

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

**“The value of experience is not in seeing much, but in seeing wisely.”  
Sir William Osler**

Hi Everyone,

I have re-called Sir William from 'retirement' for this one week as our Departmental Acknowledgement quotemaster for reasons that will become apparent shortly.

The week's honorees was prompted by the courtesy of receiving copies of letters sent by Barry Slapcoff, a community based family practitioner who heads up the Faculty's Physician Apprenticeship program, to members of our Department who served graciously as Osler Fellows for the recently graduated MDCM Class of 2014. These include; **Shuvo Ghosh, Richard Haber, Laurie Plotnick, Rosie Scuccimarri, Ed Shahin and and Karen Watanabe-Duffy.**

The Physician Apprenticeship program lasts four years and begins in the student's first week when they are collected into randomly chosen groups of six and assigned an Osler Fellow. Over the next four years the group meets periodically with the key aim to instill in the students the simple, yet substantial and profession altering notion, that a physician's behaviour and attitude are as of equal and paramount importance as one's skill set and knowledge base. The Osler Fellow, a McGill Faculty member, serves as physician leader acting as role model, mentor, confidant, emerging colleague and for many a friend. Medical school is a remarkable period of transition and self-discovery and it is hard to under-estimate the potential power and influence of the Osler Fellow upon the group's student members.

Involvement as an Osler Fellow is a tremendous commitment of time, energy and 'heart' over four years. It is not a commitment to be taken, nor regarded by others, lightly. Not surprisingly members of our staff have been enthusiastic participants over the 10 years of the program with close to 60 individuals being involved including the ones highlighted here. I find it interesting how the 2014 Pediatrics cohort represents a nice cross-section of our community. I would be remiss in not pointing out that **Jose Montes**, our wonderful colleague in Neurosurgery, also was an Osler Fellow for the Class of 2014. I would also be remiss in not giving a parental grateful 'shout out' to **Jean Tchervenkov**, an MUHC surgeon, who was my daughter Allison's (also a member of the Class of 2014) Osler Fellow.

I think the two quotes below capture poignantly the Physician Apprenticeship experience from both perspectives.

*“Central to almost every aspect of becoming a physician is the notion and experience of apprenticeship and physicianship. Moreover, exposure to brilliant, empathetic and wise physicians remains one of the most positive influences of our four year journey. Physician apprenticeship has been an exceptionally formative experience for which I am sincerely grateful.” I commend all those who champion this program and ensure its brilliance.”*

Medical Student

*In the last 4 years I have had the privilege of seeing 6 exceptional people become remarkable, caring physicians who understand their roles as healers. I have danced at their wedding, clapped long and loudly for spine tingling musical performances, supervised first research projects, got finger cramps writing letters of recommendation (and keeping fingers crossed) for residency spots, and toasted their successes. This relationship with our Osler students could not have been forged in a lecture hall or through a podcast, that is the unique opportunity that the Osler Fellowship program provides, one that I will look forward to taking again.*

Osler Fellow

Finally on behalf of the entire Faculty we should collectively give thanks to Barry Slapcoff for taking a long-term Faculty leadership role in this most worthwhile effort.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael,

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