Report from the Chairman

As we approach the end of another academic year, and enter my last year as Chairman, I continue to marvel and be rewarded by the depth of academic commitment by the members of our department, despite the increasing pressures of the provision of clinical services. The recently completed self study document clearly demonstrates the numerous academic achievements of all of you over the past decade, as well as the challenge that you face on a daily basis. Please take the opportunity to read about yourself and your colleagues.  
(http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/selfstudyreport/)

Another academic milestone was achieved with the 5th Annual Day of Reflection (aka retreat) held on May 22nd. With 94 registrants and over 80 attendees, this was a clear response to a need to improve our clinical research capacity. We kicked off with an excellent presentation by Bruce Mazer that demonstrated his “Joy” of Research. Bob Brouillette outlined our increasing clinical research infrastructure, and Mike Shevell and Emmett Francoeur gave examples of their successful hospital and community based clinical research projects respectively. These were followed by six well organized and highly interactive thematic workshops. We are grateful to Ciaran Duffy (Chair) and the other members of the Organizing Committee, Dr Robert Brouillette (Co-Chair), Dr David McGillivray, Dr Hema Patel, Dr Richard Gosselin, Dr Larry Lands, all of the presenters, and particularly Sylvie Sahyoun and Lynn Hebert, for their hard work in the development of this highly successful reflective day.

The MUHC redevelopment project leading to the new Montreal Children’s Hospital at the Glen is progressing well. The interactions with the two P3 consortia have been largely completed and they will deposit their final bids by late August, when public access to the designs should be available. It is important to note that the designs will be only approximately 30% finalized by this time – much work still will remain. Following an intense period of evaluation by a joint MUHC-MSSS committee, the “winner” will be selected by mid to late December. Construction will begin almost immediately.

The joint selection committee for the Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics and MUHC Pediatrician-in-Chief is hard at work and we (especially me!) look forward to the outcome of their deliberations.

Staff Updates

Dr. Marie Béland stepped down as Director of the Pediatric Cardiology Division at The Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH) of the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), effective December 31, 2008, after 12 years in this leadership position. We thank Dr. Béland for her long time devotion and we look forward to her ongoing contributions to this Division.

Dr. Adrian Dancea has accepted the nomination as Director of the Pediatric Cardiology Division at MCH of the MUHC, effective January 1, 2009. We congratulate Dr. Dancea on his appointment and look forward to working with him in his new role.

Dr. Daniel Faucher has accepted the nomination as Acting Director at the RVH site of the Division of Neonatology of the MUHC, effective August 1, 2008. We congratulate Dr. Faucher on this appointment.

STAFF RESIGNATIONS

Dr. Francine Ducharme has resigned from her position as Professor in the Department of Paediatrics at McGill University, and as staff physician in the Division of General Pediatrics of the MCH of the MUHC, effective August 31st, 2008. She has assumed the position of Associate Director of Clinical Research (Paediatric) at the CHU Ste-Justine.

NEW RECRUITMENT

Dr. Brahim Bensouda has accepted a position as Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as staff physician in the Division of Neonatology of the MCH of the MUHC, effective April 1, 2009. Dr. Bensouda is a certified Pediatrician from France (Faculté de médecine Henri Poincaré Nancy 1). He obtained his formal Neonatology training in North America at CHU Sainte-Justine and then worked at Hôpital Maisonneuve Rosemont. The Department of Pediatrics extends a warm welcome to Dr. Bensouda.
Congratulations to . . .

Dr. Franziska Baltzer for the publication of her book “Practical Adolescent Medicine” in German. For pediatricians and family physicians, the book features the most important aspects of treating teenagers.

Dr. Iliana Bank for having been accepted into the Teaching Scholars Program for 2009 - 2010.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been a co-recipient of the Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) New Educator’s Award. The award is presented annually to a single individual (usually) in their first 7 years of practice based on: quality and breadth of their teaching; innovation in medical education; educational research and scholarship activities; leadership/administration activities and impact of their work at a local, national and international level.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having served for the past 1 1/2 years as the Heart and Stroke Foundation Canada representative to the Education, Implementation and Teams Task Force of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation (ILCOR).

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been invited to participate on the Design Group for Education as part of the Strategic Planning Project for the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Lorraine Bell for having been accepted in the Teaching Scholars Program for 2009-2010.

Dr. Aurore Côté for having been the recipient of the MCH Foundation Leadership Award of Excellence. This award for Leadership is given to a leader for her lifetime contribution to The Montreal Children’s Hospital, distinguished by outstanding dedication to patient care, unwavering commitment to furthering the pediatric mission and strong leadership within the hospital and health care community.

Dr. Richard Gosselin for having been the recipient of the CAME Certificate of Merit 2009 for his outstanding contribution to medical education.

