DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
NEWSLETTER
April 2006

DEPARTMENT

Report from the Chairman:

2005 has been a very difficult year, with numerous unexpected or, in some cases, anticipated events that have required immediate assessment and reaction. It has kept many of the members of the Department of Pediatrics, and particularly the administration at McGill, the MUHC and the MCH, and even including the Shriners’, on high alert and under significant external pressures. The Children’s entered the New Year with uncertainty as to outcome, but we are reassured that we have the unquestioned support of the patients and families that we serve, our donors to the MCHF, our professional staff, our adult colleagues, the CSCA, the MCH and MUHC senior administration, and McGill University. Collectively, we believe in the significant role that the Children’s has and will continue to play in the care of all Quebec children, in our excellent teaching programs, and in the success of our innovative and productive researchers. We are optimistic that the newly structured ministerial process, and the recent approval to build the new Children’s Hospital at the Glen, will ensure that we achieve our goals in 2006 and beyond.

Extension of the Chairman’s mandate:

I am pleased to report that the Provost, Dean Fuks, Dr. A. Porter, CEO of the MUHC, and Dr. Linda Christmann, AED, MCH of the MUHC, have all endorsed a one-year extension of my personal mandates as Chairman, Department of Pediatrics and Pediatrician-in-Chief, MUHC. I look forward to working with all of you during this additional year.

Staff Updates:

Dr. Claudette Bardin has accepted the position as Director of the Medical Wards and the Short Stay Unit and began her new responsibilities as of January 2006. She will have reduced responsibilities in Newborn Medicine until June 2006. We welcome her to this new position and extend our congratulations.
Dr. F. Ducharme has stepped down from her position as Coordinator of Resident Research for Core Pediatric Residents within the McGill University Pediatric Residency Program. Dr. Ducharme has very ably coordinated the program since its inception and we thank her for her dedication to our Residency Program.

Dr. S. Ghosh has been named Coordinator of Resident Research for Core Pediatric Residents within the McGill University Pediatric Residency Program. We are grateful to him for accepting this important role.

Dr. Harold Rich had assumed the responsibilities of Interim Director of the Medical Wards and the Short Stay Unit until December 31, 2005. Since then, he has been appointed as Associate Director of the Medical Wards and the Short Stay Unit (SSU) within the Division of General Pediatrics. We thank him for having accepted to take on these responsibilities.

Recruitment:

Locums:

Dr. Andrei Harabor, from Lethbridge, Calgary, has been assisting Neonatal Services, as a locum at the RVH, since August 19, 2005.

Dr. Cristina Targa Ferreira, from Brazil, will be assisting the GI Division as a locum at the MCH, for the period of April 1, 2006 to July 31, 2006.

Dr. Rabindranath Persad, from McMaster Children’s Hospital, Hamilton Health Sciences, Ontario, assisted the GI Division, as a locum at the MCH, for the period of March 24 to March 31 inclusive.

Leave of Absence:

Extended Vacation:

Dr. Watters will be away on extended vacation from January 6 to April 22, 2006.

Sick Leave:

Dr. Michael Davis, Division of Respiratory Medicine was on sick leave from December 16, 2005 to January 16, 2006. We welcome him back. During his absence, Dr. A.-M. Canakis replaced him.

Dr. Louise Auger, Division of General Pediatrics, is on sick leave since February 28, 2006. We wish her a speedy recovery and an early return to work.
Congratulations to:

Dr. Frederick Andermann for having been selected as the Richard L. and Mary Masland Lecturer at the XVIII World Congress of Neurology in Sydney, Australia.

Franco Carnevale, Ph.D., Nursing Coordinator in Pediatric Critical Care Unit for having been named to the Faculty of Medicine Honor List for Educational Excellence 2005/2006.

Dr. Alice Chan Yip for having established the Multicultural and International Medicine Prize to be awarded annually to a medical student who participates in a Canadian multicultural or international elective of at least four weeks. The prize will be awarded to the student who presents the best project demonstrating an understanding of the contribution of social and cultural factors to health.

Dr. Ronald Gottesman for having been appointed by the Chair of the Specialty Committee, The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, as Vice-Chair (Pediatric) of the Examination Board for the 2006 examination, for a one-year renewable mandate.

Dr. Ilana Greenstone for having received the 2005 IMS Canada Awards, which recognizes physicians and pharmacists who contribute to the continuing medical education of their peers through the publication of articles on the appropriate use of medications. Her publication is entitled “Combination of inhaled long-acting beta2-agonists and inhaled steroids versus higher dose of inhaled steroids in children and adults with persistent asthma”. One of the co-authors is Dr. Francine Ducharme.

