

## Departmental Acknowledgement

"The truth was obscure,  
Too profound and too pure,  
To live it you had to explode"  
Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

I find the saying "if you remember the '60s then you weren't really there" an apt phrase that captures the gist of the times (see above). While **Harold Rich** looks like the kind of guy who might not remember the decade when he was an undergrad and a medical student, he assures me he remembers everything including a vintage Bob Marley concert at UdeM.

Harold does not get this week's Departmental Acknowledgement for his connection with a tumultuous decade of change in the world, but rather for his steadfast clinical dedication and service that embodies much of what we heard about clinical excellence a couple of weeks back.

A graduate of McGill with an honors in psychology, when that Department was run by the remarkable DO Hebb who did so much to put biology into psychology, Harold also got his MDCM at McGill. He followed this with a Master's in Public Health at Harvard and pediatrics residency here at the MCH. His first and only appointment has been here at the MCH and McGill as an attending physician and Assistant Professor. Harold's Divisional home is the Division of General Pediatrics.

Harold was probably among the very first pediatricians to limit their practice to hospital-based work. He was a hospitalist well before the word was invented. He has consistently, for the most part, provided coverage on the in-patient service doing the difficult and challenging role of being a ward attending, who is also charged with supervising and teaching trainees at a multiplicity of levels of experience and knowledge. In addition, for almost two decades, he provided pediatric consultations to the Batshaw Youth and Family Services organization. He has also put his MPH to work in his career both among our indigenous population in the Northern Zone of Manitoba and overseas both in Nigeria and Chelyabinsk Russia. This provides evidence that Harold was engaged in social pediatrics and global health before these terms existed as well.

As a clinician, Harold exudes a calm unruffled demeanour. Like a duck on a lake, he glides through challenges without resistance. He is at all times pragmatic and humble, willing to listen to others yet ready to take a decision when called for based on the available evidence. He has a wonderful way with children of all ages. He is sensitive to the particular needs of children and families of varied backgrounds and has always been a wonderful role model for our learners. Indeed he has been a recipient of the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award. He is reflective in his practice and morally driven to do the right thing. Harold has done the somewhat thankless job of Chairing the Pediatrics Clinical Ethics Committee.

Harold is also selfless. Perhaps the best demonstration of this was his willingness several years ago to give up his PEM to enable the recruitment of a promising new member of the Division of General Pediatrics. This, despite his desire to continue to work. The Division, Department and hospital has enabled this continuity and indeed there has been no lessening of his time commitment to his clinical activities.

Pediatrics within the organogram of the Faculty is considered a 'clinical' Department. We can only achieve the excellence we have as a 'clinical' Department through the collective contributions of ordinary

superstar clinicians such as Harold. He is one among many things we can all be thankful for this holiday weekend.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS  
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics  
Professor (with Tenure)  
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery  
McGill University

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief  
Montreal Children's Hospital/  
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

Follow Me on Twitter: @McGillPeds