

January 27, 2017

"Charms strike the sight, but merit wins the soul"
Alexander Pope

Hi Everyone,

One of our core 'businesses' as an academic centre is education. We are a teaching institution and it is this aspect, together with ongoing research efforts, that distinguishes us from a community hospital. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Laurie Plotnick**, our Associate Chair for Education, in recognition of her being put forward by McGill University as one of their three designates for a 2017 Canadian Association for Medical Education Certificate of Merit. Laurie joins Preetha Krishnamoorthy (2016), Richard Gosselin (2009), Saleem Razack (2007) and Ron Gottesman (2007) as our current Departmental members who have received this Certificate.

I have attached below my nomination letter for Laurie which outlines the many reasons she has been selected by the Faculty for this honour that recognizes at a national level valuable contributions to medical education.

A Pediatric Emergency physician, Laurie excels as a clinician and is also a dedicated, passionate and committed educator. Despite the 'busyness' and 'chaos' that is the matrix of any urban ER, Laurie always finds the teaching moment that she can share with trainees. The Faculty has recognized Laurie's superior teaching skills by her induction in 2011 into the Faculty Honour Roll for Educational Excellence.

Beyond being a superior teacher, it is Laurie's considerable efforts and track record as an educator and innovator that truly stands out. Remarkably her efforts are evident at all levels of medical education. In UGME, Laurie has been an Osler Fellow on several occasions serving as a guide to professionalism and a mentor/role model for an impressionable student's professional journey. Perhaps the most important and fragile step on this journey is the transition from the classroom and book/group learning to the clinic and the medical apprenticeship that is at the root of the Oslerian tradition. Laurie has put a lot of effort into this critical phase in our MDCM program. She served as Director of the Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) Committee and as course Director from 2012-2014. She oversaw the development and implementation of the Transition to Clinical practice segment of the new curriculum and continues the same roles as she had with the prior ICM segment. She is responsible for curriculum content, evaluation and adherence to standards in this mandatory segment for all MDCM students. Thus Laurie's efforts touch all of the School of Medicine's graduates.

At the PGME level, Laurie spent 15 years (1997-2012) as the Residency Rotation Coordinator for our ER. This impacted 20 post-graduate trainees monthly from six different residency programs in a substantive way including the establishment of learner specific objectives consistent with CanMEDS roles together with the objective assessment and evaluation of attainment of relevant skills. Laurie also has had an extensive role in Continuing Professional Development. For many years, she oversaw the Department's extensive and regular outreach to teach Pediatric Advance Life Support (ie resuscitation) skills to health professionals. No doubt Laurie's teaching of these skills and multiple knowledge translation efforts have led to the survival of numerous children suffering either an out-of-hospital or in-hospital cardiorespiratory arrest.

Laurie has undergone Leadership training in Medical Education and indeed she has been appointed the Department's Associate Chair for Education recently with a broad

mandate to oversee, improve and, where possible, innovate our educational efforts. She is clearly a leader in medical education.

I have always been impressed by Laurie's intelligence, 'out of the box' thinking and passion to put forward actions and ideas that matter. I wholeheartedly support her consideration for the CAME Certificate of Merit.

Please join me in congratulating Laurie on this important career recognition. As past is prologue to the future, I am sure that Laurie's energy and enthusiasm for teaching and education will no doubt yield even more substantial dividends in the future.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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