Dr. Harvey Guyda for having been selected as the recipient of the 2006 Dr. Noni MacDonald Award for his article entitled: “Use of dietary supplements and hormones in adolescents: A cautionary tale”. This award is named in honour of the founding editor of Paediatrics & Child Health and is given annually to an author whose article, published by the journal within the previous year, made an important contribution to paediatric medicine.

Dr. Michael Kramer for having been selected, as the recipient of the 2006 Sanofi Pasteur Research Award, by the Canadian Paediatric Society. This award honors the best in current Canadian child health research in clinical, epidemiological, or base science that has been published in a peer-reviewed journal within the past two years.

Dr. Wendy MacDonald with the able assistance of Preetha Krishnamoorthy for having once again provided the top-ranked clerkship experience for the 2005 graduating class within the faculty.
Dr. Wendy MacDonald for having been the recipient for the third time of the Osel Award for her inspiring role model and her unwavering commitment to medical education.

Dr. David McGillivray for having been the recipient of the CAME 2006 Certificate of Merit for his valuable contribution to medical education in the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Gary Pekeles for having been elected by the McGill Senate to be one of 4 academic representatives on the McGill Board of Governors as of September 2005 for a period of 3 years.

Dr. Gary Pekeles for having been awarded the Hildes Medal, the highest award of the International Union for Circumpolar Health. It is awarded every three years to one American, one Canadian, one Scandinavian and one Russian for excellence in northern medicine and health in consideration of their contributions through service, research and humanitarianism.

Dr. Ruth Russell for having been presented with the Excellence in Education Award of the Canadian Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry for her significant contribution in undergraduate, postgraduate, and continuing professional education in child and adolescent mental health.

Dr. Robert Usher for having been selected as the recipient of the 2006 Ross Award. Established in 1976, the Ross Award is the most prestigious honor given by the Canadian Paediatric Society and recognizes excellence of achievement in the field of paediatric research, education, child health and child advocacy.

Congratulations to:

The Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery teams of The Montreal Children's Hospital/MUHC for having been prominently featured in the February edition of Selection (Readers' Digest). The magazine has published a special feature updating the medical condition of Émile Jutras entitled "D'un coeur à l'autre".

The Intensive Ambulatory Care Service of The Montreal Children's Hospital/MUHC for having won the inaugural Rotman Award for Pediatric Home Care Innovation. This award was created, through the Sick Kids Foundation, to "recognize successful an innovative home and community health care programs serving children, youth and families in Canada". The $100,000 award will allow IACS to pursue innovations in home care outreach over the next three years.
Congratulations to the new Chief Residents:

Dr. Anne-Marie Sbrocchi and Dr. Samara Zavalkoff for having been selected as Chief Resident in pediatrics, from June 5, 2006 to June 3, 2007, inclusive. We look forward to working with them in their new capacity.

And to …

Dr. S. Vaillancourt and B. Richards on their baby boy (Lucas Henry Richards), born on November 6, 2005.

Dr. E. Rubin on his baby girl (Ema Lauren) born on November 11, 2005.

Dr. A.- M. Gosselin on her baby boy (Patrick), born on January 15, 2006.

Dr. I. Gupta on her baby girl (Neve), born on January 23, 2006.

Dr. R. Barnes on his baby girl (Stephanie), born on February 1, 2006.

Accreditation: Pediatric Residency Program

The Royal College Survey Committee has recommended that the Pediatric Residency Program be given full approval as an accredited pediatric residency program in Canada. The Committee noted that one of the strengths of the program is the high number of faculty members committed to residency education and the way it responds to residents’ needs.

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Complementarity

Over the past months, the issue of complementarity has been at the forefront of the MUHC’s discussions with the Government of Quebec. In November, the Government tabled a proposal on pediatric complementarity. It stated that there is an overabundance of pediatric resources and that consolidation and centralization of highly specialized services was required. There were no justifications provided in regard to improved patient care or enhanced cost-effectiveness. It was the MUHC and MCH’s view that this proposal would harm the quality and accessibility of pediatric care as well as the MUHC/MCH’s ability to carry out teaching and research activities. The MCH asked the Government of Quebec for the complete withdrawal of the Complementarity Proposal for Pediatrics that proposed the loss of important programs such as trauma, cardiovascular surgery, oncology and organ transplants. A joint MUHC/MCH delegation including the Principal of McGill University Heather Monroe-Blum, the Vice-Principal Janyne Hodder, the Dean of Medicine, Dr. Abraham Fuks, the Executive Director and CEO of the MUHC, Dr. A. Porter and the MCH Associate Executive Director, Dr. L. Christmann traveled to Quebec City on December 13 to clearly make the MUHC/MCH position known. Although the official document was not removed from the table, the MUHC voiced its concerns and had the opportunity to explain the issues to several MNAs from Montreal.

Committee on the Modernization of University Medicine in Montreal

Minister Couillard has named Dr. Michel Baron, former Dean at Sherbrooke, as President of the Committee on the Modernization of University Medicine in Montreal, with equal representation from the McGill and UdeM RUIS.

Dr. Michel Baron, chair of the Committee on the Modernization of University Medicine in Montreal, has issued a progress report on the discussion on clinical collaboration (complementarity). A number of work groups have been established to look at specific clinical areas. Each work group will be composed of physicians from the participating hospitals and co-chaired by members of the committee. Dr. Baron will submit his report to the Minister in June.

Media Activity

There was a large public response to the McGill/MUHC/MCH public campaign. Several letters submitted have not been published, but the excellent letter drafted by Sylvianne Forget and endorsed by a total of 73 staff physicians from the Department of Pediatrics, was published electronically by La Presse on December 31, 2005.
**CPDP – MCH:**

Congratulations to the elected members forming the 2006-2007 Executive Committee:

**Dr. Earl Rubin, Chair**

Dr. Sharon Abish  
Dr. Andrea Dancea  
Dr. David Mitchell  
Dr. Pramod S. Puligandla  
Dr. Naomi Stein  
Dr. Ted Tewfik

**MUHC RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS**

**AWARDS**

Five MCH investigators received salary awards from the FRSQ commencing July 1, 2006 as follows:

**Catherine Limperopoulos** received a New Investigator Grant from the Hospital for Sick Children valued at $130,000 for a two-year term in support of “Brain Growth and Development in the Fetus and Newborn with Congenital Heart Disease”.

**Bruce Mazer** received a chercheur national from FRSQ for a term of five years.

**Christine McCusker** received a chercheur-boursier clinicien Junior 2 from FRSQ for a term of two years.

**Loydie Jerome-Majewska** received a chercheur-boursier Junior 1 from FRSQ for a term of three years, effective July 1, 2006. In addition, she received an establishment grant from the FRSQ valued at $45,000 for a term of three years.

**Laurie Snider** received a chercheur-boursier Junior 2 from FRSQ for a term of three years.

**Dominique Shum-Tim** received a chercheur-boursier Junior 2 from FRSQ for a term of four years.
EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

Congratulations to the following successful recipients:

Dr. Paul Goodyer has received renewal support from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) for a five-year term valued at $555,550 for “PAX2 and renal hypoplasia”.

Dr. Loydie Jerome Majewska received a new grant of $96,637 from the CIHR for a term of one year in support of “Molecular determinants of placental development in mice”.

Dr. Cécile Rousseau received a new grant of $233,290 from the CIHR for a term of three years in support of “Impact du contexte international de guerre et de terrorisme sur la santé mentale des immigrants”.

Dr. Michael Kramer, in collaboration with principal investigator Sylvana Côté of the U. de Montréal and colleagues from McGill and the U. de Montreal, has received a new five-year grant of $545,770 from the CIHR for “Family risks and young children’s mental health: The role of non-maternal care”.

Dr. Rima Rozen, in collaboration with co-principal investigators Drs. Gregor Andelfinger, Mona Nemer and Andrea Richter of Hôpital Ste-Justine, has received a new five-year grant valued at $2,382,246 from the CIHR for "Genetic determinants of congenital heart disease".

CORRIGENDUM

In the Department of Pediatrics Newsletter October 2005 issue, the name of the McGill Medical Skills Centre was modified and should read as follows:

The McGill Medical Simulation Centre.
IN MEMORIUM

Our condolences go out to:

Dr. Nicolas Steinmetz on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Marianne Kunth Steinmetz, in Germany, on November 8, 2005, at the age of 93.

Dr. Margaret Berry on the loss of her father, Dr. Herbert B. Berry, in Saskatoon, on March 11, 2006, at the age of 83.
PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDAS TO ATTEND:

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS RETREAT

FRIDAY, May 12, 2006
7:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
St-James Club

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS BI-ANNUAL MEETING

MONDAY, May 15, 2006
5:30 p.m. Refreshments
6:00 p.m. Meeting to begin

FORBES-CUSHING AMPHITHEATER
(D-182)

ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED