. She has also voluntarily given much time to be a mentor and guide to many of our Gulf trainees, welcoming them not only to Canada but to her home.

We could all learn from Louise's modelling of the academic pediatrician.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
April 7, 2017

"Of all the books in the world, the best stories are found in the pages of a passport"
Anonymous

Hi Everyone,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to our departing Chief Residents Marie-Helene Gagnon and Esli Osmanliiu for a job well done.

The Chief Residents are selected by their peers and the role has evolved over the years from that of what was essentially a PICU fellowship year a generation ago to one that is chiefly administrative. Essentially, the Chiefs serve as a vital link and liaison between the pediatric residents and the Program Directors and hospital clinical leaders. They also play a vital role in ensuring resident well-being and providing much needed peer support at a critical time in one's professional journey. Finally, and perhaps at a most existential level, they ensure that the duty rosters are filled in the context of the invariable, and to be expected, illnesses and leaves that pop up. Many of our most valued Departmental members served a stint as Chief Resident in their time.

Marie-Helene is from Chicoutimi and is very family oriented. She was a competitive diver at a high level and indeed left home at the age of 13 to train and compete. She did her medical school at McGill, which included two months of electives in Africa in Ghana and Burkina Faso. During her time as Chief Resident, she continually tweaked the call schedule to maximize coverage and many times, when coverage was short, Marie-Helene would pitch in herself beyond the work rules to do so. She also updated the resident academic half-day curriculum (together with Rob Sternszus). I will always fondly recall at last year's Staff-Resident BBQ at my place, her parents setting up a slow cooked BBQ pit on my driveway and roasting the biggest side of beef I ever saw. It is hard to believe that in cantankerous Westmount, we didn't get fined for that. Marie-Helene will be heading to Children's Hospital Boston, now that she has slipped through the Trump visa dragnet, for a fellowship in Cardiology.

Esli was born in Albania, a nation that was the next to-last Stalinist dictatorship (North Korea remains) and the poorest in Europe. He left with his family at 9 to come to Canada where he quickly adapted as he played both competitive hockey and tennis. Like Marie-Helene, he got his MDCM at McGill and during his time as a student participated in an exchange with Taiwan (this DA is reading like a globetrotting geography lesson). During his year as Chief, he produced a 'Resident Leadership Guide' to promote leadership skills and involvement in our resident staff. Esli is heading across the mountain to Hopital Ste-Justine for a fellowship in Emergency Medicine.

Let's thank both Marie-Helene and Esli for their time as Chief Residents and wish them the best on their future paths. Let's also welcome the incoming Chiefs, Aris Hadjinicolaou and Matthew Magyar.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Regards

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

This is another long overdue Departmental Acknowledgement, and I am actually glad that I waited, as I now have not one but three reasons to highlight the contributions of Johanne Morel.

A graduate of Université de Montréal, Johanne has made her mark in health care in the remote Northern regions of Quebec amongst our Inuit and Cree First Nations peoples. Before entering pediatrics training split between CHEO and the MCH, Johanne practiced for two years amongst the Cree communities centered around Chisasibi. Johanne has spent her entire practice and academic career at the MCH and McGill in our Northern Program Whapmagoostui- Kuujjuaaraapik combining time spent on the ground in the Cree and Nunavik region together with providing medical support to these remote communities, first by satellite phone and then by telehealth, as well as by seeing children sent south for more advanced tertiary level care. This practice extends over three decades and has involved roughly twelve weeks a year of extended travel in harsh geographic and climatic conditions away from family and comfort. Johanne has made an enormous impact on child health in this vast underserved region and during that time has developed a deep appreciation of health and disease and how care must be adapted to suit culture and context. A tangible demonstration of Johanne’s commitment is her acquisition of considerable language skills, both written and verbal, in Inuktitut. Many a time, Johanne has been accompanied in her travels by one of our PGME trainees, exposing our learners in a direct way to providing health care in challenging situations.

