

“The best preparation for tomorrow is to do today’s work superbly well.”

Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

There is no doubt that the future of hospital-based pediatric services will be the care provided to complex conditions that are chronic and involve expertise from a variety of disciplines interacting together to provide the best quality care for children and their families. Within the Department of Pediatrics and the MCH we have many such examples of inter-disciplinary expertise.

Thus this week I would like to single out **Ana Sant'Anna** of GI. The Intestinal Failure and Advanced Nutrition Team (INFANT) was the brainchild of Dr. Ana Sant'Anna. She created this team along with Dr. **Najma Ahmed** and Dr. **Sylviane Forget** in 2009, in order to provide a much needed multidisciplinary approach to babies and children with intestinal failure. They have pulled together a dedicated team of both inpatient and outpatient specialists including 2 pediatric surgeons (Dr. R. Baird and Dr. JM Laberge), 3 paediatricians (Dr. C Bardin, Dr. H Patel, Dr. A Brocchi), 1 neonatologist (Dr. G Sant'anna), 2 nurse practitioners (Linda Morneault and Rose Boyle), 2 nurses (Mireille Bechard, Geraldine Schaack), 2 nutritionists (Caroline Porraccio and Marie Josee Trempe), an occupational therapist (Meagan Smith-Morin), a social worker (Nancy Saul) and a pharmacist (Gabrielle Girard). As I have said repeatedly, in medicine there can be no "I" in "team".

This team meets as a group every month where they discuss the active cases and develop guidelines based on reviews of the current literature. However, between these meetings, Ana, Najma and Sylviane spend countless hours, speaking with these families and the medical teams involved, during their long hospitalizations both in the NICU and on the medical wards, in order to ensure quality and continuity of their care. They support the parents who have spent a good part of the first year of their babies' lives in the hospital and continue to support them on their long road ahead once they are discharged. The Department of Pediatrics should be proud of this innovative multidisciplinary team which represents true family and patient centered care.

Born in Lisbon, Ana came to us after medical school, residency, and fellowship training in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. She furthered this with a fellowship in pediatric gastroenterology at Hopital Ste-Justine and a four year sojourn at McMaster University in Hamilton. She was recruited to the MCH together with her husband Guilherme who is a valued member of our neonatology group. Ana has quickly established herself locally as excellent clinician and teacher. Her key role in the formulation and establishment of the INFANT team highlights her initiative, commitment and passion for clinical excellence and innovation.

I would like to note Ernest Seidman's suggestion of Ana for this week's acknowledgment and for his willingness to provide a description of the INFANT group.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael