

November 18, 2016

« **Mon pays ce n'est pas un pays, c'est l'hiver.** »

Gilles Vigneault

Hi Everyone,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement is an easy one for me to write. I also do so with considerable joy and a bit of pride as it goes to a colleague, **Chantal Poulin**, on the occasion of her promotion to Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Neurology/Neurosurgery.

Chantal comes from a small town in the Gaspesie; so small they did not have a stop sign until recently. She left home after completing high school to attend CEGEP then medical school at Université Laval. She did her years of pediatric residency there in Quebec City and came to us for her residency in pediatric neurology.

Indeed, my first memory of Chantal is her interview for a residency spot. She spoke barely any English then and most of her answers were monosyllabic delivered softly and shyly. This was of course a marked contrast to her voluble outgoing self now. Despite an underwhelming interview, she was an outstanding resident; hard working, quick, great with patients and families, with a natural flair for diagnosis. She also demonstrated a remarkable ability to first grasp and then keep up with the literature and advances in neurosciences.

With Kenneth Silver's departure for Chicago, it was obvious that Chantal would be invited to join our staff after completing her residency. Though this occurred but 20 years ago (sorry Chantal), she was the first female staff member of the Division paving the way for Maelle, Genevieve B, Maryam, Myriam, Genevieve L and Elisabeth.

When it comes to neurology, Chantal is not a subspecialist but a polymath. She does both EMG and EEG. She can manage intractable epilepsy, including intraoperative monitoring to guide surgical resections, and provide care over decades to children with progressive incapacitating neuromuscular disorders. She is a clinician's clinician and over the years many of the members of this Department have trusted her with a child from their family with a neurologic symptom for care.

Chantal is renowned for her teaching excellence and dedication. She teaches naturally, drawing out learners and instilling in them an appreciation and understanding of the sometimes opaque ways of neurology. She was the Division's Program Director for a decade overseeing Canada's largest pediatric neurology training program. She has received the Department of Neurology/Neurosurgery Annual Teaching Award on multiple occasions.

Chantal also has considerable after work hours pursuits including playing the fiddle and tap dancing. She is also quite a family person, always finding the time to make the long drive home for the holidays over XMAS and Easter.

Please join me in congratulating Chantal on her well-deserved promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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