TOWARD A NEW GENERATION OF CLINICIAN SCIENTISTS

Dr. David Eidelman
Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) &
Dean, Faculty of Medicine
McGill University

The Faculty of Medicine has set as one of its strategic priorities to encourage the emergence of a new generation of clinician scientists. Although it will take time to see their impact, we are undertaking specific measures to help protect the research mission in our clinical departments.

One initiative is to reinvent the M.D. & Ph.D program in a way that increases the likelihood of M.D., C.M. graduates remaining active in research. Under the leadership of the Department of Medicine’s Mark Eisenberg, we are moving to a separate stream for entry into M.D. & Ph.D, with the goal of trying to attract students who are particularly well-suited to a long term research career. In addition to using slightly modified admission criteria, students selected into this stream will be expected to complete both their M.D. and their Ph.D in order to graduate. Based on the experience at the University of Toronto, we expect that this will lead to a greater percentage of graduates pursuing a career as a clinician scientist.

We are also moving to help successful clinician scientists to remain active in research by optimizing the use of scarce tenure track slots. After completing 12-15 years under rémunération recherche, physician-scientists need a tenure salary to support research time. To maximize the availability of such positions, the Faculty has secured the Provost’s agreement to adapt the standard tenure system to better reflect our needs. Rather than at initial hiring, tenure-track slots will be reserved for those who successfully obtain FRQS Chercheur-boursier or Chercheur-boursier clinicien senior awards. These professors will switch to a tenure track position just as their salary support from FRQS runs out. It is anticipated many professors will choose to go forward for early tenure consideration.

To maximize resources available to support clinician scientists, the university salary would be divided into two parts. A more modest professorial salary would be permanent once tenure is achieved. The remaining salary, which would bring the total to what would have been given under the previous system (and which will include merit bonuses), would be awarded as a 5-year contract renewable for as long as the individual continues to be productive in research.

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MCGILL MEDICINE GLOBAL HEALTH INITIATIVE
THE HAITI EXPERIENCE

Dr. Michelle Elizov
Associate Professor, General Internal Medicine

Three years ago, three residents from the core Internal Medicine (IM) program came up with the idea to develop a partnership with a hospital center in Haiti in order to expose residents in Internal Medicine to different cultures and approaches to health care. Under the mandate of the Division of General Internal Medicine (GIM), Dr. Jeff Wiseman and I became involved as supervisors, helping the residents to create a program that would allow the educational needs of both our residents and our Haitian colleagues to be addressed. We developed a relationship with Partners in Health/Zanmi Lasante (PIH/ZL), a non-governmental organization (NGO) with links to Harvard Medical School which has been a key player in the efforts to rebuild Haiti’s health care system. Our goals were to help our residents learn what it is to provide health care in a severely under-resourced area and to learn and consider how this might impact their view of health care and its delivery to all of their patients, both in Haiti and Canada. For our colleagues in Haiti, the goals were to expand their clinical and educational capacity. It turned out to be so much more for both of us.

We have recently completed our second month-long rotation in Haiti, working closely with the Family Medicine Program at St. Nicolas Hospital in St. Marc, a secondary level hospital with an intended catchment area of 300,000 inhabitants but an effective catchment area of 1.6 million since the earthquake of 2010. No IM training program exists yet at this site. To date, 6 IM core residents have spent one month in Haiti, along with 1 GIM fellow and 6 GIM attending physicians – Drs. Thomas Maniatis, Patrick Willemot, Laurence Green, Suzanne Dubé, Louise Pilote and Joyce Pickering. The personal and professional experiences exceeded all expectations, and a strong, mutually beneficial relationship has been developed with the PIH/ZL leadership, the Family Medicine training program and its leadership, and between residents from both countries. The program has been supported by the Department of Medicine, the Division of General Internal Medicine, and the Internal Medicine and GIM Training Programs. The Association des spécialistes en médecine interne du Québec (ASMIQ) and Dean Eidelman also provided funds to permit one of our Haitian colleagues to come to Montreal and participate in an ASMIQ conference last year as part of this educational exchange. We hope to continue to develop this program and the mutually beneficial relationship and exchanges, and plan to work with PIH/ZL to also consider developing a GIM training program. Our next trip to Haiti will be in spring 2016 (period 10) and we encourage all Department members to consider being part of this amazing experience in some way.
PATIENT ENGAGEMENT

Susan Bartlett, PhD
Associate Professor, Divisions of Clinical Epidemiology, Rheumatology and Respiratory Diseases

“Nothing about us without us” was a rallying cry for people with disabilities in the 1980s as they sought to ensure their voices were heard in the planning of care and policies that affected their lives. Around the same time, people living with HIV/AIDS also began insisting they had a right to be involved with identifying research priorities and outcomes that mattered to them. These two groups showed how people with personal experience of a health condition could offer valuable input when improving healthcare systems, identifying priorities, conducting research, and establishing policies.

A priority of the Department of Medicine is to bring together patients, clinicians, researchers, and administrators to help us improve the quality of care we offer and build an equitable, accessible and sustainable systems within our Montreal hospitals. Already, much has been accomplished.

Engaging Patients in Care Improvement
Several decades of research has shown that involving patients as partners in their own care leads to better outcomes. Policy makers are becoming convinced that patients can play a vital role in improving the quality, efficiency and outcomes obtained in healthcare systems. Mr. Mario Di Carlo, a patient and Co-Chair of the MUHC users’ committee, worked closely with Patricia O’Connor, former Director of Nursing, in a study funded by the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement called Transforming Care at the Bedside (TCAB). Working with patients and frontline staff, their goal was threefold - to improve work environments, patient care experiences and simplify routine procedures. Over 4 years, RN efficiency to locate equipment improved, admission/discharge procedures were streamlined, medication transcription errors were reduced and patient ratings improved.

Partnering with Patients in Research
Patients are also partnering with researchers to ensure that research focuses on priorities that are important to patients. Although rheumatoid arthritis (RA) has been a focus of my research for 15 years, working closely with patients over the last 8 years has changed the way I conceptualize and conduct research. Our team of researchers, clinicians, and patient partners from Germany, the UK, USA, Australia and Denmark conducted focus groups and Delphi’s to identify what matters most in RA care. Joint symptoms, inflammatory markers, pain and disability are traditional indicators of how well treatment is working. But patients told us that fatigue, stiffness, and trouble participating in day-to-day activities were also highly distressing and disabling symptoms too. Now, new pharmacological and behavioral interventions are being developed to address these patient-identified priorities. Putting patients first and collaborating with patient partners is at the heart of the new CIHR SPOR (Strategies for Patient-Oriented Research) initiative aimed at creating research that is responsive to the needs of Canadians. Several McGill faculty are leading key SPOR efforts.

Learning from Each Other – Patients Helping Patients
Mr. Di Carlo is involved as a trainer in My Tool Box (www.mytoolbox.mcgill.ca), an evidence-based program funded mainly by the MUHC and modeled after the Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP) from Stanford. The six-week program provides tools to patients to help them manage their condition and symptoms. Nearly 2000 participants have enrolled in My Tool Box since its inception in 2007.

As the ultimate stakeholders in our system, our patients bring unique and important perspectives to health care and health research. We have much to learn and more work ahead to develop and implement truly patient-centered models of care throughout the Department.
ANNUAL DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM

Dr. James Martin
Chair, Department of Medicine

The McGill University Department of Medicine 2015 Research Symposium was held at the Faculty Club on May 13th and was attended by just over 100 faculty members. This important annual event offers exceptional learning opportunities. Two excellent keynote speakers covered opposite ends of the spectrum of interest for a medical and scientific audience. Dr. Katherine Siminovitch, Director of the Genomic Medicine Division and Clinical Genomics Centre of the University Health Network/Mt. Sinai Hospital in Toronto, talked about “Connecting Genomics Research to New Understanding of Autoimmune Disease”. Her talk made a complex area accessible to the non-expert and brought us closer to an understanding of inflammatory diseases. Dr. Antonia Maioni, Professor of Political Science based in the McGill Institute for Health and Social Policy spoke on “Health Reform in Quebec; where from here?” Her talk was a masterful journey through the history of public medicine in Quebec and the objectives of the current reforms. Dr. Salman Qureshi described the role of a novel lymphocyte, the innate lymphoid cell in cryptoccal infection, based on his studies in mice. Dr. Ruth Sapir-Pichhadze spoke on personalized medicine as it relates to kidney transplantation and the advances in HLA matching. Dr. Mark Blostein described his studies of prostaglandins in venous thrombosis related to cancer. Dr. Benjamin Smith provided data on airway anatomy and risk of chronic obstructive lung disease. Dr. Jamie Engert described his studies of several issues in cardiovascular disease and his approaches to understanding gene-environment interactions in those conditions. Dr. Christina Greenaway discussed viral hepatitis in immigrants and explained the differences in their risk factors from those in Canadians. Dr. Ernest Seidman presented data on vitamin D and Crohn’s disease. The audience was treated to a range of topics accessible to all. The event was accredited. We look forward to another terrific symposium around the same time next year.

BASIC SCIENCES JOURNAL CLUBS IN THE NEW CURRICULUM

Dr. Simon Wing
Professor, Division of Endocrinology & Metabolism

One of the goals of the new medical school curriculum is to integrate teaching in clinical and basic sciences throughout the four years. The Basics Science Subcommittee (on which I am sitting) of the Curriculum Committee is proposing a series of journal club sessions beginning in the Research Course of the first phase (Fundamentals of Medicine and Dentistry, FMD) and continuing through Transition to Clinical Practice and Clerkship. These sessions will expose students to clinically relevant research in the basic sciences with the goals of enabling students to (a) read primary research articles, (b) understand concepts that underpin both current and future medical practice, (c) serve in the future as clinical collaborators with basic scientists in translational research projects, and (d) explore basic science research as a possible career path. Articles in the FMD phase will be seminal ones that illustrate how basic science research has transformed medical practice while articles in later phases will illustrate leading edge research concepts and methods that are influencing or will likely impact clinical medicine in the future. The choice of articles as well as the ensuing discussions will be key to the success of the program and so I am soliciting involvement of members of the Department of Medicine in both the selection of articles and in the development of the sessions. If you are interested, please contact me at simon.wing@mcgill.ca. A clinician-educator colleague at University of Toronto once said to me – “At U of T, we do train community family physicians, but we want everyone else to be tomorrow’s academic leaders.” Our new curriculum clearly sends the message that McGill trains family physicians. My personal hope is that these journal club sessions in leading edge areas of the basic sciences will expand to encompass other areas of medicine so that our curriculum also sends the message that we aim to train tomorrow’s academic leaders.
APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Natalie Bottega and Dr. Annabel Chen-Tournoux have been named as Co-Directors of the McGill Cardiology Residency Training Program, effective July 1, 2015. Dr. Bottega, who is based at the MUHC and Dr. Chen-Tournoux at the JGH, are committed to the tried and true model of shared leadership for this program. We are confident that their complementary skill sets and strengths will serve the program well and that the training of cardiology residents will continue to evolve under their guidance. We take this opportunity to extend our sincerest thanks and gratitude to Drs. Regina Husa and Mathieu Walker, the outgoing co-Directors, who have served the Cardiology community at McGill with distinction and pride.

Dr. Mara Ludwig has been appointed to the position of Vice-Dean, Academic Affairs, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, effective June 1, 2015. In this new role, she will build on the successes she has achieved for the Faculty’s academic community as Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs since 2008. A Professor in the Respiratory Division, Dr. Ludwig continues to pursue her research interests at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, focusing on respiratory cell biology and extracellular matrix.

Dr. Margaret Warner has graciously agreed to extend her current mandate as Director of the MUHC Division of Hematology for a further two years, effective June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2017. Dr. Warner has served the MUHC Division of Hematology thus far with great distinction, steering it through rough waters and maintaining an unwavering focus on the delivery of state-of-the-art clinical care to our patients.

SALARY AWARDS

Congratulations to our members!

FRQS Chercheur Boursier – Senior
- Dr. Christian Rocheleau (2 years)

FRQS Chercheur Boursier – Junior 2
- Dr. Maziar Divangahi
- Dr. Nitika Pai
- Dr. Yoanna Skrobik

FRQS Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Senior
- Dr. Marie Hudson
- Dr. Arnold Kristof

FRQS Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Junior 2
- Dr. Sarit Assouline
- Dr. Suzanne Morin
- Dr. Dao Nguyen

FRQS Chercheur Boursier Clinicien – Junior 1
- Dr. Faiz Ahmad Khan
- Dr. Benjamin Smith
- Dr. Evelyne Vinet

CONGRATULATIONS

CANADA RESEARCH CHAIR
- Dr. Susan Kahn (Tier 1)

WILLIAM DAWSON SCHOLARS
- Dr. Stéphane Richard
- Dr. Brent Richards

JAMES MCGILL AWARDS (Renewal)
- Dr. Qutayba Hamid
- Dr. Louise Pilote
- Dr. Stéphane Richard

CANADA FOUNDATION FOR INNOVATION
- Dr. Morag Park
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS WITH TENURE

**Dr. Andrea Benedetti**: A member of the Respiratory Epidemiology and Clinical Research Unit based at the Montreal Chest Institute and jointly appointed in Medicine and Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, Dr. Benedetti is interested in challenges related to analyzing TB data.

**Dr. Brian Chen**: Based at the Center for Research in Neuroscience and jointly appointed in the Departments of Medicine and Neurology & Neurosurgery, Dr. Chen seeks to understand how the instructions to wire up a brain are encoded within the genome.

