

October 21, 2016

"The pain of parting is nothing to the joy of meeting again"
Charles Dickens

Hi Everyone,

Last week the DA went to a Departmental group that put together a superb internal event. It's a fitting bookend that this week's DA goes to **Ernest Seidman, Veronique Morinville and Sylviane Forget**. This trio from gastroenterology played a big role in putting on the recent World Congress of Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition (WCPGHAN).

This event was held in Montreal from October 5-8th and broke attendance records for this Congress with over 3000 registrants. Ernie, a Tier I CRC in Inflammatory Bowel Disease was the Congress' President, Organizer and all around 'go-to' guy. WCPGHAN was organizationally divided into nine sections, with Veronique heading up the section on pancreatology and Sylviane, the section on endoscopy.

Being selected to host a World Congress is not only the product of a city being considered a valued tourist destination with first-rate convention and hospitality facilities, but also signifies enormous trust and respect by the international peer community for the local individuals who will be needed to step and lead its organization. A World Congress has multiple organizational and 'political' challenges. It takes commitment, patience, intelligence and perseverance to see things through despite the inevitable bumps in the road. Our GI trio did so, thriving more than just surviving, pulling off a successful event that was both fiscally responsible and scientifically challenging. In the end, it is about disseminating information to improve care for affected children and providing networking opportunities that offer the potential to lead to new research and therapeutic breakthroughs.

Please join me in congratulating Ernie, Veronique and Sylviane on their accomplishment. It reflects extremely well on our Department.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

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