

\*\*\*To all the members of the Department of Pediatrics on behalf of Dr.  
Michael Shevell\*\*\*

"Some people feel the rain. Others just get wet."

Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

One of the things you get to do daily as Chair is process a lot of paper that crosses your desk. Frequently this paper deals with various stages in an academic physician's career path; recruitment, promotion, retirement and all the stops in between. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement is prompted by one such piece of paper that made me pause and think because of a very long-standing personal connection and goes to **Patricia Riley** on the occasion of her upcoming retirement from our active staff.

A McGill MDCM graduate, Pat did her pediatric residency at McMaster and Hospital Ste-Justine followed by a fellowship in neonatology here. She also spent a formative year at Albert Einstein Medical College in the Bronx. She is part of the generation of neonatologists that transformed the field from one where for many instances survival was unexpected to one where survival is now the norm. Her entire career post training has been spent at McGill except for a brief stint for several years at the University of Pittsburgh.

Pat has spent her career at McGill and in our Department in two principle roles; as an attending staff neonatologist and long-time Director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Program. Indeed Pat was one of my attendings when I trained in pediatrics and rotated in our NICU. As an attending, what most impressed me was that Pat always looked at the 'big picture'. Despite the pressures of acute care and meeting the immediate needs of survival for an ill newborn that addressed such fundamental life issues as cardiac output, oxygen delivery and nutrition, Pat always put these acute challenges into the broader context of what would happen to an infant once the child left the unit and returned to their family for what one would hope to be a lifetime of growth, development and health. Pat realized early that these neonatal challenges could place substantial additional health, social, behavioural and educational burdens on the child that necessitated a comprehensive inter-disciplinary approach that would best be co-ordinated by a single source.

Hence the Neonatal Follow-Up Clinic. For two decades Pat led this Program. It was one I got to know quite well as I have had a Neonatal Neurology Clinic since 1991. The level of physician involvement in Neonatal Follow-Up always impressed me in terms of its intensity, comprehensiveness and dedicated focus on case management. There was also always a remarkable level of collaboration with other professions including nursing and rehabilitation and community-based partners that was a model of interdisciplinary family centred care for chronic disorders long before there were such 'buzz words'. There is no doubt that Pat's efforts, together with her colleagues, in and of itself improved outcomes, health and well-being however measured or evaluated. Pat's efforts over the years have also been innovative with respect to clinical practice and include her early leadership of the Broncho-Pulmonary Dysplasia Clinic, the introduction of NICU discharge planning rounds and the formulation of a ward bridge team for patients transferred down from the NICU. These efforts demonstrate that the dedicated clinician can make a difference by leveraging their passion and skills to improve care to similarly affected children and families across the board.

Pat is not retiring immediately (mid-2015 is the target). Its a process that will see her clinical, administrative and research involvement dial down over the next while. Thus patients and ourselves can continue to benefit and learn from the enormous experience she has garnered over a career that she can be most proud of.

Please join me in wishing Pat all the best now and into her future.

Let me also take this opportunity to wish a hearty Shana Tova to all those celebrating Rosh Hashanah.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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