Johanne’s extended dedication has led to her leading the process that resulted in the PH Bryce Award from the Canadian Pediatric Society being given to the children of a northern community. This award “recognizes and honors leadership in promoting safety, health and well being of First Nations, Metis and Inuit children and youth”. Specifically, Johanne first undertook a project that provided the evidence that the children of Nunavik suffered a disproportionate burden of traumatic brain injuries as a result of motor vehicle accidents, typically from riding all-terrain vehicles or ski-dos. This then lead to innovative community-based and child focused preventative efforts (think videos and coloring books) to encourage and facilitate helmet usage. The end result is that in the joint Cree/Inuit community of Whapmagoostui-Kuujjuaaraapik, both the Cree and Inuit bands have provided all children with helmets. Given the award to the local children provides both empowerment and positive reinforcement that will hopefully make this an enduring change in practice and ultimately a lot less children suffering TBIs.

Johanne’s long work in the North and her creativity and ingenuity makes her more than prepared to now undertake the leadership of our Northern Program. A Departmental innovation, it is indeed one of our ‘highlight reel’ clinical and academic efforts. Effective May 1st, Johanne will become the Program Director and I have no doubt that she will rise to the challenge.

Please join me in congratulating Johanne on her well-deserved appointment.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCP(C), FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone

Promotion to Full Professor at the University is a joyous moment for all. It's something to be savoured and celebrated by all. That's why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Saleem Razack on the occasion of his promotion to Professor in our Department.

I would like to paste below what I wrote in support of Saleem's promotion:

Saleem's major academic efforts have been directed at the development of innovative programs and achieving teaching excellence. His focus is best encapsulated by his efforts to promote ethno-cultural diversity within medicine that is representative of the society we seek to serve. His substantial efforts in this regard as Assistant Dean of Admissions, Diversity & Equity for the Faculty from 2009-2015 are well known. He has fostered and implemented the M3I as a key element of the medical school selection process. Through considerable upstream efforts, he has developed mechanisms to create a more diverse applicant pool and a selection process that fosters diversity without sacrificing merit. That he has done so in the face of often biased criticism is a credit to his dedication.

National and international recognition is the key criteria that merits promotion to Full Professor. Saleem's recognized leadership role is exemplified by multiple awards, including the Pediatric Chairs of Canada Clinician-Educator Award (2014), the May Cohen Gender Equity Award (2012), and the Faculty's inaugural Haile T. Debas Award (2012). Saleem has been a consistent advocate and leader, both locally and nationally, in efforts to promote equity and cultural sensitivity within the profession of medicine. For this, our entire Faculty community can take pride.

Saleem also has achieved significant international recognition. In the last few years, he has received several international invitations to present his work at conferences or lend his expertise in the evaluation of a program. He has been a program evaluator (2015) and a CanMEDS Scholar (2013 and 2014) on behalf of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada at the International Residency Program Consultation in King Abdullah Medical City, Makkah, Saudi Arabia. He gave three invited plenary lectures at the Medical Education Conference of Chang Gong Hospital in Linkou, Taiwan in 2015. His international reputation has also led to his outreach consulting work at medical schools in Saudi Arabia, Oman, and Kuwait, and his consulting work for the Aga Khan University in East Africa through Academics without Borders.

As an educator, Saleem presents a superb teaching dossier. Here, too, excellence has consistently been recognized including the Kaplan Teaching Award (1999), selection to the Faculty Honor Roll for Educational Excellence (2007) and the Canadian Med-Ed Certificate of Merit (2007). Saleem was our Department's Associate Chair for Education (2011-2016) and under his leadership efforts at inter-professional education have begun to take root and blossom.

In addition, over the last few years Saleem has embraced an academic approach to education, seeking to measure its impact. The result has been both external grant funding and a number of publications. Thus Saleem is that increasingly rare entity in the academic world: a true triple threat with excellence in teaching, scholarly activities and contributions to the broader university community that extends well beyond his local impact.
Finally, I must comment from my own personal experience on Saleem’s superb clinical skills and exemplary professionalism as an intensive care physician. I have witnessed him attend to the most difficult and challenging of cases consistently with excellence, dedication, and above all, selfless compassion.

Please join me in congratulating Saleem on this important milestone in his professional journey.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Ilana Bank** on the occasion of her selection to the Faculty Honor Roll for Educational Excellence. She is one of four Faculty members selected this year.

I thought it would be apropos to reproduce below what I wrote in my nomination letter putting forward Ilana for this designation:

*Ilana is a McGill product through and through. She received her MDCM in 2002 and then completed her pediatric residency and her pediatric emergency fellowship in our Department of Pediatrics. She has been an attending physician in our ER since 2009 and holds an appointment as an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics.*

*Ilana’s passion and excellence for medical education and teaching has been evident from the outset of her professional journey as a Faculty member. She has completed the Teaching Scholars Program and has a sustained record of outstanding teaching evaluations. In a Department with a reputation for considerable educational excellence, Ilana is universally recognized by our learners as an inspirational, indeed transformative, teacher and role model for physicianship and professionalism. That she does the bulk of her teaching hours in the context of an always busy, at times chaotic, emergency room setting, is a testimony to her capability and dedication to finding the “teaching moment”.*

*Ilana’s significant involvement, innovation and leadership, at the Faculty level and nationally, in education have been focused in the domain of simulation education. She is committed to creating a ‘safe’ educational curricula in which learners can profit from learning from their mistakes, without harming actual patients. The goal is always better care for children through iterative learning.*

*Ilana led the way to create a Canadian Pediatric Emergency Medicine Simulation Curriculum that has been adopted nationally. This curriculum ensures equivalent training irrespective of geography that is the initial cornerstone of equal care for all children in an emergency context. This curriculum has presaged the adoption of a competency-by-design model of trainee evaluation.*

*Ilana’s educational leadership and innovation is also evident in her collaboration with colleagues in other disciplines and professions to create inter-professional simulation curricula that more closely mimic the reality of present-day care delivery in a tertiary pediatric care facility. This is a now vital part of both our continuing professional development and our efforts to improve quality and patient safety.*

*A final area of innovation and leadership in education demonstrated by Ilana is her use of simulated disasters on two occasions to further our understanding of potential challenges and deficiencies in our present strategies to deal with potential mass pediatric casualties. These simulations were massive logistical undertakings that by necessity involved months of detailed planning and collaboration with varied agencies outside the traditional health care milieu. Ilana’s ability to carefully analyze the results of these simulations has led to modifications in our response plans.*
In all her efforts, Ilana has maintained a commitment to educational scholarship. The result is multiple publications in peer-reviewed journals, abstracts and presentations at national and international meetings.

The areas of educational innovation highlighted above all share a common theme. Through learning and practice in a safe milieu, improvements in practice and care and ultimately patient outcomes can be realized. Ilana embodies the highest standards and expectations of our Faculty’s educational culture and I support her consideration for the Honor List in the highest terms and without reservation.

Please join me in congratulating Ilana on this most well-deserved personal honor.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone

Typically a Departmental Acknowledgement is given for something someone does or achieves. However this week’s acknowledgement goes to Mitch Shiller and Harley Eisman for what they didn’t do.

What they didn’t do was put their own self-interest before that of the MCH community. Basically they took one for our team. They were under no obligation to do so, but they did so willingly and without much in the way of hesitation. For this I am grateful, and our entire community should be grateful.

The sequence of events begins with the PEM system that is quite frankly the bane of my administrative existence. PEMs are a way for the MSSS to micro manage health care. It essentially applies the principles of command and control central planning and supply management that worked so well in such robust economies and societies as the former Soviet Union (remember that one?) and applies it not to consumer products, but rather to physicians. It does so without a shred of demonstrable evidence, now 20 years post-implementation, of any improvement of population access to health care or ameliorating health outcomes, which are its stated objectives.

The net result of PEMs is a loss of local control and flexibility to respond to needs or enable proper respectful management of a physician’s professional career journey. We often have no places for bright young trainees, no way to recognize substantive research, education and administrative roles, and no way for our older members to gradually reduce their work and practice efforts.

We encountered this most recently in the context of a recruit for our PICU. We will leave aside that by any metric utilized that we are staffed at half the level of the other PICUs in Quebec. We will also leave aside that we were promised (in writing no less) an additional PICU PEM if we created an Alternative Care Unit (ACU) or step-down unit (which we did). The recruit (Tanya Di Genova) even before securing a staff position has already done miracles in bed flow and bed management that has substantially reduced operative cancellations and ensured access to critical care beds when needed. She is by all accounts a budding superstar. Yet our logically reasoned request for a PEM for her was arbitrarily and summarily rejected.

