

Department of Pediatrics

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 2: No. 1

Spring 2007

Report from the Chairman

The Department of Pediatrics has continued to be extremely busy dealing with a large number of dossiers involving the hospital, university and government sectors. I wish to acknowledge that your hard work in a number of activities has been rewarded with public recognition. The MCH Emergency Department received uplifting news that its hardworking team has been recognized for having the most efficient ER in the province. In a special feature on accessibility of health care in Quebec, *L'Actualité* magazine (Apr. 1) ranked the MCH Emergency Division first in the province with a score of 99%. This was followed by an excellent article on the Trauma Program in *La Presse* that featured our new Medical Director, Harley Eisman. The Pediatric undergraduate curriculum recently received specific citation as being excellent by the visiting accreditors, and we again ranked number one within McGill and across Canada by the graduating medical students. Congratulations to Wendy and Preetha. Other sectors continue to work under duress and also deserve our support and appreciation. These include the intensive care units (NICU, ICU) and the medical wards/SSU: all have been dealing with unprecedented illness of gravity. We also acknowledge that the Community Based Pediatricians have also been dealing with increased volumes of children and youth with serious illness. Your collective efforts are appreciated.

In the research sector we are undergoing renewal: we have a new scientific director at the MUHC-RI and a new Associate Director for Pediatric Research and Deputy Scientific Director will be named shortly. As noted below, our investigators are participating in the development of MUHC-RI proposals for both CFI and the Hospital research Fund (CRI), as well as the new Mother Infant Child & Youth Research Network. The final results of the CIHR 2006 fall competition for new PI grants were comparable to the national average (16%), which is below our usual standard, but in keeping with the federal funding constraints. Additional successful co-applications are listed below.

The MUHC redevelopment plan for the new Children's hospital is undergoing current review with feedback to the Ministry and Agence being ably quarterbacked by Dr Ste-Marie. We wait with interest the outcome for the health care funding portfolio as a consequence of the new minority Liberal government.

Finally, and importantly, we have an interim governance structure headed by Ann Lynch, MUHC Director of Clinical Operations, due to the LOA of Dr Christmann.

There is a strong local wish to have an interim AED appointed as quickly as possible, until such time as a permanent AED can be appointed. The CSCA Executive Committee is actively engaged in these discussions on our behalf.



STAFF UPDATES

Dr. Harley Eisman was appointed *Medical Director* of the Pediatric Medical Emergency Department at the Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC and *Director* of the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine in the Department of Pediatrics, effective February 1, 2007.

Dr. Harvey Guyda assumed the role of Acting Associate Scientific Director, Pediatric Research MUHC-RI, effective February 1, 2007.

Dr. Bruce Mazer stepped down as Interim Program Director of the McGill Pediatric Allergy-Immunology Residency Program, effective February 1, 2007.

Dr. Marie-Noël Primeau has been appointed as the McGill Pediatric Allergy-Immunology Residency Program, effective February 1, 2007.

SUPPORT STAFF UPDATE

Judy Browning, Administrative Officer, moved to the Undergraduate Medical Education Office, effective February 12, 2007. Judy can be reached at extension 24308.

Renée Champagne is the new Interim Administrative Officer in Pediatric Residency Training, effective February 12, 2007. Renée can be reached at extension 24475.

We wish them good luck in their new functions.



SD-RI SEARCH COMMITTEE

The search committee for the position of Associate Scientific Director, Pediatric Research and MUHC Deputy Scientific Director, chaired by Harvey J. Guyda, has arrived at a unanimous recommendation that will be submitted to the MUHC RI Board, CSCA and the MUHC Board. A formal announcement will follow.

RECRUITMENT

Dr. Marie-Noël Primeau has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, GFT (H) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as a staff physician in the Division of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology at the MCH/MUHC, effective January 22, 2007. Dr. Primeau completed her residency training in Pediatrics in the *Université de Sherbrooke* Hospitals Network and her residency training in Allergy and Immunology in McGill University Hospitals Network, followed by a fellowship at John Hopkins Hospital. She joins us from HSJ. Please welcome her.

REPLACEMENT

Dr. Philip Hedrei, MER, is replacing Dr. Suzanne Vaillancourt, from January 15, 2007 to December 31, 2007. Dr. Vaillancourt is completing her *formation complémentaire* training in England.

Dr. Melvin Wise, Pediatric Respiratory Medicine, is replacing Dr. Anne-Marie Canakis, who is on maternity leave, from January 1st to August 20, 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Keith Barrington was elected to the APS membership, starting January 1, 2007.

Dr. Robert Brouillette was selected as the American Academy of Sleep Medicine/Pfizer Visiting Professor in Sleep Medicine, at St-Louis University, on February 6-7, 2007.

Dr. Anne-Sophie Carret was named the Doctor of the Year by the Esras Cholim of Greater Montreal, in appreciation of her dedicated service, devotion and commitment to this organization and to its community.

Dr. Geoffrey Dougherty was appointed one of three members of The Board of Review for Baby Walkers. This board was established by the Federal Minister of Health to inquire into the nature and characteristics of baby walkers and to hear representations of any person affected by the present prohibition of the walkers in Canada.

Dr. Ciaran Duffy was appointed to the Steering Committee of the newly formed Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators.

Dr. Paul Goodyer was elected to the APS membership, starting January 1, 2007.

Dr. Ronald Gottesman was named to the McGill Faculty of Medicine Honour List (2007) for educational excellence.

Dr. Nada Jabado's article "Molecular profiling identifies prognostic subgroups of pediatric glioblastoma" was selected by the Editors of the Translational Oncology

Glossary Program, to be published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Dr. Michael Kramer's mandate as Scientific Director of the Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health (HDCYH) has been extended until 2011, recognizing the excellent leadership that he is providing in Child & Youth Health Research in Canada.

Dr. Klaus Minde received the Paul D. Steinhauer Advocacy Award from the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This award is given in testament of work done as an exceptional advocate for children, adolescents and their families at the regional, national and international level.

Dr. Saleem Razack was named to the McGill Faculty of Medicine Honour List (2007) for educational excellence.

Dr. Sam Shemie received the Canadian Society of Transplantation and Canadian Association of Transplantation 2007 Recognition Award. This award is given to an individual who has provided national leadership and significant contribution to organ and tissue donation.

Dr. Michael Shevell was a visiting professor for the following named lectureships: Klein Memorial Lecture at Long-Island Jewish/Schneider's Children's Hospital, New York City, June 2007 and Henry Dunn Lecture at BC Children's/UBC, November 2007. He has also been a visiting professor at the Children's Hospital Westmead-Sydney, Australia. Talks were also given at Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Newcastle to coincide with his stay in Sydney.

Dr. Jacquetta Trasler's Dawson Scholar Award has been renewed. She has also been promoted to the James McGill Professor category in recognition of her outstanding achievements in an area of great strategic importance to the University. This award is for a seven-year term, beginning January 1, 2007 and ending December 31, 2014.



Congratulations to the new Chief Residents

Dr. Mylene Dandavino and **Dr. Patricia Li** have been selected as Chief Resident in pediatrics, from June 5, 2007 to June 4, 2008. We look forward to working with them in their new capacity.

And Congratulations to ...

Dr. Anne-Marie Canakis on her baby boy (Nicolas), born December 18, 2006.

Dr. Sylviane Forget on her baby boy (Adrien), born December 13, 2006.

Dr. John Mitchell on his baby boy (Finley), born April 3, 2007.



Our Media Stars !!



Dr. Dominic Chalut is a regularly featured expert in the magazine *Enfants Québec*. He answers the pediatric health questions of parents.

Dr. Elene Khalil can be heard every Thursday morning at 8:20 a.m. on *Rock Détente*. She is the show's health expert. She talks about various health issues and responds to questions from listeners.

Dr. Chris Karatzios will appear on *Hellas Spectrum* on Global CH. The show, in Greek, airs Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

We thank all of the MCH health care professionals who are willing to do media interviews when called upon.



The Caring For Kids Radiothon

Congratulations to all the staff of the MCH and the MCH Foundation for another record breaking radiothon fundraiser (\$2.4 million).



THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

Update on the MCH

During Dr. Linda Christman's leave of absence, Dr. Porter have initiated an interim management structure led by the Director of Clinical Operations Ann Lynch and Chief Financial Administrative and Clinical Support Officer René Carignan. They are in regular communication with the senior volunteers of the CSCA Executive Committee.

New Surgeon-in-Chief at the MCH

Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer has accepted the position of Surgeon-in-Chief at the MCH. Dr. Farmer has been a staff neurosurgeon at the MCH since 1990. He also holds positions at both the Shriners Hospital and the Montreal Neurological Hospital. Dr. Farmer is currently Associate Dean, Post-graduate Medical Education and Professional Training in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University, as well as a professor in the departments of Oncology, Neurology and Neurosurgery. We look forward to working with him.

