Report from the Chairman

I trust that many of you will have had or will be taking a welcome break for the summer holiday period. We ended the academic semester with a bang, having a department meeting attended by our new Dean R. Levin on May 29, 2007, a day of reflection on June 12, 2007, the annual meetings of the MSSA and PMG, and the deposition of the Compensation Working Group report to the PMG Advisory Committee and the PMG membership at the annual meeting. These events highlight the vibrant academic department that we espouse, and give us renewed vigor to move forward together.

We are anticipating significant financial outcomes as a consequence of FMSQ negotiations with the Ministry. There has been an announced increase of 5% for Rémunération mixte, Resourcing and Tarif horaire, effective to July 4, 2007, with little other new tariffs. There is new money for across the board on-call, and a large envelope being discussed for clinical teaching: $45 M, in Year 1, increasing to $65 M annually by year 3. The details of how this money will be distributed are not yet known, but your Chair is a member of the compensation committee that is addressing this on behalf of the faculty of Medicine at McGill. We expect to have a resolution by early fall.

For members of the PMG, the PMGAC will address how best to implement the recommendations of the Working Group and the increased stipends reported above.

The MUHC Planning has moved forward with the announcement of the P3 funding mechanism, and the recent meeting attended by the potential P3 builders of our project. We understand that the clinical redevelopment plan for the Glen and Mountain campuses has been accepted. It is anticipated that the construction contracts will be finalized by late 2008. The new target date for completion is 2013.

The RUIS McGill Pediatric Sub-Committee is chaired by your Chairman and has studied several significant dossiers, including access to Pediatric Services throughout the RUIS, access to Mental Health services for English speaking children and adolescents, the state of Perinatal services and a Hearing Screening Program submitted to the Institut national de santé publique du Québec for recommendations. When appropriate, recommendations are forwarded to the McGill RUIS Executive Committee.

On the pediatric manpower front, planning for PEM 2008 is underway and recommendations garnered through the FMSQ and its specialty associations have been deposited.

There are few new PEM positions allocated, and the official hiring freeze for General Pediatrics remains in force.

Staff Updates

Dr. Ciarán Duffy has accepted to serve as Associate Pediatrician-in-Chief, as of May 16, 2007.

Dr. Paul Goodyer stepped down from his position as Associate Pediatrician-in-Chief to focus on his divisional and research commitments, as of May 16, 2007. We wish to thank him for his past support to the chair.

Dr. Harvey Guyda has accepted to take on the role of Acting Associate Executive Director of The Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC for one year, effective May 16, 2007. He will continue to hold the position of Pediatrician-in-Chief for the MUHC and Chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University.

Dr. Jacquetta Trasler has been appointed Associate Director for Pediatric Research of the McGill University Health Center Research Institute effective July 1, 2007. Dr. Trasler is a Full Professor in the Departments of Pediatrics, Human Genetics and Pharmacology and Therapeutics at McGill University. She is recognized internationally for her expertise concerning the impact of male and female germ-line abnormalities on embryonic, fetal and childhood development. A Chercheur national of the FRSQ and a past president of the Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society, she has stepped down as Director of the McGill MD/PhD program in the Faculty of Medicine to assume her new position. We congratulate Dr. Trasler and look forward to working with her in her new role.

Recruitment

Dr. Najma Ahmed has accepted an academic position as Assistant Professor, GFT(H), in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and The Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC. Her hospital appointment is a staff replacement within the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology for one year, effective August 1, 2007. Dr. Ahmed completed her residency training in Pediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children, University of Toronto, followed by fellowship training in Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, at the Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Ahmed was Gastroenterologist in the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, IWK Health Centre and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at Dalhousie University.
Dr. Catherine Henin 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 General Pediatrics at the MCH/MUHC, effective May 1, 2007. Dr. Henin completed her core residency training in Pediatrics at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, McGill University, followed by training in Infectious Diseases and in Intensive Ambulatory Care at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, McGill University.

Dr Teresa Costa has accepted the position as Chief of the new Department of Medical Genetics at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) and Associate Professor jointly in the Departments of Human Genetics and Pediatrics at McGill University, effective May 1, 2007. Dr. Costa received her MD degree from the University of Ottawa and completed post-doctoral training in Medical Genetics in the McGill University Genetics Training Program. She subsequently was on staff at the Toronto Hospital for Sick Children, the IWK in Halifax, and most recently at CHU Ste-Justine. Her major interests are in skeletal dysplasias, birth defects and health care delivery as applied to medical genetics.

Please give a warm welcome to these outstanding individuals.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Louise Auger for having been awarded the second Department of Pediatrics Global Child Health Traveling Fellowship. She 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 is coordinated through the International Health Section of the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Dr. Ronald Gottesman for having been named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence.

Dr. Ronald Gottesman for leading the development of an on-line “Pediatric Home Visit”. This new module will allow the MUHC the opportunity to highlight the pedagogical efficacy of combining informatics and education.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been awarded the Kaplan Award for Teaching by the pediatric residents. This recognition is a testament of Dr. Bhanji’s commitment and enthusiasm towards teaching and medical education.

Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer for having been appointed as the first Chairholder of The Dorothy Williams Chair in Pediatric Surgery.

Dr. Apo Papageorgiou for having been made an Honorary Member of the Canadian Medical Association, during the Annual Gala of the Canadian Medical Association, held in Montreal on April 21st, 2007, in recognition of “his many contributions to Canadian medicine, in particular in the area of Neonatology.”

Dr. Gary Pekeles for having been elected as President of the Canadian Paediatric Society for 2007-2008.

Dr. Sakeem Razack for having been named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence.

And Congratulations to …

Dr. Benjamin Burko on his baby boy (Milo Harrison), born on May 3, 2007.

THE MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

Acting Associate Executive Director

Dr. Harvey Guyda has accepted the position of Acting Associate Executive Director for MCH of the MUHC, effective May 14, 2007. Dr. Guyda has agreed to take on the AAED role for one year. During this time, an external review of management and governance structures will be undertaken to enable the MCH to move forward in a positive and sustainable way. We face many daily challenges and the support of the Department will be essential for success.

MCH Foundation Awards of Excellence 2007

Congratulations to 2007 Awards of Excellence Recipients:

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<th>Category</th>
<th>Recipient</th>
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<tr>
<td>Community Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Graham Bagnall</td>
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<td>Leadership Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Dr. Micheline Ste-Marie</td>
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<td>Medical Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Dr. David MacGillivray</td>
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<td>Research Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Dr. Francine Duchame</td>
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<td>Nursing Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Sharyn Andrews</td>
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<td>Professional Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Lola Cartier</td>
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<td>Administrative and Clinical Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Lorraine Gilbert</td>
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<td>Volunteer Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Mary Catherine Carmel</td>
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<td>Nicolas W. Matossian Junior Community Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Steven Croucher</td>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Award of Excellence</td>
<td>Pauline Bryson</td>
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MCH – CPDP

Election of members to the CPDP Executive Committee for the period of June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2008.

The elected members by acclamation are:

Dr. Shirley Blaichman Dr. John-Paul Capolicchio
Dr. David Mitchell Dr. Gary Pekeles
Dr. Pramod S. Puligandla Dr. Ted Tewfik
MCH website receives award

The Health Care Public Relations Association (HCPRA) recently awarded the MCH with the 2007 Hygenia Award for their newly constructed website (www.thechildren.com), which placed third in the category of best Canadian healthcare websites.

Ronald McDonald House Charities

The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) provided a $34,500 grant to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit that purchased equipment and furnishings for the family and breastfeeding rooms. This donation is the second major grant received by the hospital from RMHC, following a donation of $25,300 in 2001.

Update on MCH and Ste. Justine’s fundraiser

Kurling for Kids, a curling fundraiser for the MCH and Sainte Justine Foundations, took place on March 31 at nine curling clubs across Montreal. Their goal was to raise $125,000, which they surpassed by raising $126,000. The funds will be used at the MCH to purchase a DNA extractor for the Diagnostic Genetics Lab.

McGILL UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to:

Dr. Samuel Benaroya who became on June 1, 2007, the Associate Vice Principal, Health Affairs, in addition to his current position as Associate Dean, Inter-Hospital Affairs. Beyond his current activities and responsibilities, he will represent the VP/Dean in all matters related to the clinical activities and relationships of the Faculty, including those with affiliates, RUIS McGill and the local, provincial and federal governments.

McGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (MUHC)

Congratulations to:

Dr. Eva Andermann, neurogeneticist and head of the Neurogenetics Unit at the MNI, has been awarded the Ambassador for Epilepsy Award from the International League against Epilepsy and the International Bureau for Epilepsy. The award honours outstanding international contributions to activities advancing the cause of epilepsy and reflects peer recognition of individual contributions. Dr. Andermann has dedicated her career to investigating genetic factors in epilepsy and epilepsy syndromes. She also provides genetic counseling to families with epileptic disorders.

MUHC RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS

Appointments

As noted above, Dr. Jacquette Trasler has been appointed Associate Director for Pediatric Research of the McGill University Health Center Research Institute, effective July 1, 2007.

External Funding Results

Operating Grants

Dr. Franco Carnevale, in collaboration with principal investigators Drs. Sylvie Fortin and Josianne Le Gall of Hôpital Ste-Justine & colleague from the U. of Montreal, has received a grant valued at $268,656 for a three-year term from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in support of “L’accès des familles musulmanes d’immigration récente aux services de santé périmaté: conciliation des savoirs et des pratiques de soins.”

Dr. Sam Daniel has received a grant of $129,880 from the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation for a two-year term in support of “Prevention of cisplatinum ototoxicity.”

Dr. Ciaran Duffy has received $5,650 from the Canadian Arthritis Network to conduct the study “Development and usability and feasibility testing of a web-based self-management program for adolescents with arthritis”.

Dr. Eric Fombonne has received a grant of $47,300 from the Fonds de recherche sur la société et la culture in support of “Étude longitudinale de l’impact des habiletés sensori-motrices sur l’indépendance fonctionnelle dans les activités de la vie quotidienne des enfants avec troubles envahissants du développement.”

Dr. Beth Foster has received a grant of $147,300 from the CIHR for a three-year term in support of “Long-term graft and patient outcomes in young renal transplant recipients.”

Dr. Cindy Goodyer has received a grant of $471,108 from CIHR for a term of four years in support of “The Human growth hormone receptor: Regulation of expression during development.”

Dr. Indra Gupta has received a grant of $100,000 for a two-year term from the Kidney Foundation of Canada in support of “Genetic determinants of ureteric budding: impact on vesico-ureteric reflux and nephron formation.”

Dr. Nada Jabado has received $109,428 in equipment support from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation and the Government of Quebec.

Dr. Larry Lands has received $104,236 from the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation for the project entitled “Increasing antioxidant protection in Cystic Fibrosis through the Nrf2 pathway.”
Dr. Aimee Ryan has received a five-year grant of $651,965 from the CIHR for the study entitled “Patterning the left-right axis during embryogenesis”.

Dr. Annette Majnemer has received a grant of $300,834 from the CIHR for a term of four years in support of “Determinants of quality of life and participation in leisure activities in adolescents with cerebral palsy.”

Dr. Robert Platt has received support from the CIHR for a three-year term valued at $395,164 for the study entitled “Simulated conception cohorts for the study of fetal and infant outcomes”. In addition, Dr. Platt has received a five-year grant of $85,000 from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada in support of “Statistical methods for pediatric research”. He has also received a grant from the CIHR’s Survey of Mode of Delivery and Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes Program to conduct “The World Health Organization Global Survey for Maternal and Perinatal Outcomes in Canada”. This project will be conducted in collaboration with principal investigator Dr. Shoo K. Lee of the University of Alberta and co-applicants from several Canadian universities.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos has received a grant valued at $271,368 US from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International for a two-year term in support of “A novel gene necessary for the development of the endocrine pancreas”.

Dr. Janusz Rak is the recipient of a three-year grant valued at $361,789 from the National Cancer Institute of Canada for the project “Tissue factor in tumor progression and angiogenesis”.

Dr. Janet Rennick has received the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) Career Enhancement Program Award valued at $5,000 per year for the duration of her New Investigator Award, from September 1st, 2006 to August 31st, 2008.

Dr. Charles Rohlicek has received a new grant from the CIHR for a three-year term valued at $369,549 in support of “Effects of chronic hypoxia in early life on cardiac gene expression and function.”

Dr. Aimee Ryan has received a five-year grant of $651,965 from the CIHR for the study entitled “Patterning the left-right axis during embryogenesis”.

Annual Research Day

The 24th Annual Research Day took place in the MCH Amphitheater on Wednesday, May 30, 2007. Featuring 14 clinical and fundamental research presentations by clinical and research fellows and graduate students in training at the MCH, the event was extremely well attended and enthusiastically received. The excellent quality of presentations made the task of selecting the best presentations a difficult one for the judging panel. Human Genetics doctoral students, Amanda Fortier and Eric Knock, were each awarded a “best presentation” prize for their respective presentations, “The effect of superovulation on methylation and expression of imprinted genes in pre and post-implantation mouse embryos” and “Folate deficiency induces intestinal tumors through increased DNA damage: evidence from strain and dietary studies”.

NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

HSJ – Université de Montréal Pediatric Cardiac Surgery “project” in Morocco

Dr. Farhan Bhanji participated in the HSJ-UdeM Pediatric Cardiac Surgery “project” in Morocco as the Pediatric Intensivist expert. The dates of the mission were April 8 to April 22nd. The total number that were managed were 42 cardiac catheterizations and 15 operative cases.

Dr. Kent Saylor discussed advances in Aboriginal Health Care at the International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health

Community solutions to the health problems of Aboriginal children and youth in Canada and the United States were the focus of the 2nd International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health, held in April in Montreal.

“This meeting represents a movement toward change and highlights the role physicians and health care workers can play in improving care for Aboriginal communities, both in Canada, the U.S. and elsewhere in the world,” said Dr. Kent Saylor, a pediatrician from Kahnawake, Quebec, and Chair of the Canadian Pediatric Society’s First Nations and Inuit Health Committee.

With a special focus on injury and violence prevention, obesity, diabetes, and substance abuse, nearly 300 delegates – including pediatricians, family physicians, residents, allied health professionals, clinical researchers, and community health representatives – shared model programs and practical skills to be used in their communities.

Hosted by the Canadian Paediatric Society and the American Academy of Pediatrics, in cooperation with the U.S. Indian Health Service and Health Canada, the cross-border meeting addressed hot topics in Canada, the U.S. and Australia, with particular relevance to First Nations, Inuit, Métis, American Indian and Alaska Native communities.
Dr. Sandra Woods has been appointed to the Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program Steering Committee.

The Val-d’Or, Quebec, community pediatrician brings experience in delivering care in both urban and rural settings. Working in Val d’Or Hospital and the Montreal Children’s Hospital, Dr. Woods has been actively involved with the CPS for many years.

Dr. Woods is on the editorial board of Paediatrics & Child Health and has been a member of the Community Paediatrics Committee. She has also authored or co-authored several CPS position statements including: Ethical approach to genital examination in children; Temperature measurement in Paediatrics; and Recommendations for safe sleeping environments for infants and children.

Dr. Woods is looking forward to the outcomes of CPSP proposals and studies over the next several years. “The proposals that could result in promoting early identification of rare childhood diseases and preventing mismanagement are something the CPSP should be very proud of”, she said in an interview.

Dr. Woods will be replacing Dr. Rick Haber, who has been a member of the steering committee since 2000.

**In Memorium**

Our condolences go out to:

**Mrs. Filomena Gonçalves** on the loss of her father, Mr. Emilio Gonçalves, on July 4, 2007.