Dr. Ronald Gottesman for having been appointed as one of three new Associate Directors of the McGill Medical Simulation Centre, effective March 1, 2009, for a period of 3 years.

Dr. Richard Hamilton for having been invited to present the Charlotte Anderson Lecture at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. Charlotte Anderson was a pioneer in GI. The subject was: “Where there is Burnout there must have been Fire - Retaining Job Satisfaction in a Medical Career”.

Dr. Gilles Julien for having been granted the Médaile du mérite de l'Association des médecins de langue française du Canada (AMLFC), in recognition of his commitment and dedication to his community. Dr. Julien is a leading advocate of children’s rights and Social Pediatrics in Quebec.

Dr. M. Kramer for having been reappointed as a James McGill Professor for a period of seven years, tenable from June 1, 2009, in recognition of his continued scholarly work as a McGill Professor.

Dr. Annette Majnemer for having been designated to give the 2010 Muriel Driver Lectureship at the annual meeting of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy. This lectureship, together with an accompanying prize, is given both for a body of research work and an individual’s contribution at a national and international level to the profession of occupational therapy. It is the most prestigious Canadian Award in Occupational Therapy.

Dr. Klaus Minde for having been the recipient of an Award from the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, for leadership in academic child and adolescent psychiatry nationally and internationally, for significant contributions to knowledge generation and transfer, and for the care and mentoring of trainees in the field.

Dr. Hema Patel for having been named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence in recognition of her contributions to teaching in the Faculty of medicine.

Dr. Hema Patel for having been selected as the Garnier Kids Foundation guest of honour for this year’s fundraising event. The Foundation has planned a short filmed presentation, highlighting Dr. Patel’s work in IACS and her advocacy for hearing impaired children.

Dr. Hema Patel for having been invited, on behalf of the Coalition for UNHS, to meet with the Minister of Health, Dr. Y. Bolduc, to discuss Universal Newborn Hearing Screening.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos for having been the 2009 recipient of the Canadian Paediatric Society Research Award. Established in 1999, this award honors the best in current Canadian child and youth health research in clinical, epidemiological, or basic science that has been published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal within the past five years.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos for having been invited to participate on the Design Group for Research as part of the Strategic Planning Project for the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Saleem Razack for having been appointed as Assistant Dean, MDCM admissions, effective September 1, 2009, for a term of 3 years.

Dr. Frank Rauch for having been named Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Musculoskeletal and Neuronal Interactions, effective January 1, 2009.

Dr. Rima Rozen for having been invited to participate on the Design Group for Research as part of the Strategic Planning Project for the Faculty of Medicine.
Dr. Michael Shevell for having been elected to the membership of the American Neurological Association as an active member. This is the world’s oldest neurological society and election is selective and based on substantial academic contributions to neurology and neuroscience.

Dr. Micheline Ste-Marie for having received the Canadian Medical Association (CMA) Honorary Membership. Honorary Membership is bestowed on those who, at age 65, having been active members of the Association for 10 years, have been nominated by their divisions and had their nominations approved unanimously by the CMA Board of Directors. The nominees are humanitarians who have put into practice the aims and ideas of the professional, and are people who exemplify the words on the CMA Coat of Arms: integrare et misericordia – integrity and compassion.

Dr. Jacquetta Trasler for having received the MCH Foundation Research Award of Excellence. This award is presented to a researcher whose initiatives have made unique and significant contributions to pediatric care.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY WEDS
Dr. Maala Bhatt and Mr. Dan Honneger on their marriage on May 9, 2009, in Halifax.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED PARENTS
Dr. Marie Emmanuelle Dilenge and Dr. Jeffrey Atkinson on their adopted son (Noah).

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CHIEF RESIDENT
Dr. Tanya Di Genova for having been selected as Chief Resident in Pediatrics, from February 9, 2009 to February 8, 2010, inclusive. We look forward to working with her in her new capacity.

THE MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

The elected members forming the 2009-2010 CPDP Executive Committee are:

Dr. Shirley Blaichman
Dr. John-Paul Capolicchio
Dr. Preetha Krishamoorthy
Dr. David Mitchell
Dr. Gary Pekeles
Dr. Pramod S. Puligandla

Our Members In the Media!!

Dr. Robert Brouillette, Director, and Dr. Evelyn Constantin, Assistant Director, Pediatric Sleep Lab - MCH were featured in the April 13 edition of Macleans magazine. They were interviewed about obstructive sleep apnea in children.

Dr. Harley Eisman gave two interviews to La Presse on “How to use the ER” and “Overcrowding in the ER”. Dr. Eisman also did multiple interviews on the issue of overcrowding and was featured on CIBL Concordia Radio, CJAD Radio, Global TV, RDI TV, and Q92 Radio.

