**Words from the Chairman**

"A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity; an optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty"

 Sir Winston Churchill

Hi Everyone!

And we thought moving a hospital would be our biggest challenge........

Over a half year since the move, we continue to be a Department and institution buffeted by winds of change. We have endured a round of significant budgetary cuts that has affected all sectors and must now prepare for a second round imposed by a government fixated on austerity and efficiency. These cuts have challenged our ability to deliver timely care of the highest quality in a manner that is truly patient and family centered. We have needed to adjust on an almost daily basis to a new physical facility that has a different format of operational management and by its very design has necessitated changes in how we deliver health care and interact. An important segment of our valued clinician-investigators, those who focus on clinical, outcomes and epidemiologic approaches to generating new knowledge, feel disenfranchised by placement in a temporary location removed from the Glen site. And the undergraduate MDCM segment of medical education at the number 1 rated medical-doctoral university in Canada has paradoxically been placed on probationary status.

Despite these significant issues, I think its fair to say that ALL would agree that the new MCH on the Glen site is a substantial improvement over the Legacy site from a physical plant perspective and most importantly from the perspective of our most valued stakeholders: the kids and families we care for. The wards, the PICU, the NICU, the heme-onc centre, the OPD and the ER all have a "wow" factor that never fails to impress this grizzled veteran of 30 years of practice in a most substandard environment (Tupper Street). Basic scientists in the CTB finally have a cutting edge laboratory platform to work from. The CIM Centre will be a fantastic enabler for partnered clinical investigation whose full potential remains to be unlocked. We have more than ample, functional and wired educational spaces including a fantastic amphitheatre for Grand Rounds. Plus, educators can now look forward to realizing a Pediatric Sim Centre on site.

While there has been enormous change, the most important element in the equation has remained constant. That is the health professionals who make up the MCH community and their collective unwavering commitment to excellence despite adversity. I have always contended that we are just the right size to sustain a depth and breadth of clinical, research and educational excellence AND an intimacy and familiarity with our colleagues. Yes, our sense of community has been knocked by a large new physical space that can foster inter-personal distance and isolation, but I can sense we are beginning to find our feet and bearings in this space. We are beginning to nest in places where we can interact. We can act on our unique social inter-connectedness by becoming personally more involved in those situations that bring us together: Grand Rounds, Spring Fling, Resident/Fellow Graduation, etc. We will get through our challenges because of three important “C’s” in health care that we share: Competence, Commitment and Community.

We also should, as operational challenges recede, focus on grasping the opportunities offered by our placement on the Glen site with new adjacencies to obstetrics, adult medicine & surgery, and rehabilitation. We will need to address strategically how we wish to define ourselves going forward in our present physical context and within a revised health services delivery system.

With the opening of the new Facility, I have been privileged to attend many events to mark the naming of spaces. Probably most memorable was the glorious one when the name of PK Subban was attached to our atrium space. What these events combine to demonstrate to me is how valued, cherished and recognized the work we do is by the public. Of course, it only gets done because of the efforts of those who have the privilege of working here. This is something to reflect on and think about this holiday season. Indeed it’s something to think about whenever the going gets tough.

Happy Holidays Everyone!  
All the best for the New Year!

Michael  
@McGillPeds
Staff Updates

**Appointments:**

Christine McCusker was appointed Division Director of the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology in October 2015. She had been acting as Interim Director since April 2015.

Terry Sigman was appointed Division Director of Pediatric Gastroenterology for a 5-year term commencing December 1st, 2015. Terry had been acting as Interim Director since 2008.

David Zielinski took over leadership of the Asthma Program on September 2015 succeeding Francisco Noya.

**Recruitment:**

Please join me in welcoming a full-time recruit to our academic and hospital community:

Julia VonOettinger, a pediatric endocrinologist, who recently joined the Division of Endocrinology at the MCH. Originally from Germany where she started her medical training, she transitioned to the United States where she did a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology at Boston Children’s Hospital, and a Master’s degree in clinical and translational research at Harvard Medical School. She acknowledges a passion in Global Health with current involvement in Haiti and Liberia, which includes technical assistance for pediatric endocrine and diabetes care delivery, clinical training and consultation, and establishment of an active clinical research program.

**Retirement:**

Patricia Riley retired in September 2015. A McGill MDCM graduate, Pat did her pediatric residency at McMaster and Hospital Ste-Justine followed by a fellowship in neonatology here. She also spent a formative year at Albert Einstein Medical College in the Bronx. She is part of the generation of neonatologists that transformed the field from one where for many instances survival was unexpected to one where survival is now the norm. Pat has spent her career at McGill and in our Department in two principle roles; as an attending staff neonatologist and long-time Director of the Neonatal Follow-Up Program.

**Division Director’s Reviews:**

Martin Bitzan’s mandate as Director of Pediatric Nephrology has been renewed for a period of five years, ending in August 2020.

Adrian Dancea’s mandate as Director of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology has been renewed for a term of 5 years. Adrian has been Director of the Division of Pediatric Cardiology since 2009.

**Congratulations to:**

Najma Ahmed for her 2015 Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Teaching Awards as nominated by McGill medical students.

Sylviane Forget who has been awarded the designation of Canadian Association of Gastroenterology Fellow (CAGF) in recognition of her continued service to the CAG and to Canadian gastroenterology.

Maryam Oskoui who has been accepted to the 2016 Emerging Leaders Forum (ELF) Program of the American Academy of Neurology. This highly competitive program is specifically designed to identify, orient, and cultivate talented, highly motivated individuals into future AAN leaders. It is rare for a non-American based neurologist to be accepted into this program.

Naomi Paice for her 2015 Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Teaching Awards as nominated by McGill medical students.

Ana Sant'Anna for her nomination as Assistant Dean for Admissions for the School of Medicine. This important position directs the most important process of selecting those meriting admission to the MD CM program. It is a difficult task as the ratio of applicants to spots available is staggeringly high and most applicants have stellar grades and life stories. Ana will assume this position in 2017.

Charles R. Scriver who has been awarded the Victor A. McKusick Leadership Award from the American Society of Human Genetics (ASHG). This award is presented to an individual whose professional achievements have fostered and enriched the development of various human genetics disciplines. For Charles, this is yet another feather in a cap that is brimming over with accolades for a wondrous and stupendous career that quite frankly is without equal in the history of our Department.
CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Tanya DiGenova for her recent engagement on November 16 to Amin Andalib.

Dr Geoffrey Dougherty for the wedding of his son, Peter Kucer Dougherty, to Alexa Marsden, an elementary school teacher, on September 12 in Dunani, Quebec.

Nadine Korah for her wedding to Christopher Panasuk on September 5, 2015. We are told there was lots of dancing, including an homage to how they met, with the whole final scene from Dirty Dancing!

Allison Shevell for her wedding on August 23 to Robert Greenberg.

And to the Delighted Parents:

Holly Agostino and Brett Burstein for the birth of their daughter, Dylan Noelle, on July 15, 2015.

Estelle Chetrit for the birth of her daughter, Emma Katie, on July 23 of this year.

Marilyn Desjardins for the birth of her baby girl, Abigaëlle, born on September 11, 2015.

Avigyle Grunbaum for the birth of her daughter, Anaelle, on October 28.

Lisa Anne Rasmussen, for the birth of her son, Felix Naveen, born on August 4, 2015.

Elisabeth Simard-Tremblay for the birth of her son, Edouard on November 17, 2015.

WEEKLY DEPARTMENTAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

September 2015
11 Michael Zappitelli
18 Guillerme Sant’Anna
25 Robert Barnes
October 2015
2 Franziska Baltzer
9 Harold Rich
16 Ron Gottesman & Constantin Polychronakos
23 Nada Jabado
30 Occupational Therapists of the Montreal Children’s Hospital
November 2015
6 Larry Lands
13 Adrian Dancea
20 Bernard Riel
27 Terry Sigman
December 2015
4 Tanya DiGenova
11 Simulation Education
18 Sylvie Lafleur

MC GILL FAC ULTY OF MEDICINE

THE MCGILL ADMINISTRATIVE EXCELLENCE CENTRES (AEC):

The Faculty of Medicine has developed and tested a new administrative model to provide Departments/Schools with experts in human resources, academic affairs and finance (including financial management support for grants / awards). This model is referred to as 'Administrative Excellence Centres' (AEC). In summary, the model works by combining Departments into clusters that share a common administrative team specialized to deal with the above administrative matters. Clusters are chosen on the basis of common likeness, size of the faculty, and consensus among Chairs/Directors.

Our Department, together with the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Pediatric Surgery have been selected to be part of one AEC launched in November 2015.

The AEC will be led by Waheeda Esmail as Associate Director, who will oversee a number of responsibilities including, but not limited to, strategic collaboration with each Chair and supervision of the Department’s respective local administrative staff. Our AEC will include an HR Advisor (Marlene Davis), an HR Administrator (Stephanie Lynch), and a Financial Administrator (Ameen Shaheen).
NEWS FROM THE MCGILL PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY PROGRAM DIRECTORS:

The holidays and the start of a new year are always a time of reflection about the past and of anticipation about things to come. This is particularly true for us this December with all the changes and accomplishments within the Pediatrics residency program since the move to the Glen seven months ago. We have been impressed by, and grateful for, the enthusiasm and adaptability of all the residents in embracing the new hospital, and look forward to establishing new program traditions at the Glen, such as the first resident graduation ceremony we held last June. It has been a real pleasure working with our two superb Pediatric Chief Residents, Dr. Sam Freeman and Dr. Caitlin Prendergast, who have demonstrated tireless devotion to their resident colleagues and to the entire hospital during this period of transition. We would also like to highlight the determined leadership of our Pediatric Site Chief Resident, Dr. Kristen Lamberinkos-Raymond, in helping to make the Glen a safer and more functional place for residents, including those outside the Pediatrics program.

None of our work would be possible without our outstanding program administrative coordinators, Alessandra Tedeschi (who gave birth in June to her daughter Everly), Diana Gorea (who is currently replacing Alessandra) and Alyson Jones, who have done a phenomenal job of transitioning our program post-move and streamlining and innovating many of our administrative practices. We are also delighted to have recruited over the past few months several attending staff to essential positions within the residency program: Dr. Olivia Tse and Dr. June Ortenberg (Co-Chairs, Observed H and P exams), Dr. Richard Gosselin (Chair, Promotions), Dr. Veronique Morinville (Promotions Committee), Dr. Elisa Ruano-Cea and Dr. Robert Sternszus (Co-Chairs, Curriculum and Evaluation), Dr. Anne-Marie Sbrocchi and Dr. David Zielinski (Co-Chairs, Mentorship), Dr. Pia Wintermark (Chair, Research) and Dr. Najma Ahmed (Selection Committee).

Many attendings also participated for the first time in the R4 Mock Oral examinations last spring and the “H and P” and OSCE exams this past fall. We thank all of our many committee members for their exceptional support of the program and all of our attending colleagues for their engagement towards our residents. We always welcome new ideas and involvement -- your contributions are essential to moving us forward and keeping us at the top of pediatric residency programs across Canada.

With regards to our residents themselves, the past few months were marked by the bittersweet departures of the graduating senior residents, the excited “debuts” of the new R1 cohort, the happy arrivals of two babies (Dr. Estelle Chetrit’s daughter Emma on July 23 and Dr. Avigyle Grunbaum’s daughter Anaelle on October 28), a wonderful 2-day resident retreat in October focused on team-building and mindfulness (thank you to the Chief Residents for their organization and to Dr. Stephen Liben for his involvement) and a very successful General Pediatrics Career Fair in December. We were also pleased to announce this fall the selection of 4 new IMG R1s for next July (Dr. Sumaiya Al-Hadhrami, Dr. Jumanah Karim, Dr. Noah Marzook and Dr. Norah Nahhas) and the transfer of Dr. Aris Hadjimicolou as a new resident to our program next month. We have already started the process of selecting the CaRMS R1s for next year and are currently planning the official launch of our resident mentorship program and the gradual transition to Competency-Based Education. It will certainly be a busy (but exciting) winter and spring for our residency program!

We would like to wish all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy new year!

Catherine and Evelyn
Co-Directors, Pediatrics Residency Program

COMPETENCY BASED MEDICAL EDUCATION – TRANSFORMING RESIDENCY TRAINING IN CANADA - by Robert Sternszus

Training residents to become the next generation of pediatricians is one of the most important mandates of Pediatrics Departments across the country. Competency Based Medical Education (CBME) is emerging as an evidence-informed model of residency training that will allow us to best deliver on this goal.

What is CBME?
The Royal College defines CBME as an “outcome-based approach to the design, implementation, assessment, and evaluation of medical education programs structured around an organizing framework of competencies (CanMEDs).”

What does this mean for us?
Residency training will no longer depend on successfully completing a series of rotations but rather, on the demonstration of competence in all professional activities deemed essential to the practice of general pediatrics. Amongst other changes, this transformation will involve: 1) adopting a developmental approach to residency training where you no longer compare residents to their peers (i.e., ‘you are doing well for an R1’), but to what you would...
expect from a pediatrician in practice; 2) an increase in the direct observation of resident performance in multiple domains; and 3) flexible rotation structures that allow residents to focus on developing areas of weakness.

