

# Department of Pediatrics Newsletter

WINTER 2016



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

com·mu·ni·ty/kə'myoʊnədē/

noun

1. a group of people living in the same place or having a particular characteristic in common.
2. a feeling of fellowship with others, as a result of sharing common attitudes, interests, and goals.

Our Department most certainly meets both of the above definitions for the word 'community'. It is probably the physical or 'virtual' place we spend the most time in aside from our homes. We all share the particular characteristic of being involved in child health and well-being, whether it be in clinical care, research, education or administration. As working in the Department of Pediatrics and the Montreal Children's Hospital is a privilege and not a right, we have all willingly embraced both organizations' statement of [Mission/Vision/Values](#) that explicitly articulates our common attitudes, interests and goals. This choice to work here and make this place the context of our professional journey should imply a feeling of fellowship to others who have made the same conscious well-considered choice. For reasons that vary as individuals, we have each chosen to work **here**. To be frank, all of us have sufficient skills that we have other options.

One of the first things you very quickly realize as Chair is that no segment of the Department or hospital exists in isolation. Difficulties in one sector impact on multiple other sectors. In hospital, specialty physicians need community-based physicians for continuity and organization of care. Sub-specialists need fellow consultants given the complexity of patients. ICUs, pediatric and neonatal, are the back stop for our ER, wards and multiple specialty services. Surgeons need physicians and vice-versa. Clinical researchers need access to clinical populations. Basic investigators thrive in contact with clinicians to improve the pertinence of their basic enquiry. Clinicians can take the discoveries of the lab to the bedside of their patients. Nurses, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, psychologists, social workers, child life workers, administrators and many other disciplines are indispensable for the 'team' sport we call 'medicine'. The list of inter-connectedness is extremely long and those cited are but a fragment of the examples I could cite.

If no segment exists in isolation, then the logical corollary is that complete professional autonomy is a fiction in our community. While the physician has autonomy in the conduct of his/her relationship with the individual patient and family that comes under their care, multiple levels of obligations to others exist. Two major sets of obligations are readily apparent. The first is our social contract to the population which has endowed the entire health service delivery we practice in, and for the great majority of us, has also financed and enabled our education as health professionals at considerable subsidization. The second is to our fellow members of the Department and hospital. To do our best for our patients, we need all components of our community to be at its best. A problem at any point in our complex inter-digitated system is in reality a problem for each of us.

If I had one wish for the Department and hospital as we enter 2017, it would be that the "feeling of fellowship" that is part of the definition of "community" grows and becomes more tangibly apparent amongst us. I deliberately chose in this message not to focus on the considerable challenges we face currently. The most effective way that is under our control to meet and prevail against these challenges is for each of us to embrace this fellowship that should exist between us by virtue of our chosen participation in this community.

A question that has reverberated in one form or the other throughout the ages is: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

The answer in every instance no matter who was asking or who was answering, in whatever era and whatever context, has always been a resounding yes.

Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year to each of you and your families.

Michael

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## Staff Updates

**Alexandre Barbier** will be assuming the role of co-PD for our Perinatal-Neonatal Fellowship program. He joins Julie Bartholomew who is also the co-PD.

**Farhan Bhanji** was promoted to Full Professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

**Julius Erdstein** was appointed Division Director of the Division of Adolescent Medicine in October 2016 for a 5-year term beginning on December 1st, 2016. He had been acting as Interim Director since May 2015.

**Michael Shevell** was re-appointed on November 1st, 2016 for a 5-year term as Chair of Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, a position he has held since November 2011.

**The new Executive Committee:** I would like to take this opportunity to announce the membership of Executive Committee commencing on November 1, 2016:

**Emmett Francoeur**, Vice Chair (Community relations)

**Mylene Dandavino**, Associate Chair (Clinical)

**Laurie Plotnick**, Associate Chair (Education)

**Mitch Shiller**, Associate Chair (Finance-MSSA)

**Aurore Cote**, Associate Chair (Outreach)

**Maryam Oskoui**, Associate Chair (Research)

I wish to thank Bob Brouillette, Saleem Razack, Bruce Mazer, Harley Eisman, and Adrian Dancea, who have all stepped down due to upcoming retirement (Bob), new commitments (Saleem, Bruce) and extensive current commitments (Harley, Adrian), for their enormous contributions to the Department. At a personal level, I much appreciated their valued advice and leadership during my first mandate.