Dr. Éric Fombonne, MCH Director of Psychiatry, was interviewed on the subject of autism for the Téléquébec series Une pilule, une petite granule.

CBC TV interviewed Dr. Shuvo Ghosh about children with global developmental delays and the long line-ups to receive various therapies such as speech and language, physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos did an interview on LCN/TVA regarding the Fondation de la recherche sur le diabète juvénile Symposium and gene predisposition in the development of Diabetes type 1, along with Sébastien Sasseville, the first Canadian diabetic type 1 who climbed Mount Everest.

Dr. Caroline Quach did an interview with Magazine Espace Parents on “Maladies dans les garderies”.

FACULTY OF MEDICINE
McGILL UNIVERSITY

Selection Committee – Chair, Department of Pediatrics/Pediatrician-in-Chief, MUHC

The members of the Selection Committee are:

McGill Faculty:  MUHC:
David Goltzman (Co-Chair)  Warren Steiner (Co-Chair)
Jacquetta Trasler  Constantin Polychronakos
David Rosenblatt  Wendy MacDonald
Frank Rauch  Barbara Izzard
Gary Pekeles  Harley Eisman
Harley Eisman  Rima Rozen
Jean-Pierre Farmer  Claudio Bussandri

FUTURE OF THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE

Under the direction of Dean Richard Levin, the Faculty of Medicine has embarked on a strategic planning journey to define the future of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University. Three Design Groups have been formed to lead the next critical phase in this process: Research, Education and the Faculty Lifecycle. These groups will discuss the issues in their respective areas, develop a vision for the Faculty of Medicine spanning the next decade, deliberate on how best to leverage strengths and address challenges, and then develop strategies that are best suited to future success. The kick-off meeting for the strategic planning process was held on April 28, 2009, and it is anticipated that the process may be completed by the end of 2009.
Dr. Isabelle Gagnon has received a grant from the Canadians for Health Research (CIHR) in partnership with the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation valued at $258,400 over a two-year term, in support of “Returning to activities after a mild traumatic brain injury in children and adolescents: the role of balance deficits, post-concussion symptoms and self-efficacy.”

Dr. Indra Gupta has received the Senior Chercheur-boursier clinician salary award from the FRSQ. In addition, Dr. Gupta has been awarded a new grant valued at $387,135 for a three-year term to study “Urinary tract defects: Identifying causative genes from mouse models.”

**EVENTS**

Jean Pouliot Telethon Lectureship

The 31st Annual Jean Pouliot Lectureship was held at the Montreal Children’s and Ste-Justine’s hospitals on April 1, 2009. Featuring Dr. Kevan Herold of Yale University, the lectureship consisted of two talks outlining Dr. Herold’s recent research associated with the prevention and treatment of Type 1 diabetes with anti-CD3 antibodies. The annual lectureship honors Jean Pouliot, past president of CFCF-TV, the network that has sponsored the Telethon for Research into Children’s Diseases since its inception in 1977.

**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Dr. Janusz Rak’s detection of a new fundamental mechanism by which tumor cells communicate has been voted the top 2008 scientific discovery in Quebec by the readers of the monthly magazine Québec Science. It was initially selected as one of the ten top Quebec scientific discoveries in 2008 by a jury of scientists. Published in Nature Cell Biology in April 2008, Dr. Rak’s description of how tumor cells release bubble-like structures that contain cancer-causing proteins holds great promise for cancer screening.

**CORRIGENDUM**

In the fall 2008 newsletter issue, under the section “Congratulations”, the following paragraph was published and should read as follows:

Dr. E. Gilfoyle (Alberta Children’s Hospital, University of Calgary – former fellow at the MCH), Dr. R. Gottesman and 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”.

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**RESEARCH DESIGN GROUP**

Co-Chairs: R. Quiron D. Thomas and M. Newkirk

**EDUCATION DESIGN GROUP**

Co-Chairs: J. Orlowski, Dr. D. Eidelman and J. Pickering

**FACULTY LIFECYCLE DESIGN GROUP**

Co-Chairs: M. Tremblay, M. Ludwig, N. Colman

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**THE MUHC / MCH RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS**

Dr. Franco Carnevale, in collaboration with Principal investigator Dr. Gillian Alison King of the U. of Toronto and colleagues from McMaster University, University of Toronto and the University of Western Ontario has received a three-year Emerging Team grant valued at $895,342 from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in support of “Severe childhood disability: Optimizing settings for participation and inclusion.”

Dr. Janet Rennick has received both a Chercheur-boursier clinicien junior 1 career award and an establishment grant from the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec in support of her research entitled “Prévenir les séquelles psychologiques chez les enfants critiquement malades.”

Dr. Eric Fombonne, in collaboration with co-principal investigators Drs. Peter Szatmari of McMaster University and Susan E Bryson of Dalhousie University, has received renewal of CIHR support valued at $1,712,750 over a five-year term for the project entitled “Autism Spectrum Disorders: Pathways to better outcomes (Phase II).” In addition, Dr. Fombonne’s directorship of the Autism Training Program at McGill University has been renewed by the CIHR for six year. This program will bring $2.6 million to McGill for training of PhD and post-doctoral level trainees in autism-related research.

Dr. Beth Foster has received a Chercheur-boursier clinicien junior 2 salary award from the FRSQ.
IN MEMORIAM

Dr. John Seldon Charters died peacefully on February 2nd, 2009 at the Lakeshore General Hospital. Dr. Charters was Executive Director of The Montreal Children’s Hospital from 1970 to 1987. Under his directorship, he established a solid team of professionals dedicated to improving child health. (Obituary – Annex I)

Dr. George Karpati died on February 6th, 2009. Dr. Karpati was a giant figure – a master clinician and scientist, and a true champion of the Penfield spirit. He was an Associate Member in the Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Pierre-Michel Senécal died on April 10th, 2009. Dr. Senécal was physician-in-charge for the Cities of Westmount and Verdun and also worked for fifty years as a pediatrician at the Barrie Memorial, St-Mary’s, Montreal Children’s Hospital, Jewish General and Douglas Hospitals.

Dr. Robert Williams died on April 30th, 2009 at the Montreal General Hospital. (Obituary – Annex II)

Our condolences go out to:

Dr. E. Seidman on the loss of his father, Mr. Leon Seidman, on January 7, 2009.

Dr. M. Decell on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Katherine Decell, on April 14, 2009.

PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDA TO ATTEND

HARVEY GUYDA SCIENTIFIC DAY

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2009

Goldbloom Lecture – 8:00 a.m.
Amphitheatre D-182

Half-day Scientific Conferences
9:30 – Amphitheatre D-182

Gala Dinner
Hilton Bonaventure
Cocktail – 6:30 p.m.
Gala Dinner – 7:30 p.m.

For more information or registration, please go to:
www.harveyguyda.ca
OBITUARY – DR. JACK CHARTERS

Extract from a tribute to Dr. Jack Charters, written by his close friend and colleague, Dr. Nicolas Steinmetz

Jack Charters was a thoughtful, friendly man with an open spirit, who cared deeply about family. He was the first pediatrician to practice on the West Island of Montreal, having moved to Dorval to begin his practice from the basement of his house. Jack’s ready availability and his house calls would become legendary in the community.

In the mid-1960s, Jack was elected President of the Canadian Paediatric Society. As CPS President, he travelled to the North to investigate the health of Innu children. Realizing that change was urgently needed, he advocated for a government program of paediatric medical care throughout the North to be undertaken by Canada’s medical schools. The program was implemented and very rapidly made a dramatic difference in the mortality rates of the youngest children. The program continues to this day.

As Executive Director of the Montreal’s Children’s Hospital for 17 years, Jack oversaw the hospital’s transition to form a pre-technological hospital era, to a highly technological one.

After leaving the Children’s Hospital, he and his wife went abroad to work on development projects to help build health capacity in India and Ethiopia. This was not their first time working in low and middle income countries. Jack had previously worked to help establish a medical school in Nairobi, Kenya. In recognition of his services to children in Canada and around the world, Jack Charters was awarded the Queen Elizabeth II Golden Jubilee Medal.
OBITUARY – DR. ROBERT LEWIS WILLIAMS

Dr. Robert Williams, died in the Montreal General Hospital after a courageous 34 years as a quadriplegic. Dr. Williams grew up in Harriston, Ontario, where he was first introduced to medicine through observing his father’s country practice. After completing his MD at Queen’s in 1962, he did a residency at the Montreal General Hospital, a PhD in physiology and post-doctoral research at St-Mary’s Hospital in London, England. He was a fellow at the Cardiovascular Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco in the early 70s and had returned to Canada with his young family and was establishing his research at McGill and clinical practice at the Children’s Hospital when he was suddenly incapacitated by an infection. Through incredible tenacity he made a new life for himself as a quadriplegic, including retraining in an entirely new specialization, radiology, for which he was certified five years after his illness struck. While hands-on diagnostic procedures and primary research were now beyond him, he was a willing consultant and co-investigator whose name is on many publications. Over the course of his career he held appointments within the departments of Physiology, Pediatrics and Radiology at McGill. He was medical registrar at the Children’s from 1977 – 2002 and retired in 2006 having received a number of awards for his teaching of medical students and residents. Dr. Williams will be remembered for his dry sense of humour, his intellectual curiosity, his astonishing memory, his positive outlook and his generosity.

Annex 11