



Report from the Chairman

This issue of the Newsletter continues the remarkable compilation of the wonderful achievements of members of our Department locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. As I enter my final year as your Chairman, it has given me great pleasure to have been able to inform our Department members periodically throughout the year of all of your varied and outstanding accomplishments. Every achievement, no matter the nature or degree, is special to those that attain this standard, and we all can take great pride in the collectivity. As Chairman, I sincerely thank each and every one of you for being part of our "team", and ensuring that the Department of Pediatrics maintains the highest of standards.

We are about to complete a self-study and begin the search for the 10th Chairman in the history of the Department. Planning the design and the ultimate relocation to the new MCH at the Glen site will finally be exciting challenges in the immediate and near future. As the Minister of Finance announced at the formal declaration of the approval of the MUHC redevelopment project on October 15, 2008: "the train has left the station"; now the really heavy lifting begins! I urge members of the Department to be engaged and to participate in the transitions that have now become a necessity.

In the tradition of year-end reflection, I look back over the past 12 years with mixed feelings. It has been a challenging but wonderful ride being your Chairman: partly Ferris wheel, partly roller coaster and partly bumper cars. The Department has grown significantly in size and stature, has a healthy professional economic base (more than we can say about the outside world), and has a very bright future. Recruitment continues despite the numerous constraints, and new leaders are being mentored in many domains. As I transition exclusively into my other position, I know that I can count on all of you to welcome and support the incoming Chairman.

I hope that you are able to take advantage of the holiday period for some well deserved rest and recreation with friends and family. You deserve it. On behalf of the administrative staff of the Department, I wish you and your families a happy holiday period and the very best wishes for the New Year.

Staff Updates

Dr. Claudette Bardin has stepped down as Coordinator of the Residency Continuity Clinic (RCC), effective October 31, 2008. We thank Dr. Bardin for her dedication in developing this important teaching activity.

Dr. Robert Brouillette has accepted the nomination as Director of Clinical Research at The Montreal Children's Hospital site of the RI-MUHC, effective July 1st, 2008. We congratulate Dr. Brouillette on his appointment.

Dr. Richard Gosselin has accepted the nomination as Director of the Pediatric Residency Training Program, effective June 1, 2008, for a term of 5 years. He stepped down as Director of the McGill Neonatal Fellowship Training Program, effective May 31, 2008. We welcome him to this new leadership role.

Dr. Catherine Henin has accepted the nomination as Coordinator of the Residency Continuity Clinic (RCC), effective November 1, 2008. We congratulate Dr. Henin in her new appointment.

Dr. Christine Lejtenyi has agreed to assume the role of Residency Training Program Director for Allergy and Immunology at the MCH, effective November 1, 2008.

Dr. Marie-Noelle Primeau has stepped down as Residency Training Program Director for Allergy and Immunology at the MCH, effective October 31, 2008.

Dr. Barry Pless has stepped down as Director of Clinical Research at The Montreal Children's Hospital site of the RI-MUHC, effective June 30, 2008, after 12 years in this leadership position. We thank him for his long-standing contributions on behalf of the Department.

Dr. Michael Shevell has accepted the nomination as Director of the Pediatric Neurology Division, effective September 1, 2008, for a term of five years. We congratulate Dr. Shevell on his new appointment.

Dr. Sophie Nadeau has accepted the nomination as Director of the McGill Neonatal Fellowship Training Program, effective June 1, 2008. We welcome her to this leadership position.

Staff Resignations

Dr. Deborah Bartholdi has resigned from her position as Assistant Professor, GFT (U), in the Departments of Human Genetics and Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, and as staff physician in the Division of Medical Genetics at The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, effective October 30, 2008. She will be returning to Europe.

Dr. Anne-Sophie Carret has resigned from her position as Assistant Professor at the McGill University, and as staff physician in the Division of Hematology/Oncology of The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, effective August 31, 2008. She has joined the staff of Hôpital Ste-Justine.

Dr. Keith Barrington has resigned from his position as Professor at McGill University, and as Director of the RVH site in the Division of Neonatology of the MUHC, effective July 31, 2008. He has joined the staff of Hôpital Ste-Justine.

Dr. Julia Gulyas has resigned from her position as Assistant Professor at the McGill University, and as "membre actif" of the MCH, effective July 1, 2008. She will maintain post-retirement status at McGill University and an "honorary" appointment at the MCH of the MUHC. We thank Dr. Gulyas for her many years of devoted service to the MCH.