Rather than simply accepting this, hospital and Departmental leadership thought creatively of a solution. However this involved Mitch voluntarily giving up his PEM in the ER and Harley as the ER Division Director accepting Tanya being given an ER PEM on a short term basis. With her commitments in the PICU, Harley was well aware that Tanya’s presence in the ER would be less than expected for a PEM. Mitch was well aware he was parting ways with a segment of his professional practice that he enjoyed and excelled in.

These were not easy decisions for any of those involved. We live in the ‘selfie’ era that says a lot about priorities, but its nice to know that some folks stand not by themselves, but with others. A lesson for all of us to take note of.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone,

A few months into my first mandate as Chair, I heard a long time US Chair utter a phrase that has stuck with me ever since: “Philanthropy is the future of academic medicine”. Basically we can expect no further funding beyond the basics from the university or government, so we need to connect with donors to support our dreams to make health care innovative and better for the children and families we serve.

That is why this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Paul Rossy. A community-based physician who does some clinical associate time in our NICU, Paul has emerged as a dynamo fundraiser for our NICU. Building on connections, he has made contact with donors and made the case for them to provide tangible and substantive support. Donations secured by Paul in the last year have crossed the $1 million threshold and has provided support for the breast milk feeding program for the NICU. This is not merely ‘bells and whistles’, but has been shown to reduce morbidity and improve outcomes across the board for newborns hospitalized in a NICU.

With support for this program secured, Paul has moved on to raising funds to enable the purchase of HERO monitors that will enable both the early detection of neonatal sepsis and the remote monitoring of vitals through Smartphone Apps. In support of this effort, Paul staged a recent concert at the Corona Theatre centered around the release of his recent album “Goodbye Sings the Wind”. Many members of our donor and hospital community were present to lend their support as well. Once again an expected pay-off in reduced morbidity and improved outcomes can be expected through Paul’s efforts once the HERO monitors are obtained.

We can all learn from Paul and make our own efforts to engage with donors to foster support for our hospital. The dividends and return on the investment of our time will be more than worth it.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
May 26, 2017

“Colleagues are a wonderful thing – but mentors, that’s where the real work gets done.”

Junot Diaz

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement is a most personal one and goes to Bernard Rosenblatt; teacher, mentor, colleague, friend and mensch.

It is hard to believe, but Bernie will be taking his retirement from the practice of medicine in the upcoming month of June. Like many of us, Bernie is a McGill lifer- BSc in psychology (where he studied with DO Hebb) MDCM, residencies in medicine (JGH), pediatrics, neurology and fellowship in clinical neurophysiology. His initial staff appointment at the MCH and in the Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery lasted his entire professional career.

Bernie played many roles within Pediatric Neurology over the years; Program Director, Division Director, Director of the Clinical Neurophysiology Laboratory (now Neurodiagnostics) and research supervisor. I would estimate that at least 50 child neurologists (including myself) trained under him and many have gone on to distinguished high profile careers. He pioneered evoked potentials at the MCH, as well as the application locally of the most cutting edge intra-operative monitoring techniques for both epilepsy and scoliosis surgery.

If you worked with Bernie you know he is brilliant. I simply do not know anyone with a more encyclopedic up-to-date knowledge of pediatric epilepsy. Indeed, if you were in the Division of Pediatric Neurology, you knew it was Monday morning when you woke up and found in your InBox the latest ‘must-read’ article from the entire spectrum of the field sent by Bernie in the early morning hours when all were soundly sleeping; diagnosis, classification, treatment, genetics, localization or imaging.

Bernie was also a great clinician. Much of what I knew about neurology I would hear first from him. He always seemed to be slightly ahead of the curve. He would always be the first among us to try out a new medication on an intractable epileptic or a challenging behavioural disorder.

Bernie was a relentless practical joker. How many of us were freaked out by a remarkably realistic plastic rat appearing without warning in our office or clinic or the famous ‘bloody nail in his finger and help me dig out’ joke? He was also a relentless truth teller and never hesitated to call out hospital pettiness, stupidity or note that the Emperor really had no clothes.