We take this opportunity to thank Dr. Bruce Williams, former Surgeon-in-Chief, for his many years of leadership, collegiality and friendship to the Department.

Liz and Don Hillman International Child Health Lectureship

In cooperation with the Department of Pediatrics at UBC, we have established the above-named lectureship in honor of Don Hillman (see obituary in July 2006 Newsletter), who was a former Director of Pediatric Endocrinology at the MCH, and Liz Hillman, who was former Director of our MER. Don and Liz devoted their

to international child health around the world, but particularly in Africa. They were nationally recognized in 1994 when they received the Order of Canada.

The lectureship includes alternating annual lectures at UBC and McGill, but also will provide an annual lecture in Africa. The first Canadian lecture was delivered by Zulfi Bhuta in Vancouver on February 14, 2007, the African lecture will tentatively be in Kampala in the fall of 2007, and our first lecture will be in March 2008. We solicit your nominations for potential speakers for this lectureship series.

We are grateful to the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism and the legacy of the Montreal 2001 International Congress of Pediatric Endocrinology for their support of this lectureship.

Consolidation of the Division of General Pediatrics

Until its move to the Glen, construction projects at The Children's are going to be a common occurrence. While many of these projects require staff to relocate in order to make the best use of available space, they often provide an opportunity to improve the way we work and care for patients. The reorganization of FI is an excellent example. The FI project consolidated the Division of General Pediatrics, whose physicians were scattered across the hospital. In addition, a resource centre was created, as was office space for part-time physicians. Work was carried out at the end of last year and the Divisional Centre has been fully functional since December 2006.

Bringing the staff together has increased synergy among the members. Sharing information and developing joint projects related to the Division's activities is now easier. Moreover, thanks to the spaces liberated by the relocation of General Pediatrics to FI, many space requests from other departments, such as Genetics and Hematology, can now be accommodated.



McGILL UNIVERSITY



Congratulations to

Dr. Richard I. Levin, Vice Principal for Health Affairs, Dean, Faculty of Medicine and Professor of Medicine, Division of Cardiology at McGill University who received the Heart of New York Mission Achievement Award at the American Heart Association's 15th annual Heart of New York Gala on February 28th. Dr. Levin's award recognizes his 20 years of transformative leadership at the American Heart Association (AHA), where he has held senior positions both at the regional and national levels.

McGill Medical Simulation Centre

The McGill Medical Simulation Centre is a new state-of-the-art learning centre that has been enthusiastically adopted by the Department of Pediatrics. An integrated approach to standardized patient encounters, high fidelity simulation and surgical skills labs allow residents and attending staff to learn

and practice in a "safe" environment. To date we have conducted and are developing workshops in high fidelity simulation and debriefing, leadership skills in resuscitation teams (Crisis Resource Management), PALS plus courses, OSCEs with standardized patient encounters, and a skills workshop for invasive pediatric procedures. We also intend to develop cross-disciplinary learning for acute care teams (MD, RN, Respiratory Therapist, etc.). **Dr. Ron Gottesman** is the liaison with the Centre.

McGill Policy on Interaction of Residents with the Pharmaceutical Industry

The Associate Deans' office has created a policy on interactions between residents/residency programs and the pharmaceutical industry. This is applicable to all programs, is endorsed by the Chair of Pediatrics, and has been adopted in the pediatric program through the Residency Program Committee. For more information, please go to: www.medicine.mcgill.ca/postgrad/pdbook/



McGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (MUHC)

MUHC Board Announcement

At its meeting on February 19, 2007, the MUHC Board of Directors elected the following officers:

Senator W. David Angus QC was elected to the position of chair of the Board. The new vice-chair is **Claudio F Bussandri** and the new treasurer is **Pierrette Wong**.

David Culver, who has been Chair of the Board of Directors of the MUHC since 2000 will hold the position of Emeritus Chair as well as chair of the Redevelopment Project Steering Committee.

Congratulations to

Dr. Arthur Porter, MUHC Director General and CEO, on his appointment to the Governing Council of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) by the Honorable Tony Clement, the Federal Minister of Health. The Governing Council of the CIHR is the voluntary body overseeing the Government of Canada's health research funding agency. Council appointments represent a renewable three-year term.