**Dr. Marie Hudson**: Based at the Jewish General Hospital, Dr. Hudson’s research is in the area of rheumatology, with a focus on scleroderma and Systemic Autoimmune Rheumatic Disease (SARD).

**Dr. Nitika Pant Pai**: A public health physician and epidemiologist, Dr. Pai’s research interests are in the area of infectious diseases, specifically the diagnosis and treatment for HIV/AIDS and related blood-borne infections and for STI (sexually transmitted infections).

FULL PROFESSORS

**Dr. Robin Cohen**: Jointly appointed in Oncology and Medicine and based at the JGH, Dr. Cohen’s research is aimed at providing the evidence base for optimizing the quality of life in persons near the end of life.

**Dr. Andrew Mouland**: Based at the Lady Davis Institute, JGH, Dr. Mouland is an internationally recognized scientist in the field of HIV-1 RNA and cell biology. His research is focused on elucidating the mechanisms by which HIV-1 virus can take over the host cellular machinery.

**Dr. Lawrence Rudski**: Chief of the Cardiology Division at the JGH, Dr. Rudski is nationally and internationally recognized as a leader in echocardiography, with a focus on the echocardiographic assessment of the right heart.

**Dr. Madhukar Pai**: Primarily in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics and Occupational Health, Dr. Pai is an Associate Member in the Respiratory and Infectious Diseases Divisions of the Department of Medicine. His research is mainly focused on improving the diagnosis and treatment of tuberculosis, especially in high-burden countries like India and South Africa.

RECRUITMENT

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Matthias Friedrich** has been recruited to the McGill University Department of Medicine, Division of Cardiology and the McGill University Department of Diagnostic Radiology as Full Professor, with Tenure as of June 1, 2015. Dr. Friedrich is an internationally renowned expert in cardiac magnetic resonance imaging and will be spearheading the development of a Cardiac MRI Program at the MUHC in the state-of-the-art facilities at the Glen Site. Dr. Friedrich earned his MD at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen/Nuernberg, Germany. He completed his training as an internist and cardiologist at the Charité University Medicine Center, Humboldt University in Berlin. From 2004 to 2011, he was Director of the Stephenson Cardiovascular MR Centre at the Libin Cardiovascular Institute of Alberta and Professor of Medicine with the Departments of Cardiac Sciences and Radiology at the University of Calgary. From 2011-2015, he was the Director of the Philippa and Marvin Carsley Cardiovascular MR Centre at the Montreal Heart Institute and held the Michal and Renata Hornstein Chair in Cardiac Imaging. Furthermore Dr. Friedrich was Director of the Cardiovascular MR Core Lab at the Montreal Heart Institute and had leading roles in several Canadian imaging networks. His scientific interest is in new approaches for diagnosing cardiovascular disease using Cardiovascular Magnetic Resonance imaging. He has authored more than 150 peer-reviewed publications and is a member of international writing groups, editorial boards and grant review committees in Europe and North America.
**DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE AWARDS**

*Congratulations to this year’s recipients!*

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<tr>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Physician-in-Chief Award</strong></td>
<td>For highly distinguished service to the MUHC Department of Medicine</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Maniatis</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Medicine Physicianship Award</strong></td>
<td>Exemplary Physician</td>
<td>Dr. Khue Nguyen</td>
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<td><strong>Outreach Award</strong></td>
<td>Attending Staff, Teams or Residents who enhance links between the MUHC and the community</td>
<td>Dr. Patrick Willemot</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Medicine Award</strong></td>
<td>For Research by a Subspecialty Resident</td>
<td>Dr. Emilie Trinh</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Medicine Staff Research Award</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Marcel Behr</td>
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<td><strong>Department of Medicine Early Career Staff Staff Research Award</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Sasha Bernatsky</td>
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<td><strong>The Louis G. Johnson Award</strong></td>
<td>For Excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident - selected by RVH Residents</td>
<td>Dr. Martin Aguilar</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The Lorne E. Cassidy Teaching Award</strong></td>
<td>For Excellence in Teaching by a Medical Resident - selected by MGH Residents</td>
<td>Dr. Maxime Labelle</td>
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<td><strong>The Douglas G. Kinnear Award</strong></td>
<td>Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC - selected by MGH Residents</td>
<td>Dr. Thomas Maniatis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>The W.H. Philip Hill Award</strong></td>
<td>Outstanding Clinician-Teacher at the MUHC - selected by RVH Residents</td>
<td>Dr. Elizabeth O’Brien</td>
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<td><strong>Dave Feder Award</strong></td>
<td>Resident who practices medicine with most compassion and sensitivity</td>
<td>Dr. Paraish Misra</td>
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<td><strong>Sheldon Zemelman Memorial Award</strong></td>
<td>For academic excellence and outstanding contribution to patient care</td>
<td>Dr. Julia Chabot</td>
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<td><strong>Medical Resident Research Award</strong></td>
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<td>Dr. Alastair Dorreen</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Teacher of the Year</strong></td>
<td>Voted by the residents</td>
<td>Dr. Jed Lips</td>
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HONOURS
Congratulations to our members for their achievements!