It’s hard to over-estimate Bernie’s impact on me over the years. He was even Annette’s MSc and PhD supervisor in the days before there were rehabilitation sciences post-graduate degrees. A short story illustrates his impact in a touching way for me. As I was leaving my pediatric residency to go into neurology, where I would spend half my time on adult services, he thrust into my hands on my way out the door trembling with fear, his own personal copy of Plum and Posner’s classic “The Diagnosis of Stupor and Coma” telling me to read it and absorb it. And when my daughter Allison told him recently she was going to do a fellowship in critical care, he thrust into her hands as a gift his personal copy of the latest edition.

If anyone has earned the peace and quiet of retirement it is Bernie. No doubt he will enjoy his children and grandchildren scattered around this world, the company of Abby, as well as the music that is such an integral part of his family life. He will however be missed from our community.

Please join me in wishing Bernie a retirement filled only with health, happiness and good things.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Hi Everyone

For the Faculty member for whom the focus is on research, nothing gets better than an external salary support award. Not only does this bear the sweet taste of peer recognition, it is a tangible validation of one’s research program’s successful efforts and an essential precondition to promotion, tenure and recognition at a national and international level. Our Department is blessed to have a large number of externally supported researchers for its size and this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Marie Brossard-Racine, Mary Ellen MacDonald, Maryam Oskoui and Janet Rennick. All of these individuals were successful in the recently completed FRQ-S 2016-2017 salary support competition.

An occupational therapist by professional training, Marie Brossard-Racine secured her initial Chercheur-Boursier Jr 1 Award. Marie is an Associate Member of our Department with an appointment in the Division of Pediatric Neurology. Her research program uses advanced quantitative imaging techniques to further our understanding of the mechanisms of adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in at-risk newborn populations with a particular focus on infants with congenital heart disease. Marie’s MR techniques are paired with rigorous standardized outcome measures. Marie’s PhD work was done here at the MCH and her post-doctoral fellowship at Children’s National in DC. Her salary support award comes just weeks after the birth of her first child.

Mary Ellen MacDonald is a medical anthropologist by training. Affiliated as an Associate Member of our Department with a home base in our Division of General pediatrics, Mary Ellen’s research work has focused on a variety of vulnerable pediatric populations including indigenous children, socially disadvantaged children and those receiving palliative care. Mary Ellen leads McGill’s Qualitative Research group and brings a strong contextual and ethical framework and lens to her efforts. Mary Ellen was successful in receiving a Chercheur Boursier Jr2 Award.

Maryam Oskoui is Canada’s first pediatric neuro-epidemiologist. A member of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, she serves on the Department’s Executive Committee as Associate Chair (Research). Maryam’s clinical and research expertise is directed towards neuro-motor disorders. She leads the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Registry and has made important observations regarding the phenotypic spectrum of this disorder, socio-economic determinants and the increasingly recognized role played by genetic factors in causation. She has also led the way in establishing evidence-based international guidelines for the care of children with spinal muscular atrophy and muscular dystrophy and been a key participant in the conduct of international clinical trials evaluating novel genetic based treatments for SMA that are paradigm shifters. Maryam received a Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Award at the Jr 2 level.

Janet Rennick is a nurse by health profession and leveraged her clinical experience as a PICU nurse to create a successful research program that evaluates the child and family’s response to critical illness. The goal of Janet’s work is to improve our knowledge of psychological outcomes after pediatric critical illness and correlate these outcomes with factors that are amenable to intervention and change. Janet is an Associate Member of our Department and is affiliated with the Division of Critical Care. She received a Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Award at the Senior level.

We can all take pride in the contributions of Marie, Mary Ellen, Maryam and Janet to our academic enterprise. They represent a diversity of research methodologies, clinical challenges, approaches and inter-disciplinarity that is increasingly a hallmark of research success. They are all in their own work adding to what we know about child health and disease. They are indeed poking and prying with a purpose.

Please join me in congratulating each of them on their important personal awards.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
June 9, 2017

“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Henry Ford

Hi Everyone

How often have you heard me say or write: “medicine is a team sport”?

The following Acknowledgement was suggested and written by Robert Sternzus and is just one such example amongst many that take place every week at the MCH. Each of those mentioned gets a DA, as does Rob.

