

## Departmental Acknowledgement

Hi Everyone

This week, the Department had a most special event honouring one of our greats that bears reprinting the Departmental Acknowledgement from September 28, 2012 (first time I have done this).

On Wednesday night, the Wendy MacDonald Chair in Pediatric Medical Education was inaugurated. Funded by the efforts of the Golf Committee and the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, the reasons for singling out Wendy are amply evident in what I wrote at the time of her retirement from the Faculty in Fall 2012.

Some weeks the choice for the Departmental Acknowledgement is an obvious one and such is the case for this week. The reasons for this is that a "living legend" of the Department is officially transitioning to retirement.

It is hard to believe but Wendy MacDonald will be retiring from all her activities at the MCH and within the Department after a remarkable career of more than 35 years here. Wendy is synonymous with undergraduate medical education in pediatrics at McGill and for almost 4 decades, she has poured her heart and soul into this effort. Long before medical education was a topic for discussion and serious consideration, Wendy fashioned a curriculum and evaluation standards that provided every medical graduate at McGill a core clerkship experience that gave them the basics in child health, no matter what eventual career path in medicine they chose to pursue.

However, it is more than just the basics, as for many of us this experience fashioned by Wendy was a key reason why we chose pediatrics or one of its sub-specialties. For a long time now, McGill grads have disproportionately chosen pediatrics and any analysis would give Wendy the credit for this.

Her excellence in teaching is renowned as exemplified by her receipt of no less than 4 Osler Awards from the graduating class. This award is given to the Faculty member recognized by the class as their best teacher in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Her multiple Osler Awards are without peer at McGill. No less than her local recognition are her national awards in this field.

Within the Faculty, Wendy has always been appreciated for her lack of pretention and her straight-forward pragmatic approach to all issues. Her advice was constantly being sought out and frequently when there was a difficult task to undertake, the Faculty would turn to Wendy knowing that the job would get done fairly and efficiently with a minimum of fuss.

Wendy told me that she knew it was time to retire when both the Chair of Pediatrics and the Dean of the Faculty were former students of hers. Like all truly great leaders, she knew that she would have to turn things over at some point and she identified and groomed her successor Preetha Krishnamoorthy and for this we are grateful.

Please join me in wishing Wendy a retirement that is one of health and the pursuit and enjoyment of the things in life that matter to her. If you wish please take the time to email your best wishes personally to her.

Our search in the past year did not turn up a worthy candidate for this position. Rather than letting the funds generated by the endowment lie fallow, our Departmental Educational Leadership Council has pulled together the proposal below that will go a long way to leveraging on our well-established educational excellence.

**Priority Areas for funding by the Wendy MacDonald Chair in Pediatric Medical Education :**

- Simulation: This program is cross-cutting, interdisciplinary, interprofessional, and much needed from the perspective of patient safety. We have also secured space and equipment and within the Department and hospital there is also significant expertise.
- Community-based undergraduate education: We are moving to greater community based experiences in pediatrics.
  - Prioritized Single Expenses that will Contribute to the Educational Mission - yearly, on a competitive basis. Such expenses might include (but are not limited to) software and hardware upgrades, special events that contribute to learner wellbeing and education, modifications to educational spaces.
    - Scholarly Activities in Medical Education - 1 Grand Rounds/year on a scholarly topic in health professions education and 1 competitive grant/year for a researcher in Medical Education within the Hospital (any Department or profession)
- Development of a Web-based CPD Presence for the MCH

Hats off to Wendy and our generous donors.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael

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