New Recruitment

Dr. Maria de Tiscar Cavalle-Garrido has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as staff physician in the Division of Pediatric Cardiology at the MCH of the MUHC, effective April 3, 2008. Dr. Cavalle-Garrido completed her residency training in Pediatrics, followed by fellowship training in Pediatric Cardiology at the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Ontario. She was an Associate Staff Pediatric and Fetal Cardiologist at St-Michael's Hospital. The Department of Pediatrics extends a warm welcome to Dr. Cavalle-Garrido.

Dr. Thérèse El-Helou has accepted a position as Associate Member within the Department of Pediatrics, McGill University, effective July 9, 2008.

Dr. Fatemeh Jafarian has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as staff physician in the Division of Pediatric Dermatology at the MCH of the MUHC, effective June 23, 2008. Dr. Jafarian obtained her MD from the University of Beheshti, Iran, in 1995. She completed a two-year fellowship in Pediatric Dermatology at Hôpital Sainte-Justine after doing a research year at the Montreal General Hospital. The Department of Pediatrics extends a warm welcome to Dr. Jafarian.

Dr. Suzanne Vaillancourt has been appointed as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as staff physician in the Division of Pediatric Medical Emergency at the MCH of the MUHC, effective September 1, 2008. The Department of Pediatrics extends a very warm "welcome back" to Dr. Vaillancourt.

Locum

Dr. Marie Claude Grégoire provided a welcomed locum for the Palliative Care Program in the Division of General Pediatrics, from July 24th to August 2nd, 2008.



Congratulations to . . .

Dr. Martin Bitzan for having been elected President of the Canadian Nephrologists Association on May 30, 2008, for a period of two years.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been appointed to the Policy Advisory Committee on Resuscitation for the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada, which provides leadership at a national level for Resuscitation education and policy. Dr. Bhanji is the second pediatrician on the Committee.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been appointed to the American Heart Association Education Subcommittee for Emergency Cardiovascular Care. This Committee provides the educational support to the life support courses (BLS, ACLS, PALS, etc., that are taught throughout the world). Dr. Bhanji will serve as a liaison from the Education Subcommittee to the Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) Committee.

Dr. Ciaràn Duffy for having been awarded the MGH 175th Anniversary Fellowship by the Research Institute of the MUHC Internal Scholarship and Awards Committee.

Dr. Ciaràn Duffy for having received the Deborah Kredich Service Award from the American College of Rheumatology, Pediatrics Section, on October 27th, 2008, for outstanding service to the Pediatric Rheumatology Community.

Dr. Evelyn Constantin for having completed all the requirements for her Masters of Science in Epidemiology from McGill University (Supervisors: Dr. Barry Pless, Dr. Robert T. Brouillette).

Dr. Paul Goodyer for having received The Kidney Foundation of Canada 2008 Medal for Research Excellence. The prestigious Medal for Research Excellence is awarded each year by the Kidney Foundation of Canada. It honors a Canadian Researcher whose work is recognized by his or her peers to have significantly advanced the treatment of kidney disease and related conditions.

Dr. Lily Hechtman for having received the Honorary Member Award for an academic career with outstanding contributions in service, teaching, and research at the regional, national, and international level, by the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Dr. Lily Hechtman for having received the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Dalhousie Award for best presentation by a full member on "Recent follow-up findings of the multisite multimodal treatment study of children with ADHD (MTA)".

Dr. Annie Janvier for having obtained her PhD in Biomedical Sciences with option in Bioethics.

Dr. Louise Koclas for having been inducted into the McGill Quarter Century Club, during the 41st Annual Quarter Century Reception, on October 29, 2008.

Dr. Michael Kramer for having received the 2008 Prix Léo-Pariseau from the Association francophone pour le savoir (l'ACFAS). This prestigious award honours researchers in the biological or health sciences who contribute to the development of knowledge in these fields.

Dr. Larry Lands for having been named to the Editorial Board of the Paediatric Respiratory Reviews, as of January 2009.

Dr. Wendy MacDonald for having been the 2008 recipient of the Paediatric Academic Leadership-Clinical Educator Award presented at the PCC Annual Fall Meeting on October 17, 2008. **Dr. MacDonald** also received the Osler Teaching Award from the 2008 graduating medical class - for the 4th time (in 1989, 2001, 2006, and 2008). This award is presented to a Professor in the Faculty of Medicine who, in the opinion of the senior medical students, has made the most outstanding contribution to their medical education.

Dr. Anne-Marie MacLellan for having been inducted into the McGill Quarter Century Club, during the 41st Annual Quarter Century Reception, on October 29, 2008.