TWO NEW CANADIAN ACADEMY OF HEALTH SCIENCES FELLOWS

Dr. Alan Barkun, Professor in the Divisions of Gastroenterology and Clinical Epidemiology and Chairholder of the Douglas G. Kinnear Chair in Gastroenterology. Dr. Barkun works on the assessment of effectiveness and costs of emerging and established techniques that provide diagnosis and guide therapy for patients afflicted with diseases of the digestive tract.

Dr. David Eidelman, Vice-Principal (Health Affairs), Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, Professor in the Respiratory Division and former Chair of the McGill Department of Medicine and MUHC Physician-in-Chief from 2004 to 2011. Despite his major administrative position, Dr. Eidelman has maintained an active research portfolio in the area of inflammatory airway disease.

Dr. Susan Bartlett, Associate Professor in the Divisions of Clinical Epidemiology, Rheumatology and Respiratory Diseases, is the recipient of the 2015 Women of Distinction Award in the category Education given out by the Women’s Y Foundation. This prestigious honour serves to highlight women’s outstanding contributions, provide inspiring role models, promote women's leadership and recognize commitment.

Dr. Carolyn Ells, Associate Professor based at the Biomedical Ethics Unit of McGill University, has been appointed as Chair of the Interagency Advisory Panel on Research Ethics, an important Panel that advises the Presidents of CIHR, SSHRC and NSERC on matters of ethics of research involving humans.

In recognition of his groundbreaking contributions to several fields of science and mathematics, and his far-reaching impact on the advancement of medicine, Dr. Leon Glass, Professor of Physiology and Medicine and Isadore Rosenfeld Chair in Cardiology, was recently presented with the Distinguished Alumni Award from Brooklyn College, the institution from which he earned his Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry, graduating cum laude in 1963. Read more.

Dr. David Goltzman, former Chair of our McGill Department and former RVH/MUHC Physician-in-Chief of our Department from 1994 to 2004, current Director of the Calcium Laboratory at the MUHC and Professor of Medicine, is the 2014-2015 recipient of the CP Leblond Award presented by the Network for Oral and Bone Health Research.

Dr. Madhukar Pai, Professor in the Department of Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health, Associate Member in our Department and Director of Global Health Programs at McGill is the recipient of the Faculty of Medicine 2015 Haile T. Debas prize. This prize recognizes a Faculty of any gender or ethnicity who helps promote diversity.

Dr. Vivian Petropoulos Assistant Professor in the Division of Cardiology at St. Mary’s, is the recipient of the 2015 Dr. George Fraser Memorial Award. This award was established by Dr. Fraser’s family and friends to honour his memory, his exceptional commitment to the

(Continued on page 9)
practice of clinical cardiology and his tireless advocacy for his patients. It is given to a clinician in the Division of Cardiology at the MUHC or at St. Mary’s who has demonstrated exemplary clinical practice and patient care.

Dr. Barry Posner, Professor in the Departments of Medicine (Endocrinology and Metabolism) and Anatomy & Cell Biology, Director of the Polypeptide Laboratory at McGill and Associate Director of the Montreal Diabetes Research Center, is the recipient of the Canadian Diabetes Association 2015 Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Christina Wolfson, Professor jointly appointed in the Departments of Medicine and Epidemiology and Biostatistics, has been named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence in recognition of her outstanding contributions to education in the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Mark Wainberg, Professor of Medicine and Microbiology and Immunology and Director of the McGill University AIDS Centre at the JGH, was presented with the 2015 Murray Award for career achievement from the Canadian Society for Microbiologists during their conference held in June 2015 in Regina. The award is the Society’s premier award for senior researchers and is meant to provide national recognition to outstanding Canadian microbiologists. Read more.

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Executive Associate Physician-in-Chief, MUHC

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Debbie Carr, Budget Officer
Melissa-Anne Stentiford Belkin (on leave), Executive Assistant to the Chair and Physician-in-Chief
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Caroline Mackereth
Administrative Assistant

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

The Department of Medicine’s number of successes is prolific. Although every attempt is made to acknowledge them all at the time we go “to press”, some announcements may be delayed. Do not hesitate to contact us to let us know of your successes.