

“The desire to take medicine is perhaps the greatest feature which distinguishes man from animals.

Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

National Nursing Week took place a few weeks ago (May 12-18). However given the importance of nurses to the success of care for children and their families with complex and challenging conditions, every week of the year really should be National Nursing Week.

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Barb Izzard** who has stepped down as the ADON (ie Head Nurse) of the Montreal Children's Hospital.

Barb has spent her entire professional career at this institution. She started as a ward nurse moving on to Head Nurse of 7C1 and 7C2 when these were joint medical/surgical units devoted predominantly to cardiovascular and neurological disorders. This is where as an attending neurologist I first got to know Barb .

Barb has always had an easygoing calm manner even as a storm envelopes her. She is approachable and pragmatic and was doing the 'walk' of family-centered interdisciplinary care long before it was recognized as the 'right' thing to do. I never saw her put the needs of a child and family second as she ran these wards. She got things done by simply standing firm on doing the right thing. She worked patiently through consensus building

These skills led her to the highest ranks of pediatric nursing as our ADON in 2008. Her time as ADON has coincided with fiscal and organizational challenges. The latter as we transform ourselves for the move to the Glen. She took on the unenviable task of working through and maximizing the value of a Glen space allotment that was quite frankly less than ideal. She did so with good humor and a patient ear realizing that there would be no perfect solutions but determined to find those that work best. She worked hard to find solutions to the daily hassle of bed management that addresses all the competing elements of the hospital clinical care pie.

As Pediatrician-in-Chief I had the opportunity to work closely with Barb. I wish her all the best. She will not be going into the 'good night' of retirement but continuing to work on the transition and moving planning dossier. No doubt her efforts on this most important dossier will yield dividends. While we say goodbye to Barb in the ADON role, on behalf of the entire Department of Pediatrics I want to extend a warm welcome and good wishes to her replacement Chantal Souigny. I look forward to forging a close and mutually productive working relationship with Chantal.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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