Dr. Annette Majnemer for having been elected Fellows to the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences for 2008. Fellows elected to the Academy are recognized by their peers nationally and internationally for their contributions to the promotion of health science. They have demonstrated leadership, creativity, instinctive competencies and a commitment to advance academic health science.

Drs. Johanne Morel and Jae-Marie Ferdinand for having made an important contribution this fall by teaching core pediatrics as part of the newly developed McGill Nurse Practitioner's Training Program destined for community nurses.

Dr. Gary Pekeles for having been invited to participate on the IPA Scientific Committee for the 26th International Pediatric Association Congress of Pediatrics, Johannesburg, South Africa, August 5-9, 2010, co-organized by IPA and SAPA (South African Pediatric Association).

Dr. Gary Pekeles for having been appointed to the Executive Committee of the McGill Board of Governors.

Dr. Barry Pless for having been elected as a Member of the Board of Directors for the Society for Advancement of Violence and Injury Research (SAVIR).

Dr. Saleem Razack for having been successful in obtaining a Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada grant for \$25,000, as part of a multicentre Canadian PICU Study entitled: "Evaluation of current practice of team training of pediatric resuscitation team members in Canadian hospitals: Performance of an ecological survey and stakeholder consultation".

Dr. Charles Scriver for having been the 2008 recipient of the Paediatric Academic Leadership-Clinical Investigator Award presented at the PCC Annual Fall Meeting, on October 17, 2008.

Paige and Bernard Kaplan Award:

On May 16th, the Annual Spring Fling/Resident's Appreciation Dinner took place at the Centre Mont-Royal. Staff and residents were overjoyed to see **Dr. Pierre Marin** win the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Award for excellence in teaching. He seemed to be unaware that he won until Dr. Pepin told him to go to the stage. Coincidentally, he was also sitting beside his former patient and present Programme Director, Dr. Richard Gosselin. His hard work and dedication towards teaching is certainly noticed and appreciated by all residents. We congratulate him for winning this year's Teaching Award!

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED PARENTS

Dr. Annie Janvier on her adopted boy (10 months) (Tai).

Dr. John Mitchell on his baby girl (Clovelly), born on September 27, 2008.



THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

NEW APPOINTMENT

Dr. Harvey J. Guyda accepted the position as Associate Executive Director of The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC. He will step down as Pediatrician-in-Chief of the MUHC, as of June 1, 2009.

MCH-RVH JOINT HEARING SCREENING PROGRAM IS LAUNCHED

The Royal Victoria Hospital (RVH) and the Montreal Children's Hospital (MCH) launched a universal hearing-screening program for newborns. After many years of hard work and preparation to get this under way, all babies born at the RVH will now be screened for deafness before leaving the nursery. The test is quick, effective, painless and inexpensive. Newborns who fail the hearing test will be referred to the Audiology Department at the MCH for more extensive diagnostic evaluations. The goal is to have a full diagnosis before the age of three months and a hearing aid and follow-up plan before the child is six months old, according to the recommendations of the Quebec public health institute (l'Institut national de santé publique du Québec (INSPQ)). The MUHC believes that these screening services should be made available to all Quebec children. Faced with the current government inaction, the MUHC decided to take action and will develop its own screening program with strong support of the Foundations of the MCH and RVH.

It's estimated that approximately eight babies born each year at the RVH will present with a significant hearing deficiency. These children, screened at birth, will be evaluated and followed up quickly to ensure they can develop their communication skills to their fullest potential. We congratulate Dr. Hema Patel for her leadership in this dossier.



McGILL UNIVERSITY

Academic Promotions and Tenure Track Appointments

CONGRATULATIONS TO...

Dr. Brian Greenfield

– Associate Professor GFT(H) - April 2008

Dr. Indra Gupta

– Associate Professor GFT(H) - June 2008

Loydie Jerome-Majewska, Ph.D.

– Assistant Professor Tenure Track - effective July 2008

FACULTY OF MEDICINE UPDATES ...

Associate Dean, Academic Affairs

Dr. Mara Ludwig has replaced former Associate Dean John Robson

Associate Dean, Research

Dr. Marianna Newkirk has replaced former Associate Dean Janet Henderson.



2008 LMCC EXAM

The McGill students scored the highest in Pediatrics of all the schools across Canada in the 2008 LMCC exam. Congratulations and thank you to **Dr. W. MacDonald** for the extra effort in doing three LMCC review sessions, instead of the usual two!!



THE MUHC / MCH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

MCH investigators had an overall 54% success rate in the March 2008 Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) competition for individual operating grants, a rate which exceeds the 21% country-wide success rate. The following received grants in capacity as Principal investigators:

Dr. Nada Jabado received a grant of \$380,336 for a term of three years in support of "Identification and characterization of genes involved in the genesis and progression of pediatric astrocytomas"

Dr. Christine McCusker has been awarded a grant of \$283,791 for a three-year term in support of "Mechanisms of tolerance induction through neonatal exposure to environmental antigens. Prevention of asthma and allergic rhinitis"

Dr. Rima Rozen received a grant valued at \$685,334 for a term of five years in support of "Low dietary folate and colorectal carcinogenesis".

Dr. Laurie Snider, in collaboration with **Drs. Annette Majnemer, Barbara Mazer and Arend Frederik Bos**, has received a two-year grant of \$82,022 in support of the project entitled "The predictive validity of the general movements' assessment of infants born preterm for functional outcomes at six years of age".

Dr. Jacquetta Trasler has been awarded support for five years valued at \$808,470 for "Sex-specific susceptibility for fetal origins of adult disease and transgenerational effects".

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos has received a grant of \$147,062 yearly in support of the project "Novel genetic susceptibility loci for type 1 diabetes". In accepting this grant from the CIHR, Dr. Polychronakos turned down an offer of support for this research from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation (JDF). The JDF subsequently approved funding of \$600,000 US for a three-year term to Dr. Polychronakos and Principal Investigator Dr. Ciriaco Piccirillo of McGill U. for the proposal entitled "Integrating genetics with markers of immune response".



In addition, MCH investigators were co-applicants on other successful CIHR grants as follows:

Dr. Jacquetta Trasler, in collaboration with Principal Investigator, Dr. William Fraser of l'Hôpital Ste-Justine and several Quebec colleagues, has received \$10,000,000 over a five-year term to implement "The Integrated Research Network on Perinatology".



AWARDS AND HONOURS FROM THE FOUNDATION OF STARS

Three researchers at The Montreal Children's Hospital have received "**Prizes of Excellence**" from the Foundation of Stars in recognition of their outstanding contributions to pediatric research in Quebec as follows:

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos has been awarded the Career Scientist Award of Excellence 2008 of the Foundation of Stars, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of child health research.

Dr. Karen Christensen has received the Post-doctoral Fellow prize for her investigations of the effects of folate pathway gene variations on the development of congenital heart defects conducted in Dr. Rima Rozen's laboratory.

Ms. Amanda Fortier, a fourth year PhD student in Human Genetics, has received a Graduate Student prize for her research on the effects of assisted reproductive technologies on genomic imprinting. Ms. Fortier's graduate degree program is supervised by Dr. Jacquetta Trasler.



IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Mike Davis passed away on August 29, 2008 after suffering a heart attack in Barbados. Dr. Davis was an internationally recognized specialist in lung diseases. His expertise was research in lung physiology of infants and care of children with chronic lung disease. He was a generous man, an avid teacher and he loved to challenge his students and the staff. Our sincere condolences go out to his wife Myrna Lashley and the entire family.

Dr. Irwin Scott Disher, a long-time member of the Department of Child Psychiatry at The Montreal Children's Hospital, passed away on September 22, 2008 as a result of pneumonia following surgery. Our condolences go out to his family and friends.

Dr. Claude Grandbois, passed away on November 15th, 2008. Dr. Grandbois was a cherished colleague and a long-standing member of the Department of Pediatrics. Our sincere condolences go out to the entire family.

Dr. Helen Karounis passed away on June 19, 2008, after a short but courageous battle with cancer. Dr. Karounis was an exceptional physician, kind and generous in her care for her patients at The Montreal Children's Hospital, as well as a dedicated teacher, admired by her colleagues. She will be remembered for her great spirit, her appetite for life at its fullest, her sense of humour and her immense love for her family. Our sincere condolences go out to Adrian and the entire family.

Our condolences go out to:

Mrs. Judy Browning on the loss of her mother, **Mrs. Audrey Collins** (née Miles), on October 10, 2008.



PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDA TO ATTEND

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
TOWN HALL MEETING
WITH DEAN R. LEVIN

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m.

Forbes-Cushing Amphitheatre – D-182

Meeting to begin at precisely 8:00 a.m.

Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.



DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
RETREAT 2009

Friday May 22, 2009

7:15 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Hotel Hilton Bonaventure
Salon Le Portage

**ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED**

