

## **New Year's resolution**

January 1, 2018, Montreal, Temperature -24°C

On this day 45 years ago in an unheated large classroom in Northern China, a little boy was reading English aloud and the voice echoed over and over: "Good better best, never let it rest, till good is better and better best...." None of my classmates and teachers went to the class on that day due to the heavy snow and cold snap. Today, I find myself again alone in my office writing New Year's resolution, but in a much warmer office.

Together we have accomplished a lot in 2017:

On clinical front, we implemented the voice recognition system at the Glenn site at the beginning of the year, which cost zero money from the department operational budget. Later our clinical operations experienced a transition to the Optilab structure. With his unique smile and strong leadership, Dr. Spatz has started many new initiatives to improve the quality and efficiency of all hospital sites.

On the research front, we have formally established an Experimental Pathology Unit. Our departmental scientific lecture series hosted 5 external and 5 internal distinguished speakers. Our residents presented 2 abstracts at United States and Canadian Academy of Pathology 2016 Annual Meeting. Dr. Burnier's team presented 19 abstracts at the Association of Research in Vision and Ophthalmology 2017 Annual meeting. At our department Finlayson research day, we had a record high number of abstracts presented (22 abstracts in 2017 compared to 10 abstracts in 2012). Dr. William Faquin from Harvard Medical School was our external speaker. So impressed with our research and education, he proposed to establish a "Harvard-McGill network". Dr. Miguel Burnier Jr was awarded Fellow of Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and became the President Elect for the International Society of Ocular Pathology. Dr. Zu-hua Gao was awarded Fellow of British Royal Society of Medicine. Dr Morag Park (associate member) received the Canadian Cancer Society 2017 Robert L. Noble Prize. Congratulations!

On the education front, (1) Under the leadership of Dr. Edith Zorychta, our graduate program expanded to 25 students (compared to 8 in 2012) with >500K internal and external funding support. Jade Lasiste, MSc student of Dr. Burnier was awarded Best Poster at the Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO) 2017 Annual meeting in Baltimore. Nicola Guerrina, PhD student of Dr. Carolyn Baglole, won second prize in the McGill university "Three minute thesis" competition; (2) Under the leadership of Drs Jason Karamchandani and Van Nguyen: our residency training program recruited 4 excellent Canadian medical graduates in the first round of CaRMs; 4 of our senior residents passed the Royal college exam, and the McGill competency-based residency training model is being promoted at the national level. Thanks to Dr. Marcus and Dr. Michel, one GI/Liver fellow from the University of Laval has graduated from our department. (3) Under the leadership of Dr. Rene Michel, our undergraduate education program has successfully implemented a new 'Put it all together' (PIAT) cancer pathology course; (4) under the leadership of Dr. Auger, our cytopathology team, has successfully run the Annual Cytopathology Review Course. (5) Congratulations to Dr. Michel for publishing his book on "Pathology of Transplantation". Fifteen staff pathologists and 19 residents were involved in the "Gross Morphology of Human Disease" textbook, despite of some obstacles, now the book is in the publisher's hands.

On the administration front, we (1) completed recruitment of 4 excellent academic pathologists Drs. Marc Puztaszeri, May Chergui, Margaret Redpath, Pierre Fiset and a brilliant research scientist Dr. Alex Gregorieff, (2) held the 5<sup>th</sup> departmental retreat in January 2017, (3) completed the CaRMS match in March 2017, (3) held the Departmental research day in June 2017, (4) completed the 3rd departmental research competition in July 2017, (5) updated our departmental web site, (6) run the year-round scientific lecture series, (7) held the McGill reception at USCAP, and (8) raised 622,500 dollars from different sources to support the academic mission of the department, thanks to Dr. Bruce Mazer (provided >300K from RI), the MGH foundation (180K), pathologists from MUHC, JGH and St Mary's (100K), and others.

On the personal front, in addition to publishing a dozen research articles and continue running a research lab, the "Pathology Review and Practice Guide" book has now been translated into 4 languages and started to have an international impact. Thanks to the support from all of you, I have renewed my second term as the university Chair and will also continue function as the Glenn site clinical chief.

On January 20<sup>th</sup>, we will have a joint university department-Optilab retreat, where new strategic plans will be developed. Next year, we will be recruiting a star pediatric pathologist and a tenure track research scientist. We will explore new venues to promote our education models nationally and internationally. We will continue raise funds and find new mechanisms to support the academic activities of pathologists and our basic science researchers. Our efforts have already shown some results, and if we continue on this path together, I am confident the "McGill Pathology Tree" will bear more fruits in 2018. I 'd like to end this report with a little poem:

How Can You "SM\_LE" Without "I" ?  
How Can You Be "F\_NE" Without "I" ?  
How Can You "W\_SH" Without "I" ?  
How Can You Be "N\_CE" Without "I" ?  
How Can You Be a "FR\_END" Without "I" ?  
So "I" Am Very Important!  
But How Can I Achieve "S\_CCESS" Without "U" ?  
How Can I "LA\_GH" Without 'U'?  
How Can I Drink A "C\_P" of Tea or Coffee Without "U"?  
How Can I Enjoy The "S\_NSHINE" Without "U"?  
How Can I Have "F\_N" Without "U"?  
And That Makes "U" More Important Than "I"!  
U and I work together can achieve great things.....'

HAPPY NEW YEAR! BEST WISHES to all of you!