

September 30, 2016

**“The human mind will not be confined to any limits”  
Johann Wolfgang von Goethe**

Hi Everyone,

A fundamental truism of pediatrics is that if you want a healthy baby, start with a healthy mother. Nowhere is this more true on our planet than in Low Resource Settings, where poor maternal health has devastating and substantial impacts on child health. For doing something about this challenge, this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Julia von Oettingen**.

Julia recently received a seed grant from the Steinberg Fund for Interdisciplinary Global Health Research administered by McGill's Global Health Program. Julia's project is entitled: "Building capacity for non-communicable disease care in pregnancy in Haiti". Situated in the impoverished Artibonite region of Haiti, Julia's project seeks to screen for and develop a treatment strategy for hypertension and diabetes during pregnancy. Both of these conditions have substantial adverse impacts on the health of offspring. As part of her efforts, Julia will seek to measure the impact of her efforts on health outcomes for both mothers and children.

Julia is a global citizen. Born and raised in what was then West Germany, she undertook her medical studies in Leipzig, which had been on the eastern side of the barriers that brutally divided her native country for close to two generations. This included a habilitation research thesis. Residency training in pediatrics followed at Massachusetts General Hospital and then a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology at Children's Hospital Boston. Along the way, she completed formal training in both Clinical and Translational Investigation and Global Health Delivery at Harvard. Fortunately for us, a personal attraction helped to bring her recently to our Department which she joined last year.

Julia's global citizenry is evident in her fluency in four languages and conversational capability in a further three. It is even more evident in her commitment to global health efforts throughout her personal journey. Her receipt of this seed grant is both recognition of these efforts and an investment in a future that is rich with potential in her chosen field.

Have a great weekend everyone.  
And for those celebrating the Jewish New Year, Shana Tova.

Michael

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