“At approximately 2:30pm on Friday afternoon June 2nd, a decision was made to open the centre pod (8 beds) on B9 as of 5pm because there were 12 pending admissions in the ER and all of the yellow and red ER beds were occupied, leaving them with no room to accept new patients. This, after our nursing colleagues managed to scrape together coverage for the additional 8 beds.

From a medical coverage point of view, this left us in a difficult situation. There was only 1 resident scheduled to be the ‘late senior’ as of 5pm, with nobody scheduled to be late junior and only 2 medical students scheduled to be on service in the evening. This was obviously not a tenable or safe situation with anywhere from 7-12 new patients expected to arrive on the floor between 17h00 and when the night floats were scheduled to arrive at 8pm.

Without hesitation, residents and staff worked together to form a plan. Both daytime ward seniors, Alexandre Deragon and Vanessa Gaudoury-Levesque, agreed that they would stay until what turned out to be after 9pm. The daytime ward junior, Rilla Schneider, also volunteered to stay past her shift to help get things done. The chief residents called the 2 night floats, Tania Gianonne and Noah Marzook who volunteered to start their shifts at 5:30pm instead of 8pm to help ensure patients were safely admitted. The 2 daytime ward staff, Holly Agostino and Gillian Morantz, stayed well after handover to help review admissions despite being at the end of an extremely busy and understaffed 2 weeks of service. And finally, Steve Liben, who was coming on service for the weekend, stayed in-house with the resident team late into the night helping to oversee the safe admissions of all of these new patients.

Each of the above residents and ward attendings went above and beyond the call of duty on extremely short notice. I walked around the wards in the early evening to see how things were going, and what I saw was a group of nurses, students, residents, and attendings working together collaboratively and efficiently to get the job done. I could not have been prouder to be the new PD of this amazing resident group and a member of this ward attending team than I was in that moment.

I truly believe that this group deserves to be publicly acknowledged for the commitment to our hospital, patients, and each other that they demonstrated this last Friday.”

I could not agree more!

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
June 16, 2017

“Knowledge is in the end based on acknowledgement.”

Ludwig Wittgenstein

Hi Everyone

There is nothing sweeter in academia than peer recognition for a body of work that constitutes one's career efforts. That is why this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Larry Lands on the occasion of his receiving the Pediatric Respirology Lifetime Award from the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS). David Zieleinski put forward Larry for this award and had the honor of introducing Larry at the CTS recent annual meeting in Winnipeg. I have reproduced Dave’s introductory speech on this occasion below.

“I am very proud to introduce this year’s recipient of the Life-time Achievement award in Pediatric Respirology. The Recipient is supposed to meet at least one of the criteria:

1. Distinguished clinical service and dedication to patient care
2. Significant contribution to clinical or basic science research in the field of pediatric respirology
3. Dedication to the education of pediatric respiratory fellows or students
4. Significant contribution to academic pediatric respirology in Canada, including the Canadian Thoracic Society or Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

I think it goes without saying that this year's winner, Dr. Larry Lands is clearly deserving of this award as he has excelled at all levels including research, education, leadership and clinical involvement.”

As a bit of a background, Larry did his clinical training at the Montreal Children’s Hospital before starting his clinical practice at Maisonneuve Rosemont Hospital. After a few years his drive for academics led him to undertake a PhD at McMaster University focusing on factors affecting maximal exercise performance in cystic fibrosis. before he returned to his home at the MCH and McGill in 1992 where he has remained ever since.

Academically he has an outstanding track record near the top of this country in our field. He has well over 150 peer reviewed publications, numerous book chapters and has been consistently receiving grants. I am not going to review his entire CV as we could be here all night but I would like to mention Larry has been involved in leadership at multiple national and international respiratory societies, has been an invited lecturer all over the world has and continues to sit on multiple editorial boards and grant review committees. After reading everything he does, it actually now makes sense why sometimes we cannot find him anywhere.

Education-wise Larry has been a committed teacher over his career. He was a long time Pediatric Respirology training program director at McGill and is the current fellowship director for the Pediatric Respirology Research Fellowship. He has been running our weekly fellows physiology course and had been giving regular ventilator physiology lectures for ICU trainees. He has also supervised many Masters and PhD students.

Larry has been a Leader here at the Canadian Thoracic Society since our pediatric group made our national organization in 2008 and is currently serves on the CTS Board of Directors and is the Chair of the Society's Research Committee.
Where, at least for me, Larry really stands out is the leadership and mentorship he has always provided to our group. His leadership has led most of us to take on significant leadership positions in national and international organizations and to succeed in our clinical and academic pursuits. Around our Division, Larry is often referred to as ‘Dad’. He takes that role seriously allowing us to develop and spread our wings at our own pace, giving us the freedom we need and advice when we need it. He has always been there more as a mentor and then as our boss. Now there may be some rumors that occasionally Larry may have a temper, but I stress these are just rumors which have never been substantiated. That said we always know Larry has our best interests at heart and will always stand up for us. More so then Dad, Larry is more like our Big Brother and we really appreciate him for that."

Not only did Larry receive this major honor from a national society of his peers, but his long time advocacy efforts paid off just this month with the announcement that Quebec will now offer universal newborn screening for cystic fibrosis. The test will be a biochemical one which will be followed by detailed molecular diagnosis. Early diagnosis will no doubt lead to improve outcomes for the children. Sadly Quebec is the last jurisdiction in North America to offer this screening and only does so because of the relentless lobbying that was a partnership between the lay CF community and academics like Larry.

Please join me in congratulating Larry on his personal honor but also on his advocacy success which makes a difference.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCP, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
"The aim of education is knowledge, not of facts, but of values"

William S Burroughs

Hi Everyone

Two Fridays ago on June 9th, we held our Third Annual Graduation Ceremony for the Department's General Pediatrics and Sub-Specialty residents and fellows. For the residents/fellows and their families and the many Faculty in attendance it was an opportunity to come together and celebrate achievement and an important milestone in these young physicians' professional journey. An important aspect of belonging to an academic community is the opportunity it provides to inform and prepare the next generation of health professionals for the challenges in care they will face. In teaching not only do we learn, but in a way we keep the spark and vibrancy of youth. For each of our graduates, there is a remarkable personal story of dedication and hard work that yields the seed of their future promise and accomplishments to come. That is why each of the individuals below deserves a Departmental Acknowledgement.

R4 Graduating Residents Completing General Pediatrics
- Hatem Al-Rawahi
- Estelle Chetrit
- Samuel Freeman
- Tania Giannone
- Kristen Lambrinakos-Raymond
- Alexandra Langlois
- Yalin Lin
- Christina Maratta
- Stephanie Mourad
- Julie Nadeau-Lessard
- Nikki Rink
- Bindu Suresh

R3 Residents Completing their Core Pediatrics Training & Leaving the MCH for Fellowship Training Elsewhere
- Marie-Helene Gagnon
- Esli Osmanliiu

Fellows Graduating from Sub-specialties
- Allergy & Immunology
  - Adam Byrne
  - Sarah De Schryver
- Endocrinology
  - Daphne Cloutier
  - Marie-Eve Robinson
- Emergency Medicine
  - Mher Barbarian
- Hematology-Oncology
  - Janie Charlebois
Nephrology
  ❖  Sandrica Young-Peart
Neurology
  ❖  Ghalia Al-Yazidi
Neonatal – Perinatal Medicine
  ❖  Alicia Lambrinakos-Raymond
  ❖  Nina Nouraeyan
Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
  ❖  Lalida Kongkiattikul
  ❖  Kantara Saelim
Respirology
  ❖  Aaron St-Laurent
  ❖  Zofia Zysman-Colman
Rheumatology
  ❖  Dania Basodan
Social Pediatrics
  ❖  Anne-Claire Paquet De Varennes

I also exercised a Chair’s prerogative and awarded two special graduating diplomas to honor the enormous contributions to post-graduate medical education made by Evelyn Constantin and Catherine Henin who each completed their service as our General Pediatrics Residency Program Directors. One can never overestimate the work and heart both of these extra-ordinary educators put into the program and more importantly the individual residents under their care and supervision. That is why both are also deserving of a Departmental Acknowledgement.

With the St Jean Baptiste long weekend beginning tomorrow we have reached our traditional academic summer hiatus. The weekly Departmental Acknowledgement will return after Labour Day in September.

Have a great summer everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor (with Tenure)
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery
McGill University

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief
Montreal Children's Hospital/
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

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