MUHC RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS

External Funding Results

Dr. Franco Carnevale, in collaboration with co-investigators Drs. Wendy Austin and Garros Daniel of the U. of Alberta, has received a grant valued at \$146,727 for

a three-year term from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in support of "The experience and resolution of moral distress in pediatric intensive care teams: A Canadian perspective". In addition, Dr. Carnevale shares a recently awarded CIHR grant with Dr. Sylvie Fortin of l'Hôpital Ste-Justine and colleagues from the U. de Montréal to study "L'accès des familles musulmanes d'immigration récente aux services de santé périnatale: Conciliation des saviors et des pratiques de soins". He has also received a grant of \$8,000 from CIHR's Strategic Research and Training Program in support of "Documenting the Documentary: Recognizing the voices of disabled children living with assistive technologies".

Dr. Eric Fombonne has received a grant of \$348,206 from the Simons Foundation for a term of two years in support of his autism research program.

Dr. Beth Foster has received a grant from the Fonds de la recherche en santé du Québec (FRSQ) in support of "Évolution à long terme des jeunes ayant reçu une greffe rénale".

Dr. Cindy Goodyer has received a grant of \$59,126 from the CIHR's Japan-Canada Joint Health Research Program for a term of two years to study "...SNP's/mutations in the promoter regions of the human growth hormone receptor gene in Canadian and Japanese children with idiopathic short stature".

Dr. Paul Goodyer has received a grant from the CIHR for a three-year term valued at \$328,338 for "PAX2, WNTS, and the pathogenesis of polycystic kidney disease".

Dr. Nada Jabado has been awarded the Chercheur-boursier Junior 2 career award by the FRSQ.

Dr. Celeste Johnston, in collaboration with Principal Investigator Dr. Bonnie Stevens of the Hospital for Sick Children and colleagues from several Canadian children's hospitals, has received a Team Grant from the CIHR to study pain in children. This grant is valued at \$5.9 million over a five-year term.

Dr. Larry Lands has received \$36,564 US from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics in support of the study "Multi-Center, Multi-National, Randomized, Placebo-Controlled Trial of Azithromycin in Participants with Cystic Fibrosis, 6-18 years old, Culture Negative for *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*".

Dr. Klaus Minde has received a grant of \$10,000 from the CIHR in support of a symposium entitled "Advancing Knowledge, Strategy, and Connectedness in Health care across Cultures".

Dr. Caroline Quach has received a grant of \$50,000 from the CIHR to study the "Transmission of infections in healthcare settings: Determining the risk of infection in elderly after a visit to the emergency room". She has also received \$100,000 from Quebec's Health Ministry and the Canadian Patient Safety Institute to conduct the study

“Transmission of infections in healthcare settings: Determining the risk of infection in long-term care facilities residents after a visit to the Emergency Room”.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos, in collaboration with Principal Investigator Dr. Amit Bar-Or of the Montreal Neurological Institute and colleagues from McGill U. and The Hospital for Sick Children, has received a five-year New Emerging Team Grant of \$2 million to study “Immune regulation and biomarker development in pediatric and adult onset human autoimmune diseases”. In addition, **Dr. Polychronakos** has received a grant of \$475,302 US from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation for a term of three years in support of the study “Mechanisms involved in novel genetic associations with type 1 diabetes”.

Dr. Celia Rodd in collaboration with co-investigator Dr. Hope Weiler of McGill U. has received a three-year grant of \$398,649 from the CIHR for “Vitamin D dose-response study to establish dietary requirements in infants”. This study has also received support from the Nutricia Research Foundation in the amount of \$38,000.

Dr. Aimee Ryan has received a grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for a two year term valued at \$52,340 in support of “Regulation of claudin expression in chick embryos”.

Dr. Ernest Seidman is Principal Investigator of a New Emerging Team Grant from the CIHR valued at \$2.5 million over a five-year term in support of the project “Immunomodulation of regulatory mechanisms in mucosal immunity: A multi-disciplinary bench-to-bedside approach to the study and treatment of IBD” and, in collaboration with several Quebec-based colleagues, shares a five-year CIHR Intestinal Epithelial Cell Biology Team Grant valued at \$4.3 million. In addition, in collaboration with Principal Investigator Dr. Devendra Amre of Hôpital Ste-Justine, he has received a CIHR grant of \$382,971 for a three-year term in support of the project “Genetic epidemiology of early-onset Crohn’s Disease: Investigating the role of diet and xenobiotic metabolizing enzyme genes”. **Dr. Seidman** has also recently received a Crohn’s and Colitis Foundation grant of \$50,000 and a grant of \$40,000 from the Dairy Farmers of Canada in support of his inflammatory bowel disease research programme.

Dr. Michael Zappitelli, whose recruitment to the Department of Pediatrics and the Division of Pediatric Nephrology is expected this coming August, has received both a Chercheur-boursier clinicien Junior I career award and an operating establishment grant from the FRSQ in support of his research entitled “*Évaluation de l’utilité du cystatin C urinaire et sérique comme biomarqueurs d’insuffisance rénale aigue, dans les soins intensifs pédiatriques: une étude épidémiologique*”.



Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators (CAPRI)

Dr. Ciarán Duffy has been appointed to the Steering

Committee of the newly formed Canadian Alliance of Pediatric Rheumatology Investigators (CAPRI). Each of the members of the Division of Rheumatology at the MCH is a member of CAPRI. CAPRI has just been successful in acquiring its third large grant from CIHR in their autoimmunity NET competition valued at \$1.5 million dollars over 5 years. The study title is the “Determinants of Risk and Outcome in Inflammatory Arthritis”. This complements previously funded studies REACCH OUT on which Dr. Duffy is the PI and BBOP on which he is a co-investigator.



McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre

McGill’s **Constantin Polychronakos**, Faculty of Medicine, and Rob Sladek, McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre, have made a major breakthrough in predicting and treating diabetes. They’ve identified the genes that predispose people to adult onset diabetes, also known as type-2 diabetes. The discovery could lead to the creation of testing that would predict an individual’s risk of developing diabetes, which is on the rise in adults and children worldwide. The findings of the McGill researchers, along with colleagues from the Imperial College of London and the Pasteur Institute in France, are published in the latest edition of the journal Nature.



Substantial financial costs associated with Juvenile Arthritis Medical Care

A new study led by Drs. Ann Clarke, **Ciaran Duffy**, and Sasha Bernatski of the McGill University Health Centre reveals high medical costs for children suffering from Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis (JIA). The study, published in the February issue of the Journal Arthritis and Rheumatism, shows that the average annual medical cost for a child with JIA is \$1,686 higher than for a child without JIA. This expense is mostly borne by Canada’s health care system, though some of the costs are also absorbed by private insurance. In addition however, families with a child suffering from JIA experience average annual salary losses of \$1,241. For more information, please go to <http://www.MUHC.ca/media/news/itemID=23718>.



MUHC Expert Joins Colleagues in announcing Autism Genome Project Findings

An International Consortium of Researchers, including **Dr. Eric Fombonne**, Director of Pediatric Psychiatry at The Montreal Children’s Hospital, and participating families joined together to announce the publication of the preliminary results from the largest genome scan ever in autism research. The groundbreaking study is published in the new issue of Nature Genetics, one of the world’s most prestigious research journals. For more information, please visit: www.muhc.ca/media/news.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Department of Pediatrics Global Child Health Travelling Fellowship

Dr. Gary Pেকেles, Director, Northern and Native Child Health Program, was awarded the first inaugural **Department of Pediatrics Global Child Health Travelling Fellowship**. He visited the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Uganda to teach undergraduate and postgraduate students in clinical and small group settings. This project was coordinated through the International Health Section of the Canadian Pediatric Society. His report follows:

"I worked in southern Uganda, for the month of July 2006, in the Department of Pediatrics at the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (M.U.S.T.) and with the CIDA funded Uganda Child Health Project.

M.U.S.T. is one of 3 medical schools in Uganda, with a focus on community based learning, but with a large proportion of clinical teaching on the wards of the teaching hospital. Together with the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at Makerere University, I served as an external examiner for the final clinical exams in Pediatrics of the 50 final year students. In addition, I served as a preceptor for the third and fourth year students doing their pediatric rotation, on the wards, in small group problem-based learning sessions and whole class teaching. The undergraduate program is quite vigorous, rotating interns spend time in Pediatrics, but postgraduate training in Pediatrics has not yet really taken off in Mbarara.

The Uganda Child Health Department is focused on training and supporting volunteer part time child health workers in roles of health promotion and disease prevention within their respective villages. It has been very innovative in its strategy to engage villages in this effort. My contact was with the trainers of these volunteers spread over the southern third of Uganda. I visited three regional district health centres to help them develop measures to assess the effectiveness of their initiatives.

Accompanying me was my daughter Tessa who worked as a volunteer with the Child Health Project. She participated in a workshop designed to enhance the capacity of trainers to support their volunteers. It was her computer skills that were most appreciated. She helped the project establish electronic files of a group of particularly high-risk children being followed in the context of the project. In order to do so, she visited most of the villages where these children lived; a wonderful introduction to health and social conditions in a developing country.

I am very grateful to the Department, and, therefore, all of you, for the support that helped me to spend this month in Uganda. Depending on other circumstances, I would hope to be able to go back."

MUHC Cardiologists Perform Four Percutaneous Pulmonary Valve Implants at the MCH

MUHC interventional cardiologists are the first in Montreal to perform a new procedure called a percutaneous pulmonary valve implant. Doctors Joe Martucci and **Adrian Dancea** successfully performed this non-surgical procedure on four patients, two teenagers ages 13 and 14, and two adults ages 22 and 60 in the state-of-the-art cardiac catheterization and percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) centre at The Children's during February 8 and 9. They were discharged from hospital shortly after their procedure. The MUHC is one of five centres in the world that is currently certified in performing this procedure.

MCH Smoking Cessation Program

The MCH Smoking Cessation Program that has been in place since 2003 in selected area (asthma and teen pregnancy clinic) has been recognized as a quit-smoking Centre (Centre d'arrêt tabagique) in February 2006. This recognition was associated with substantial financial (\$90,000/year, renewable) and logistic support from the Département de Santé publique de Montréal to allow its expansion to all sectors of the hospital. **Francine Ducharme** is Director of the Program. Sharon Taylor-Ducharme, RN and Monica O'Donohue, RN are the coordinators.

Action Plan for use in Asthmatic Patients – Conseil du médicament du Québec

Francine Ducharme has been mandated by the Conseil du Médicament du Québec to elaborate a Written Action Plan for use in asthmatic patients. With the collaboration of **Francisco Noya, David McGillivray, Dominic Chalut, Roger Zemek** and outside collaborators, a new concept was elaborated combining prescription, medical copy and written action plan for the child. Two action plans, one for use in the emergency setting, one for the ambulatory setting have been created: they will shortly be disseminated by the Conseil du médicament for use in throughout the Province of Quebec. The ambulatory version should be available in the spring 2007. The efficacy of the emergency version on improving adherence to treatment and asthma control has been tested with superb collaboration from all the emergency room and SSU staff at the Montreal Children's Hospital. It should be available for dissemination next fall. Congratulations to all physicians, nurses, asthma educators and respiratory technicians who assisted in the design and testing of these action plans.

**Steering Committee of the Maternal, Infant,
Child and Youth Research Network
(MICYN)**

Francine Ducharme is serving on the steering committee of the MICYN, a nation-wide initiative to support collaborative research in pediatric and adolescent conditions throughout Canada. **Francine Ducharme** is also chairing the subcommittee on Knowledge Translation, which hopes to increase the transfer and uptake of solid scientific evidence into the daily practice, policies, and education for parents and children. Several members of our department are bringing their expertise to the Knowledge Translation Committee namely, **Gary Pekeles, Emmett Francoeur**, and Laurie Snider.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Dr. Maryam Oskoui, graduate of the MUHC/MCH Pediatric Neurology Program has just completed a 3-year post-doctoral fellowship at Columbia University and has opened a private pediatric neurology practice at Tiny Tots Medical Centre. Appointments 514-685-3531 or www.tinytots.ca.

Dr. Joseph Ficara, a former trainee who was in Gatineau, has also joined the Tiny Tots Medical Centre as a General Pediatrician.



IN MEMORIUM

Our condolences go out to **Dr. Stephanie Reiter** on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Helen Reiter, on December 10th, 2006.

PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDAS TO ATTEND:

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS BI-ANNUAL MEETING

**Tuesday, May 29th, 2007
7:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

Forbes Cushing Amphitheatre – D 162

Agenda

7:00 a.m. – Breakfast

**7:30 a.m. – Meeting will commence
with Dean R. Levin (60 minutes)**

8:30 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. – Report from the Chair



DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS RETREAT

**Tuesday, June 12th, 2007
7:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

St-James Club

**ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED**