DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
NEWSLETTER
FEBRUARY 2005

DEPARTMENT

Staff Updates:

Dr. Geoffrey Dougherty has accepted the position as Director of the Division of General Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and the MCH of the MUHC, effective February 1, 2005. He has stepped down as Medical Director of IACS, a position he held since 1990.

Dr. Hema Patel has accepted the position as Acting Director of Intensive Ambulatory Care Services in the interim, effective February 1, 2005.

Dr. Christine McCusker has been appointed Medical Director of the Clinical Immunology Laboratory at the MCH.

Dr. Reza Alizadehfar has been appointed Assistant Director of the Clinical Immunology Laboratory.

Search Committees:

A search committee for the Director of the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition was struck in September 2004 and its work is on going.

A search committee for the Jack Cole Chair in Pediatric Oncology has been re-activated. The search committee for a Medical Director of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology continues its deliberations.

Maternity Leave:

Dr. Helen Karounis, MER, will be on maternity leave from April 1, 2005 to September 30, 2005.
Dr. Preetha Krishnamoorthy, Endocrinology, will be on maternity leave as of April 20, 2005.

Sick Leave:

Dr. Sylviane Forget is on an indefinite sick leave as of January 25, 2005.

Maternity/Sick Leave Replacement:

Dr. Barbara Arena will replace Dr. Helen Karounis from April 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005.

Congratulations to:

Dr. Marie Béland for having been appointed President of the Canadian Pediatric Cardiology Association.

Dr. Lily Hechtman for having been appointed Chairman of the Canadian ADHD Resources Alliance Editorial Advisory Board for Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada – Outlook and for having been appointed Chair, Program Committee of the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry.

Dr. Lily Hechtman for having been inducted into the CHADD (Children and Adults with ADHD) Hall of Fame “in recognition of outstanding professional achievement in medicine and education research on Attention Deficit Disorders”, October 28, 2004.

Dr. Robert Hutcheon for having been ordained to the Holy Priesthood (Protodeacon Cyprian), by His Grace the Right Reverend Seraphim, Bishop of Ottawa and Canada (Orthodox Church in America), on Sunday, January 9, 2005, at the “Sign of the Theotokos” Orthodox Church in Montreal.

Dr. Wendy MacDonald for having been nominated by the members of the Centre for Medical Education Awards Committee as a 2004 Canadian Association for Medical Education Certificate Award Winner. Dr. MacDonald also has the distinction of being the only two-time recipient of the Osler Award from the graduating medical classes of 1989 and 2001.

Dr. Apostolos Papageorgiou for having been selected Olympic Torch Bearer, Montreal, 2004, in recognition by Hacettepe University, Ankara, Turkey, for contribution to fetal-maternal medicine, 2004.

Dr. Rosie Scuccimarra for having completed a Diploma in Epidemiology and Biostatistics in October 2004.
And to …

Dr. Ronald Barr on his future marriage to Ms. Marilyn Sandberg on March 5, 2005 in Vancouver.

Dr. Ann Hirtle and Dr. Jorge Fontg, on their baby girl (Lucia del Carmen), born on October 25, 2004.

Dr. Rhoda Kagan, on her baby boy (Eidan Michael), born on November 18, 2004.

McGill UNIVERSITY

McGill Appointments:

Dr. Louise Auger have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (GFT–H) in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1, 2005.

Dr. Dominique Chalut have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (GFT–H) in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1, 2005.

Dr. Laurel Kimoff have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (GFT–H) in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1, 2005.

Dr. Hema Patel have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (GFT–H) in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1, 2005.

Dr. Saleem Razack have been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (GFT–H) in the Department of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, effective January 1, 2005.

Congratulations to all!!

THE McGill UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (MUHC)

MUHC Appointments:

Mr. Normand Rinfret has relinquished his duties as Director of Human Resources in order to devote more time to his role as Chief of Staff. Stella Lopreste has ably taken over for N. Rinfret and will report to Dr. Porter.
Ann Lynch’s role as Chief of Clinical Operations is officially permanent. She will continue also as Director of Nursing. René Carignan was officially named as Chief Financial, Administrative and Clinical Support Officer.

Dr. Antoine Loutfi, one of the MUHC senior surgeons and the Director of Surgical Oncology at McGill, was named Directeur de lutte contre le cancer. Dr. Loutfi’s mandate will be to coordinate the delivery of cancer care in Quebec.

THE MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

New Associate Executive Director

The Council for Services to Children and Adolescents (CSCA) and the Board of Directors of the MUHC approved the appointment of a new Associate Executive Director for The Children’s.

Dr. Linda Christmann is a pediatric ophthalmologist. She comes to the MUHC after completing her second term as Chief of Ophthalmology at Palmetto Richland Memorial Hospital, a 649-bed teaching hospital in Columbia, South Carolina, that includes 144 pediatric beds. At the same time, she is the managing partner in a private practice, Pediatric Eye Care and Surgery in the same city. Her passionate commitment to pediatric medicine is only one of the outstanding qualities that Dr. Christmann will bring to her new role. She is a highly focused and goal-oriented individual who has worked in hospital environments in the United States and Germany while with the US Air Force. As a professor in the University of Carolina Medical School she has developed and supervised residency training in ophthalmology for pediatrics, ophthalmology, family medicine and ER. At the same time, she has built a specialty pediatric practice serving 30,000 patients. As Chief of Ophthalmology at Palmetto Richland Memorial, she is heavily involved in Patient Care and Safety Committee and has led to the development of a strategy to expand pediatric services at that hospital. She has been involved with the Children’s Hospital in Columbia for over sixteen years. She holds a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Tennessee.

In accepting this job, Dr. Christmann said, "my goal will be to ensure that The Children’s continues to shine as a centre of excellence for pediatric patient care, research and teaching". Dr. Christmann will take up her new role in early April.
Outreach Projects:

Intensive Ambulatory Care Services

Von Willebrand Program: Great Whale River Community Outreach Project

Last summer, Dr. Johanne Morel, pediatrician with the Northern Module Program, reported to the Hemophilia Comprehensive Treatment Centre on her findings in the Hudson Bay village of Great Whale River. She had observed that several people were diagnosed with Von Willebrand disease following bleeding episodes. The HTC hematologists reviewed the test results and 21 patients were admitted to The Montreal Children's Hospital's Hemophilia and Other Coagulation Disorders Comprehensive Treatment Centre.

Catherine Sabourin, Nurse Coordinator accompanied Dr. Morel on her last visit (November 22nd - 26th 2004) and met individually with these patients to have them complete questionnaires and provided information on Von Willebrand disease. Information was also provided to the Cree daycare employees and the community dentist as they have already called for guidance regarding the administration of DDAVP. The hematologist, Dr. Warner, and nurse, Catherine Sabourin, are planning a visit to the community in March 2005.

As well, Nathalie Aubin the Intensive Ambulatory Care Service / Clinical Investigation Unit Assistant Head Nurse, produced an information booklet on Factor XII Deficiency. It was published in December 2004 with the collaboration of the Canadian Hemophilia Society.

MCH RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS

EVENTS

Open House/Poster Day

In celebration of the MCH Centennial, the Research Institute held an Open House/Poster Day on December 3, 2004 at the Montreal Children's Hospital. In all, over 40 posters depicting basic and clinical research conducted by investigators and research trainees at the MCH were presented. The Institute congratulates and thanks the organizer of this event, Dr. Aimee Ryan, whose dedication and boundless energy ensured its success.

Telethon for Research into Children's Diseases

The 28th annual Telethon sponsored by the Foundation for Research into Children's Diseases was telecast on CFCF-12 and on Télévision Quatre Saisons
on December 4 and 5, 2004. While the final results are not confirmed, the total pledged is an all-time high of over $5 million. The Research Institute thanks the production teams at CFCF-12 and TQS for a superb event and the Foundation for Research into Children’s Diseases, whose hard work in spearheading this event for nearly three decades, have raised over $44 million in support of child health research in Quebec.

INTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

The Institute's Equipment Committee met in mid-December 2004 to evaluate requests submitted in the December 1st competition for laboratory and computer equipment support. Nineteen requests were approved, ranging from a single-user computer to a multi-user PCR system for use with radioactive material, for a total value of over $95,000. In January 2005, the Institute evaluated requests for fellowship support from post-doctoral and research fellows. Four bursaries were awarded for the upcoming 2005-2006 term. The budget allocated to support bursaries and equipment grants is provided by the annual donation to the Montreal Children’s Hospital from the Foundation for Research into Children’s Diseases.

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

The CIHR Group in Medical Genetics received renewal of support for a five-year term. Currently comprising Dr. Rima Rozen (Scientific Director, Pediatric Research, MUHC), Dr. Andrew Karaplis, Dr. Robert MacKenzie, Dr. David Rosenblatt, Dr. Eric Shoubridge, Dr. Mark Trifiro as well as Dr. Roy Gravel (formerly MUHC) from the University of Calgary, it is the longest running research group in the history of the CIHR and its predecessor, the MRC.

Dr. George Hatzakis, in collaboration with co-applicants Dr. R. Harrigan of U. of British Columbia and Dr. C. Tsoukas of McGill U., has received a new grant of $48,197 from the CIHR for a term of nine months in support of “Improving HIV-treatment: Predicting HIV co receptor CCR5 and CXCR4 usage through V3 genotype.”

Dr. Feige Kaplan has received a new grant valued at $646,365 for a five-year term from the CIHR in support of “Investigations of an association of genetic variation in importin 13 with lung function and steroid response in asthma.”

Dr. Pierre Lachapelle, in collaboration with co-applicants Drs. Sylvain Chemtob and Christian Casanova of the U. de Montréal, has received a renewal of funding valued at $374,877 for a three-year term in support of “Retinopathy of prematurity: Retinal and post retinal structural and functional consequences.”

Dr. Bruce Mazer has received a new grant of $273,807 from the CIHR for a three-year term in support of IL-13+B cells: ‘What is their role in allergic airway disease?’
Dr. Christine McCusker, in collaboration with co-principal investigator Dr. Elizabeth Fixman of McGill University, has received a new grant of $150,000 from the CIHR for a one-year term in support of “Cell permeable peptides: a new strategy to inhibit allergic rhinitis and asthma.”

Congratulations to these investigators, who achieved their success in a difficult funding competition that had a national average success rate of only 24%.

WHAT ARE THEY DOING NOW?

Dr. Mary Ellen Avery will be awarded the Howland Award, the most prestigious award in Pediatrics, at the Pediatric meeting in Washington in May 2005. Dr. M.E. Avery was Chair of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief at the MCH in the 1970’s and was recently appointed President of the American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS). Those attending these meetings should identify themselves to the Chairman’s office so that the Department can organize a suitable tribute.

IN MEMORIUM

Our condolences go out to:

Dr. June Ortenberg on the loss of her father, Archie Ortenberg, on February 8, 2005. Contributions in his memory may be made to Maimonides Hospital Foundation.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos on the loss of his mother, Helen Polychronakos, on November 13, 2004, surrounded by family in Greece.
PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDAS TO ATTEND:

DEPARTMENTAL RETREAT

FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2005

from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

At the St-James’s Club

****************

DEPARTMENTAL MEETING

MONDAY, MAY 30, 2005

5:30 p.m. Refreshments

6:00 p.m. Meeting to begin

FORBES-CUSHING AMPHITHEATER
(D-182)

ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED