MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN:

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything"

George Bernard Shaw


Obviously this is a time of considerable change, evaluation and reflection.

I will speak frankly. For many amongst us, change is not easy. It requires energy and effort that is sometimes reluctantly undertaken despite the promise of improvement that it holds. It is human nature to be comfortable with the status quo. Change challenges us. Likewise, self-evaluation and reflection, if done honestly as it must, can be painful. It can tarnish our cherished assumptions about ourselves. It can shake the foundations of our entitlement.

However, despite the pain of change, evaluation and reflection, there lies within enormous opportunity. However, that opportunity can only be harnessed and realized if we both let go of an unyielding attachment to our past and dare to dream and imagine a better future.

I think that at this important juncture there are fundamental questions that each member of our Departmental community must ask of one’s self:

Am I prepared to let go of what was for what can be?

Am I prepared to imagine a future different from our past?

Am I prepared to roll up my sleeves and contribute to the collective community beyond my own narrow self-interests?

Am I prepared to put the interests of the collective before my own?

Summer is naturally a time to take a break. To pause. To chill. I would encourage each of us to reflect on the four questions above. To be blunt, the answer to each has to be "yes" if we are going to realize the opportunities before us.

This newsletter is replete with the accomplishments of our community. As good as these are, I know we are capable of even better. It won’t be easy to improve. But if we don’t make the effort together, I honestly don’t think we will be happy with ourselves.

Have a great summer everyone!

Michael

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STAFF UPDATES

APPOINTMENTS:

Elisa Ruano-Cea will take over the role of Pediatric Medical Grand Rounds Coordinator at the end of June. As such, she will have the responsibility of selecting and communicating with speakers/presenters and interacting with the Divisions responsible for varied designated lectureships. I have specifically given Elisa a mandate to innovate in the Grand Rounds as she sees fit. If you have any suggestions for speakers or topics or even novel formats please contact Elisa directly.

Gary Pekeles will join Catherine Henin as co-Program Director (PD) for the next academic year. Highly regarded by our resident staff as a teacher and a mentor, Gary brings experience as he has previously been a PD for pediatrics.

Olivia Tse, a community-based pediatrician, will join the co-PD team as Assistant PD. A natural teacher, it is envisioned that Olivia will broaden the scope of community pediatrics in postgraduate training.

RECRUITMENT:

Please join me in welcoming new recruits to our academic and hospital community.

Audrey Dadoun who joined the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine in March 2016. Dr. Dadoun is a graduate of McGill University where she also obtained an MBA in 2009. She recently completed her Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at the MCH-McGill University. She is described as a poised individual who does not seem to get flustered in the hectic and chaotic emergency department. Dr. Dadoun is a consummate clinician who always offers the best in quality of care to her patients and their families.

Gaétan Filion, a physiatrist, joined our Department as an Associate member in the Division of Pediatric Neurology in January 2016. Gaetan has extensive experience at varied pediatric rehabilitation centers around Montreal and will offer an important complementary expertise in the management of disability and impairment.

DIVISION DIRECTOR’S REVIEWS:

Harley Eisman’s mandate as Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine has been renewed for a period of three years, ending in August 2019.

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Farhan Bhanji who has received the 2016 Paediatric Academic Leadership Clinician Educator Award given by the Paediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC). Farhan was recognized for his multiple leadership roles in medical education at the local, national and international level.

Evelyn Constantin for her nomination as Assistant Dean for Postgraduate Medical Education, Faculty of Medicine. This newly created position will oversee the implementation of PGME’s competency-based medical education. Evelyn will assume this position in June 2016.

Michael Kramer for his receipt of the Abraham Lilienfeld Award at this year’s Epidemiology Congress of the Americas. The American College of Epidemiology’s most prestigious award is given in honor of Abraham Lilienfeld, an outstanding teacher, scholar, and founder of the College. Recipients of this award are recognized as stellar in their field and are known for a distinguished record of diverse productivity in epidemiologic teaching, research, and practice. This award seeks to recognize exceptional individuals whose accomplishments convey Dr. Lilienfeld’s broad vision of epidemiology and his selfless devotion to all aspects of advancing public health science. The award was presented at the 2016 Congress in Miami, Florida, in June.
Preetha Krishnamoorthy who has been selected as a recipient for the CAME Certificate of Merit Award from the Canadian Association for Medical Education. The Certificate was presented at this year’s Canadian Conference on Medical Education that was held in Montreal. The purpose of the Award is to recognize excellence in medical education and to promote, recognize and reward faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools. There can be no doubt on either count of Preetha’s excellence and commitment to medical education as it pertains to medical students. Preetha’s unwavering devotion to our Pediatric clerkship is a key reason it is consistently the highest ranked clerkship experience in the MDCM Graduating Class survey.

Claire Leblanc for her receipt of the American Academy of Paediatrics’ Thomas E Shaffer Sport Medicine Award. This award is given by the American Academy of Paediatrics Council on Sports Medicine and Fitness and recognizes significant contributions to the field of sports medicine. Dr. Leblanc is only the second Canadian, and the second woman, to receive this prestigious award.

Denis Leduc for his recognition by the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) as one of 15 in ‘15 for his newly updated English edition of Well Beings: A guide to Health in Child Care. This 3rd (revised) edition reflects recent Canadian guidelines on physical activity and changes to the American Heart Association’s CPR sequence. This book is deemed to be an essential reference for child care settings and required reading in a number of early childhood education training programs.

Stephen Liben who has been awarded the Faculty of Medicine’s Honour List of Educational Excellence. Stephen has demonstrated outstanding teaching, leadership, and innovation in medical education both within his chosen field of practice and in the broader medical community. His efforts have had an international reach in palliative care and a local impact on each MDCM graduate that goes forth from McGill.

Stephen Liben for his recognition by the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) as 15 in ‘15 which represents 15 ways the CPS made a difference to child and youth health in 2015. Stephen’s recognition came from the co-editing of the issue on Paediatric Palliative Care of Paediatrics & Child Health which helped answer clinical and ethical questions raised by advancing technology, longer lifespans and uncertain access to services.

Christine McCusker whose seminal basic work on prevention of allergies has been selected by Quebec Science Magazine as one of its 10 Discoveries of the Year 2015.

Giosi DiMeglio on her being elected President of the International Chapter of the Society for Adolescent Medicine and Health at the recent annual meeting in Washington DC.

Chantal Poulin, the recipient of the Sub-Zero and Wolf Medical Award of Excellence as part of the Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation Awards of Excellence. Chantal was recognized for her leadership that has brought the Division of Pediatric Neurology to be regarded as amongst the leading in the country. Her colleagues will tell you she takes on colossal responsibilities by treating a large number of patients with complex neurological issues, all while displaying an incredible sense of empathy. She also distinguishes herself through her teaching skills, for which she has received numerous awards.

Caroline Quach who has been awarded the 2016 John Embil award in mentorship in infectious diseases given out by the Canadian Foundation for Infectious Disease (CFID) Board.

Dorothy Moore for her recognition by the Canadian Pediatric Society (CPS) as one of 15 in ‘15. Dorothy’s recognition came from editing the revised edition of Your Child’s Best Shot which fully equipped the CPS to meet the media
onslaught around, often irrational, parental resistance to routine vaccination.

**John Mitchell** who has been named a hero by the Quebec Morquio Community for his efforts in spearheading locally clinical trials directed at children with this ‘orphan disease’. The comic attached to this Award is drawn by Montreal-based cartoonist Yanick Paquette who, when not drawing superhero MDs, can be found drawing such characters as Superman, Batman and Wonder Woman for DC Comics.

**Robert Platt** for receiving the Shire Research Award of Excellence from the Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation. Robert received this award for his work that has been highly influential in Canada. A biostatistician, he has used numbers for the benefit of public health. He developed a calculation method that is now widely used throughout the country: the postnatal growth chart. Over the course of his career, Robert has published 245 articles; 20 of his papers have been cited over 100 times each, attesting to the high regard the scientific community has for his work.

**Kent Saylor** for his receipt of the 2016 Haile T. Debas Prize given to a faculty member who helps promote diversity in education and practice. Pediatrics is fortunate in that this is the Department’s 3rd such award in the last 5 years.

**A NEW INITIATIVE**

In June 2016, **Laurie Plotnick** announced the creation of a Task Force that will address the paucity of women in Leadership positions in the Department of Pediatrics. As Chair of the **Women in Leadership Task Force of the McGill Department of Pediatrics**, Laurie announced the new task force has been set to develop and recommend gender equality guidelines and action plans to be implemented by the Department of Pediatrics to increase the number of women applying for and assuming leadership positions with the Department of Pediatrics. The Task Force members are: Jean-Pierre Farmer, Stephen Liben, June Ortenberg, Joyce Pickering, Maria Psihogios, Aimee Ryan, Christine Sabapathy, and Samara Zavalkoff. Input from residents and faculty will be sought in the next few months.

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED GRANDPARENTS:**

Bruce and Barbara Mazer for their grandchild, a baby boy, born in Buffalo on May 25, 2016

**WEEKLY DEPARTMENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**


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<td>Stephen Liben</td>
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Delphine Collin-Vézina who has been appointed as the inaugural holder of the Nicolas Steinmetz and Gilles Julien Chair in Social Pediatrics in the Department of Pediatrics. A clinical psychologist by training, Delphine is currently the Director of the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families, an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at McGill and a holder of a CRC Tier II Chair in Child Welfare. With the support of this Chair, Delphine will be spending time in our Department teaching undergraduate and graduate trainees and conducting some of her research efforts.

Annette Majnemer on her appointment as Vice-Dean (Education) in the Faculty of Medicine. In this position, Annette will strategically guide the Faculty on all educational matters. She will develop an overarching vision for teaching and learning, and provide oversight to the Faculty’s major teaching programs.

Robert Platt for his nomination as the inaugural Albert Boehringer (1st) Chair in Pharmaco-epidemiology.

AND ON THEIR PROMOTION:

Rosie Scuccimarrri for her promotion to Associate Professor.
Veronique Morinville for her promotion to Associate Professor.
Loydie Majewska, for her promotion to Associate Professor (with Tenure).
Victoria Bizgu for her promotion to Assistant Professor.

AND FINALLY TO:

Asim Al Balushi who was awarded the Claude Giroud Prize in Pediatrics which is awarded to a resident who has demonstrated excellence in research.

The new chief residents, Marie-Hélène Gagnon and Esli Osmanlii whom have been selected as Chief Residents for our Pediatrics Residency Program, from March 7, 2016 to March 7, 2017.

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THE MCGILL PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY MENTORSHIP PROGRAM

The mentorship program for the Pediatric Residency Program was officially launched this spring. The goal of this program is to pair each resident with a faculty member who can provide guidance and support for training issues, such as elective choices, research projects, and fellowship programs, in addition to assistance with current and future career and work-life balance/personal decisions. We are thrilled to announce that this launch was extremely successful due to everyone’s enthusiasm and support. We had a wonderful turnout amongst faculty and residents for a meet and greet lunch on March 22, 2016, and have had incredible interest and volunteering amongst the staff. Almost all of the current pediatric residents have been successfully matched with a mentor. As of July 1st, we will have another 11 residents starting in Pediatrics. Our goal is to have each resident matched with a mentor in the first 3-6 months of their residency. We would like to thank everyone for their overwhelming support and contribution to this important program.

Anne-Marie Sbrocchi, and David Zielinski
McGill Peds Residency Mentorship Coordinators
Alexandre Déragon
Pediatric resident mentorship representative
NEWS FROM THE MCGILL PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM COMMITTEE (RPC):

The arrival of summer always brings with it the bittersweet end of the academic year, with the notable highlights of 2015 – 2016 being the start of preparations for Competency-Based Education, the launch of our official resident mentorship program and the hosting of the very successful 5th joint MCH/HSJ annual Pediatric Resident and Fellow Research Day. We are so proud of the hard work and accomplishments of all of our residents and we are delighted to soon be welcoming our 11 new Pediatrics R1s on July 1, but there will no doubt be some tears when we say goodbye to our departing senior residents.

On June 17, in what is now a MCH tradition at the Glen, a graduation ceremony was held to celebrate the completion of residency training and/or completion of Royal College (RC) exams for the following Pediatrics residents and fellows:

- Asim AlBalushi, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Mohammad Al Ghounaim, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Mohammed Almuqbil, Neurology
- Gabriel Altit, Neonatology
- Mher Barbarian, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Audrey-Anne Boisvert, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Virginie Clavel, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Daphne Cloutier, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Julie Couture, Rheumatology
- Samantha Dankoff, Emergency Medicine
- Rachel Deschamps, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Amit Dotan, Hematology
- Raven Dumont-Maurice, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Conall Francoeur, Critical Care
- Jarred Garfinkle, Core Pediatrics
- Gassem Gohal, Allergy and Immunology
- Catherine Goudie, Hematology
- Magdalena Grzyb, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Juan Iraheta Flores, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Alicia Lambrinakos-Raymond, RC/Core Pediatrics
- Angela Migowa, Rheumatology
- Hussain Mohsin, Core Pediatrics
- Fiona Muttalib, RC/Core Pediatrics

We congratulate all of these graduates and wish them all the best for their future careers!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank our fantastic administrative team, Diana Gorea, Beatrice Doroga and Jabeen Lauloo, who are an incredible support to the program and to the residents. And finally, we would also like to welcome Dr. Gary Pekeles and Dr. Olivia Tse, who will be joining Catherine as Directors of the Pediatrics Residency Program, replacing Evelyn who has taken on the position of Assistant Dean of Post Graduate Medical Education at McGill. (Congratulations Evelyn!!!) The program is in excellent hands and we are all looking forward to the academic year to come.

Enjoy the summer!

Catherine and Evelyn
Co-Directors, Pediatric Residency Program
McGill University
CONGRATULATIONS TO

Christine McCusker whose work on prevention of allergies has been selected by Quebec Science as one of its 10 Discoveries of the Year for 2015. Christine’s team used a potential vaccine, administered as a nasal spray, that redirects the immune response away from developing allergies.

FOR THEIR FUNDING:
Marie Brossard Racine and Jacquetta Trasler for their Merck project “The paternal contribution to neuroendocrine and neurodevelopmental trajectories of the offspring”.

Isabelle Gagnon & Marie Brossard-Racine for successfully obtaining a Merck competition for their project “Promoting recovery after pediatric concussion: Feasibility and impact of using dynamic visual attention training on clinical recovery, cerebral functioning and return to sports”.

Indra Gupta for her success in obtaining funding for her project “Paradigms in Branching Morphogensis by NSERC – total $155,000 over 5 years”.

Nada Jabado and her team, who has received $11.7 Million from Stand Up to Cancer Canada, Genome Canada, CIHR, Cancer Stem Cell Consortium, and Ontario Institute for Cancer Research. The New Cancer Stem Cell Dream Team, led by The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, received funding for four years to focus on the cancer stem cells that drive the growth of tumours.

Larry Lands who has received a Clinic Incentive grant (2016-2017) ($27,622) from the Cystic Fibrosis Canada.

Annette Majnemer, lead PI of the CHILD BRIGHT SPOR (Strategies for Patient Oriented Research), for obtaining funds by the CIHR and community partners (including our own Enfant Soleil and MCHF) to the tune of over $25 million dollars over the next 5 years.

Aimée Ryan for leading the winning Merck competition for her project “Airway Branch Patterns and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease”.

FOR SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING FRQ-S FUNDS
Nancy Braverman for her project “Translating Peroxisome Biogenesis Disorders: Identifying Pharmacological Therapies and Clinical Trial Endpoints [PERescue]” as part of the Programme: eRARE 3 (JTC 2015).

Jesse Papenburg who successfully obtained funding as part of the Établissement de jeunes chercheurs cliniciens for his project: “Infections virales respiratoires sévères chez l’enfant: épidémiologie et optimisation de l’utilisation des outils diagnostics”.

FOR SUCCESSFULLY OBTAINING CHERCHEUR BOURSIER CLINICIEN FUNDING

Isabelle Gagnon: “Optimiser la récupération des enfants et adolescents après une commotion cérébrale: innover par l’évaluation et l’intervention”. [Senior]


Pia Wintermark: “Encephalopathie neonatale: comprendre, traiter et ameliorer”. [Jr2]

AND FINALLY TO:
Armin Yazdani, Pia Wintermark’s PhD student, for receiving the 2016-2017 Arthur and Dawn Weston Fellowship in Teaching and Learning in Higher Education.
OUR CONDOLENCES
To:
Drs. Shevell (Allison & Michael) & Majnemer (Annette) for the loss of Annette’s mother, Michael’s mother-in-law and Allison’s grandmother, Mary Majnemer Pilcer, who passed away unexpectedly on February 4, 2016.

IN MEMORIAM

Roger Tonkin, a former pediatric resident, passed away in late December 2015. Roger can be considered one of the founders of Canadian Adolescent Medicine.

J. Richard (Dick) Hamilton passed away on April 19, 2016. A past Chair of Pediatrics at McGill University and Pediatrician-in-Chief of the Montreal Children’s Hospital from 1986-1996, Dick, as he was universally known, was a determined leader and internationally renowned pediatric gastroenterologist who played a prominent role in our narrative. He was a man of impeccable manners and demeanor, some would say courtly, who was measured in his speech and his words. He led in a quiet way, seeking consensus before proceeding forward. Most of the present senior medical and research leadership of the Department and hospital (myself included) were recruited during his term, so time has validated his skill at talent spotting. Aside from his intensive administrative roles, Dick was at the forefront of pediatric gastroenterology as both a clinician and a laboratory scientist, developing animal models for the study of human disease. He forged international collaborations in low resource settings long before global health was a buzz word or facilitated by the instant connectedness of the Internet. For his multiple contributions to health and the Canadian community, Dick was awarded an Order of Canada in 2002. It also should be realized that Dick’s lifetime of substantial accomplishments took place against a continual backdrop of significant medical challenges. He loved fishing, gardening, painting and playing cards.

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS TOWNHALL MEETING

Wednesday, December 14, 2016
8:00 a.m.
Research Institute Auditorium
E.S1.1129
YOU ARE ALL ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND

The Department of Pediatrics NEWSLETTER is published by the Office of the Chair, Department of Pediatrics.

To submit ideas, photos & information, contact Sylvie at ext: 24467 or send your email to:
chairpeds.admin@muhc.mcgill.ca