

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

"In theory there is no difference between theory and practice. In practice there is."
Yogi Berra

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Julius Erdstein**.

This is a special assignation not because of any awards or any career milestones, but rather given in recognition for the value of doing something well, diligently and without fail, with little in the way of tangible personal rewards for over two decades.

Julius is a dedicated community based pediatrician with a large and active practice in Pierrefonds at the Children's Care Clinic. For over 20 years I would regularly go to this facility one to two days a month to do neurology consults. It was a great set-up for an ivory tower sub-specialty consultant such as myself. The consults were all germane and pertinent, with a specific question posed. I would do my consult and after perhaps one follow-up visit if there were any investigations ordered, the child would be handed smoothly back to the pediatrician for ongoing care and management. All the pediatricians in this clinic embraced this model of care including Julius.

In addition to his practice, Julius has been an active member of our Adolescent Medicine program that forms a part of our Division of General Pediatrics. This is a special subset of child health, dealing with a variety of challenging issues that often lie out of our personal comfort zones (e.g. eating disorders, sexuality, substance abuse) in the context of an individual striving for autonomy, but still often immature in the choices they make and a family perplexed by what has happened to their 'innocent' child. Julius has regularly and steadily made time for Adolescent Medicine clinics, though it would have been far easier and indeed lucrative to remain in his community practice. He did so because he enjoyed the challenge, the teaching opportunities it provided and most importantly the impact it made, though the patients were often unable to articulate their gratitude.

In particular, Julius has done some truly heavy lifting as part of the regular call rotation for sexual abuse carrying the pager one in four. One can only imagine the horrors he has heard and seen. Similarly it takes a special physician to be there for these children and youth at a time of maximal vulnerability and psychological pain. It has to be done right with sensitivity, tact and compassion so that even more hurt is not inflicted on an already grievously injured body and soul. For Julius, there has been many nights and weekends interrupted unfortunately by such a challenge.

Please join me in acknowledging the contributions of Julius and other community-based providers over the years. They indeed do fill a special role in our Departmental and hospital community.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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