What are the benefits?
CBME will enable clinical teachers to more accurately identify areas of weakness and strength in residents earlier in their training. In addition, it will enable programs to adapt the training of each resident to their identified needs.

When is this transformation coming?
The Royal College will be implementing CBME in pediatrics as of 2017. At the MCH, there will be a CBME Grand Rounds on January 13th, 2016 as well as faculty and resident development sessions throughout the month of February. We will also be implementing new competency-based assessment tools into our training program in the coming months. Keep your eyes and ears open for initiatives in your divisions!

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

**JORIS ZHOU, McGill MED 3,**
who was awarded the 4th annual scholarship given by the McGill Community Based Pediatricians group. Joris is described as a quick learner, with an excellent theoretical knowledge of treatment protocols. What was really unexpected was his role as the ‘autism whisperer’ in the clinics. He was excellent at reading unspoken cues from children and parents.

**BAHAR TORABI** who received the Richard and Edith Strauss Clinician Fellowships. This Fellowship recognizes and promotes research in the area of respiratory medicine, with a preference for asthma.

**THE MUHC RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

**Congratulations to**

**Pia Wintermark** who has been elected member of the Society for Pediatric Research which goal is to create a network of multidisciplinary researchers to improve child health.

**Nada Jabado** was selected for membership in the prestigious Royal Society of Canada. This is a rare and esteemed honor and reflects on the stellar excellence of Nada's research career to date. She truly is a world leader in her field of furthering our understanding of the molecular biology of pediatric brain tumors. Her discoveries in the lab and at the bench are making a difference in child health.

**And, for their success with CIHR funding:**

**Robert PLATT**, Foundation Scheme Live Pilot for his project: “Statistical Methods in Pharmacoepidemiology and Perinatal Epidemiology”. $1,071,729 / 7 years.

**Janusz RAK**, Foundation Scheme Live Pilot for his project: “Targeting vascular mechanisms of cancer progression. $3,313,788 / 7 years.

And our newest clinician-investigator, **Myriam Srour** from the Division of Pediatric Neurology received a CIHR-HSCF New Investigator Operating Grant for her grant proposal entitled: "Genetic Characterization of Focal Malformations of Cortical Development". Myriam is on quite a roll with a FRQ-S Salary support award, a PhD and now a CIHR operating grant, all in the last 6 months.
OUR CONDOLENCES

To:

Charles Rohlicek for the loss of his father, Karel Rohlicek, who passed away peacefully at home at the age of 90 years on October 30, 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Julia Gulyas passed away in September. A long-time community-based pediatrician, Julia's practice was primarily centered on children and families from the western sector of the island of Montreal. In addition to her community practice, Julia was a diligent attendee in our emergency room where she was a respected and valued teacher to our medical students and resident trainees.

Dr. Wendy MacDonald passed away on August 28, 2015. A remarkable figure in UGME and our Department, she is the one individual who could take the most credit for our culture of educational excellence.

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Wendy MacDonald, who died peacefully on August 28 with family members at her side. She leaves to mourn her beloved husband Barry, and her two cherished children, Jessica [Neil Forchuk] and John [Marie-Helene Foucault]. She was known as 'Nanny' to three precious grandchildren, Beatrice, Benjamin, and Tristan, whose constant presence the past few years gave her the will to stay alive. Dr. MacDonald was a graduate of McGill University Medical School, and she completed her specialty training in Pediatrics at the Montreal Children's Hospital. She obtained Specialty Certification in Pediatrics from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons and from the American Academy of Pediatrics. Within weeks of finishing her training, she was appointed Director of Undergraduate Education in Pediatrics, a position she held for 35 years. This appointment marked the beginning of a consummate interest in medical education which spanned her entire career. She had the responsibility of developing and managing the educational curriculum in Pediatrics for every senior McGill medical student, each of whom spent 8 weeks at the Montreal Children's, to learn the basic academic and clinical skills of caring for ill children. She organized their program, wrote all their summative evaluations, counselled them on career plans, and spent many hours teaching them both in the clinical setting and the classroom. As much as she loved clinical medicine, the mentoring and teaching of the students became her passion. In the Faculty of Medicine at McGill, "The Osler Award is presented on an annual basis to a Professor who, in the opinion of the senior medical students has made the most outstanding contribution to their medical education. It is the highest award for distinction in medical student teaching". Dr. MacDonald received the Osler Award on 4 occasions. 1989, 2001, 2006, and 2008. From 1982 through 1989, Dr. MacDonald was Associate Dean for Medical Education and Student Affairs. She was intimately involved in curricular matters for the entire 4 year program and she counselled hundreds of students per year on academic and personal matters. In 1992 Dr. MacDonald developed a program to monitor and evaluate the performance of the 1150 Residents and Fellows in all post-graduate training programs in the Faculty of Medicine at McGill. She wrote the document providing the rules and regulations which govern the evaluation and promotion of these Residents and Fellows, and this document remains in effect to this day. She then chaired this "Faculty Post-Graduate Promotions Committee" for 20 years. Its primary purpose is to identify physicians in training who are unable to attain the required standard for the practice of Medicine. She understood and applied the principles of natural justice but also recognized the responsibility of the profession to ensure the competence of its members. She chaired this committee with objectivity, firmness and compassion. She was one of the first individuals appointed in 1998 to the Faculty of Medicine Honour List for excellence and outstanding contributions to medical education at McGill. She was a member of the Students Promotion Committee for 35 years, the committee which monitors the performance of all medical students who are having difficulty at some level in the curriculum. She was a member of the University
We were all saddened to hear of the passing of Arnold Steinberg on Friday, December 11, 2015. Arnold was an enormous friend of the Children’s and McGill University.

- Reprinted by CBC News –

Arnold Steinberg, was a philanthropist with a keen interest in health and higher education, and a world-renowned art collector, died suddenly in Montreal Friday morning at the age of 82.

Steinberg was the first Jewish chancellor of McGill University, from 2009 until June, 2014 — a role that capped decades of service to the university from which he graduated with a commerce degree in 1954. In an online letter announcing Steinberg's death Friday, university principal Suzanne Fortier said the former chancellor "believed in the transformative power of education." "As he did throughout his life, he brought to the job (of chancellor) a boundless curiosity and focused intelligence. He was decisive when he needed to be, kind and humble always."

Steinberg was the nephew of Sam Steinberg, the founder of the grocery chain that bore the family name, joining the family business in 1958 and eventually becoming its chief financial officer.

By the 1960s, Steinberg was serving on the board of the Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute when he learned that tens of thousands of Quebec children were suffering from rickets, a disorder that causes children's bones to weaken, leaving them bow-legged.

Some children were severely affected because, unlike the rest of Canada, Quebec regulations didn't require that milk be enriched by Vitamin D. "Eventually, we got the Quebec government to change the regulation," said Dr. Charles Scriver, a geneticist and McGill University researcher whose groundbreaking work proved rickets was epidemic among Quebec children. "Things did not improve as anticipated." It turned out the milk supplier for the major market of Montreal "did not believe in contaminating the glorious product of milk with an oily substance called vitamin D," said Scriver. "So nothing got done." Scriver said Steinberg asked for two weeks to solve the problem, sending out this message to Quebec's milk suppliers: "No Vitamin D in the milk marketed in Quebec, no contract." "It was Mr. Steinberg who was able to make a suggestion to the distributors who were the source of the problem to change their practice and let us restore nutrition and health to our most vulnerable citizens — infants and children," Scriver said. "The epidemic of hypocalcemia and Vitamin D deficiency disappeared." Steinberg went on to chair the Montreal Children's Hospital Research Institute for 19 years and served on McGill University's Board of Governors for a decade.

In recent years, his interest turned to neuroscience, founding with his wife, McGill professor emeritus Blema Steinberg, the Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning in 2006. "Every day, the academic and scientific exposure expands my whole world of knowledge," Steinberg told the McGill Reporter in his final days as university chancellor in 2014. "It's an endless stream of excitement, of new intelligence, of new information."

Steinberg and his wife were avid collectors of modern and contemporary art, named by Art News to the list of the top 200 art collectors worldwide. He was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1993 and became an officer of the Order of Quebec in 2013.

He is survived by his wife Blema and their three children, Margot, Donna and Adam.
DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
TOWNHALL MEETING
WITH DEAN EIDELMAN

Wednesday, April 6, 2016
8:00 a.m.
Conference room
E.S1.1129
Breakfast will be served at 7:30 a.m.
YOU ARE ALL ENCOURAGED
TO ATTEND

Ball for the Children’s

May 19, 2016

Windsor Station,
1100 de la Gauchetière Street West,
Montreal, QC H3C 1B3

Annual Achievement Awards
of the MCH CPDP

April 15, 2016

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