**Debbie Freidman** was appointed as Assistant Dean, Student Affairs (Schools), Faculty of Medicine. Reporting to the Vice-Dean, Education, Debbie will be responsible for support services to students, including the oversight and organization of the intra-curricular wellness program for the School of Physical & Occupational Therapy, Ingram School of Nursing and School of Communication Sciences & Disorders. She will help to support a nurturing learning environment, serving as an advocate for the Faculty's students, promoting student health initiatives and working to identify and assist students who may be struggling. She will also function as Ombudsperson for the three schools.

**Preetha Krishnamoorthy** was reappointed as Program Director – UGME.

**Chantal Poulin** was promoted to Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Neurology/Neurosurgery.

**Saleem Razack** was appointed Director, Office of Social Accountability and Community Engagement, Faculty of Medicine. Reporting directly to the Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine, Saleem will establish a strategic vision in this area for the Faculty of Medicine. Under his leadership, the Office will develop programs to support the diversity and equity needs of students, professors and staff as well as initiatives to help ensure the Faculty reflects the society it serves.

**Ana Maria Sant'Anna** was appointed as Assistant Dean, MDCM Admissions, Faculty of Medicine. In this role, Ana will be responsible for the selection of candidates for the Faculty's MDCM Program. She will also chair the MDCM Admissions Subcommittee and implement decisions related to admissions and candidate selection.

## Milestones

For reaching important milestones of service at McGill University, congratulations to:

### 15 Years

Frank Rauch

### 20 Years

Saleem Razack

Louis Beaumier

Hema Patel

Robert Platt

### 25 Years

Francisco Noya

Bruce Mazer

### 30 Years

Lorraine Bell

### 35 Years

Emmett Francoeur

Constantin Polychronakos

## Awards and Achievements

Congratulations to **Sasha Dubrovsky**, **Nadine Korah**, **Samara Zavalkoff**, and the "We Should Talk" Campaign for making National News in Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) for patient engagement/patient safety. Communication is the foundation of everything in terms of optimizing the family experience in patient safety and enhancing staff safety and partnerships. *We Should Talk* was developed as an awareness campaign, aimed to inspire everyone at Montreal Children's Hospital to more effectively communicate, with the goal to prevent harm. The core mantra of the campaign is twofold: *When something's not right, we need to listen -- Our patients, our responsibility*; and *When something's not right, tell us, we are listening -- Your health is our priority*.



Department of Pediatrics Members Samara Zavalkoff, Nadine Korah, Sasha Dubrovsky

**Farhan Bhanji** has received the 2016 Pediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC) Clinician-Educator Leadership Award.

**Bruce Mazer** is the recipient of the Jerry Dolovich Award. This award is presented by the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology to a member who demonstrates excellence in clinical work, teaching, and research and serves as a leader and role model in our specialty.

**Apo Papageorgiou** and **Constantin Polychronakos** were recognized by their compatriots in an article published in the Greek Press: "12 Great Greek minds in foreign universities" or "If only they could have stayed and helped Greece..." <http://en.protothema.gr/12-great-greek-minds-in-foreign-universities-photos/>

**Ana Maria Sant'Anna** received the 2016 Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Pediatrics Teaching Award. This award is given to the physician who received the most nominations by the students completing TCP Pediatrics.

**Kent Saylor** was honored during a Faculty of Medicine event in November for being the recipient of the 2016 the Haile T. Debas Award. This award is given annually to a faculty member who helps promote diversity or plays a key role in implementing new policies so as to increase underrepresented minorities in undergraduate or postgraduate training, faculty recruitment, retention and/or promotion.

## Departmental Acknowledgements

### September 2016

09 Laurent Legault  
16 Francisco Noya  
23 Robert Sternszus  
30 Julia von Oettingen

### October 2016

07 Robert Platt  
14 Renewal Day Team  
21 Sylviane Forget, Veronique Morinville,  
and Ernest Seidman  
28 Patricia Fontela

### November 2016

04 Farhan Bhanji  
11 Gus O'Gorman  
18 Chantal Poulin  
25 Debbie Friedman

### December 2016

02 Adam Shapiro  
09 Jacquetta Trasler  
16 MCH Affiliated Community Pediatricians

## Congratulations to the Delighted Parents



**Nadine Korah** who welcomed Isabella Sofia Panasuk on August 3rd at 9:41am.

**Patti Li** for the birth of baby sister Alice to Liam and Lily on August 23, 2016.

**Robert Sternszus** for the birth of Dylan Isaac on December 16, 2016.

**Jennifer Turnbull** for the birth of baby Wyatt Lampron on November 14, 2016.

**Pia Wintermark** for the arrival of Valentina, born on September 20, 2016.

**David Zielinski and Vicki Scholten** for the birth of their son, William, on November 25, 2016.

Previous acknowledgements are available at : [www.mcgill.ca/peds/mission/acknowledgements](http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/mission/acknowledgements)

## The MCH-RI at the McGill University Health Centre-Research Institute

### CONGRATULATIONS TO :

**Christine McCusker** who was recently honoured as the inaugural recipient of the Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology's (CSACI) F. Estelle R. Simons Award for Research. The F. Estelle R. Simons Award for Research is presented to a CSACI member in recognition of his or her exemplary research in the field of Allergy, Asthma, and Immunology. Christine received the award during the CSACI Annual Dinner on October 1, 2016.

**Bruce Mazer and Moshe Ben-Shoshan** for leading the first oral desensitization program in Canada. Oral immunotherapy, or oral desensitization, involves giving patients small, incremental doses of the food they are allergic to, under strict medical supervision, in an attempt to train the body to tolerate the food allergen instead of react to it. Bruce and Moshe started their study in 2012 with milk allergies and in 2013, received a substantial grant from CIHR for their program GET-FACTS (Genetics, Environment and Therapies: Food Allergy Clinical Tolerance Studies). Encouraged by the positive results of their study, they are now expanding their program to egg allergies and eventually to nut allergies.

**Robert Platt** for being named a 2016 Highly Cited Researcher for being among the most valuable and significant in his field. This recognition comes from Thomson Reuters IP and Science.

### AND FOR OBTAINING FUNDING:

**Patricia Fontela** who obtained a SickKids-CIHR grant valued at \$300,000 for her project entitled "Evolution of Infection Markers in Children with Severe Bacterial Infections". In this project, Patricia is systematically evaluating potential biomarkers as guideposts to tailor antibiotic treatment in critically ill children

**Maryam Oskoui** who received a research project grant from the Research Foundation of the Cerebral Palsy Alliance (Australia) for her project "Genetic Insights into the Causes of Cerebral Palsy".

**Jacquetta Trasler** for securing a 7-year CIHR Foundation Grant for her project entitled "Sex-specific susceptibility windows for fetal origins of adult disease and intergenerational effects".

### AND TO:

**Julia von Oettingen** for having received an 350,000€ operating grant from the German Charitable Foundation (Else-Kroener-Fresenius Stiftung) for the Pediatric Endocrinology Education Program she has been leading in Haiti. This project is also co-supported by the Pediatric Endocrine Society, The European Pediatric Society for Endocrinology and Partners in Health in Haiti.



## Annual Achievement Awards of the MCH CPDP April 20, 2017

### Glen Medical Library Services and Resources

#### *Identify publications on different subjects*

Your hospital librarian can assist with many levels of literature searches, ranging from basic searches with few articles to extensive systematic review projects. We can help you find the best-quality evidence, give advice on using databases, and help you to keep up-to-date in your field.

#### *Learn how to use resources and tools*

Ranging from basic to more advanced, we provide training opportunities for database searching in PubMed, Medline or CINAHL as well as EndNote. We can also customize training sessions for your department or provide basic orientation to our services.

#### *Primary access point...*

The Libraries' website <http://muhlibraries.ca/> is the gateway to our services and collections. It is an excellent starting point for all staff, both, MUHC or McGill affiliated to access e-journals, collections and many other knowledge base online resources. When we don't have what you are looking for, we can find it for you in another library.

The Glen Medical Library is located in the  
**McConnell Resource Centre**  
**Room B RC.0078 | Ext. 35290**

<http://muhlibraries.ca/glen/>

## McGill Pediatric Residency Program

The holidays mark the halfway point of the academic year, which is a perfect time to reflect on the changes and accomplishments within the Pediatrics residency program in the past few months and look forward to what is to come. In the summer, after saying goodbye to our departing residents at the second annual Pediatrics Resident and Fellow Graduation Ceremony (it's now a Glen tradition!), we welcomed two new program directors, eleven new residents and three babies (Esraa Bukhari's son Hamza, Sumaiya Al-Hadhrani's daughter Arwa and Noah Marzook's daughter Sofia). Since then we held a wonderful team-building resident retreat and very successful General Pediatrics Career fair, selected four new IMG R1s for next July (Dr. Amna Al-Khuzaei, Dr. Ahmed Almadani, Dr. Abdulkarim Alruwaili and Dr. Nehal Shata) and initiated a competency-based education pilot project on three of our clinical units. We have already started the process of selecting the CaRMS R1s for next year and are also preparing for our internal review in February, which will be an occasion to highlight the impressive contributions to our program of all our residents and faculty.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our superb program administrators, Alessandra Tedeschi, Cassandra Marsillo, Jabeen Laulloo and Olga Dolghi, who keep the program running smoothly while being a joy to work with; our outstanding Chief Residents, Marie-Hélène Gagnon and Esli Osmanliu, and Site Chief Marie-Pier Dumas, who have demonstrated tireless devotion to their resident colleagues and to the entire MCH community; the dedicated members of all our committees whose engagement and teamwork are the driving force behind our program's success; all our wonderful faculty colleagues who work with, teach and support our trainees every day; and, of course, our amazing group of residents who inspire and motivate us by their remarkable commitment to their learning and to patient care. We are indeed very lucky to be the directors of such an exceptional program!

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

Catherine, Gary and Olivia



2016-2017 Residents and Attending Staff



For the fifth year in a row, the Community Based Paediatricians awarded a scholarship to a McGill medical student who has shown outstanding promise during their paediatric rotation. This year's scholarship, awarded in November 2016, honoured Dr Vic Khediguian who retired this year after many years in excellent community paediatric practice. The scholarship winner was Jonathan Hudon, now in his 4th year of medicine at McGill. Jonathan aims to be the kind of community physician who can cover paediatric urgent problems in local hospital.

What makes him special is:

His strong role in advocacy:

1- When parents expressed negative views on vaccines, he leapt into action, explaining that his PhD research was on this topic and explaining why vaccines are safe and effective and why their additives are appropriate.

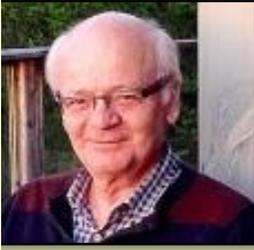
2- When he heard that the family medicine clinic at a major local teaching hospital refused to accept any more referrals of young adults with special needs, he coached his classmates to request teaching about examination and care of people with special needs whenever they are doing rotations at this hospital.

His special ability to help worried parents feel hopeful and better about their sick child, whether it was a single infant with a multi-problem infant on the ward, or a parent having an anxiety attack in the office when their sickly child needed sent to MCH ER.

- Diane Munz

## In Memoriam

### Dr. Gus O’Gorman, 1941 – 2016



Gus passed away unexpectedly on October 27, 2016. Gus was a Paediatric Neuroradiologist and long-time Director of Radiology at The Montreal Children’s Hospital. He was more Irish than a leprechaun, proud of his heritage and the out sized contribution of the Irish to civilization. He had a quick wit which could be biting. He was a superb mimic of voices and mannerisms which would never fail to elicit gales of laughter. Gus would perform in amateur theatre productions and no annual Neuroscience dinner at the MCH could end without his rendition of Kipling’s mock epic poem Jabberwocky.

### Dr. Victor Michael Whitehead 1934 – 2016



Michael was a longstanding member of the Department and Montreal Children’s Hospital staff. A pediatric hematologist-oncologist, he was a leading investigator in the field of folate metabolism contributing much to our understanding of its relationship to hematologic disorders. He was a classic clinician-investigator renowned for his kindly gentle manner with patients, trainees and colleagues, as well as his encyclopedic knowledge of hematology. He will be missed by all who knew him.

### Our Condolences to

**Ronald Gottesman** on the loss of his father, Myer Gottesman, who passed away peacefully on October 27, 2016

and to

**Bernard Rosenblatt** on the loss of his mother, Mira, who passed away on December 15, 2016.

## Pediatric Medical Grand Rounds

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| <b>Hillman Lectureship on Global Health</b><br>“MicroResearch : Improving local research capacity in Africa”<br>Robert Bortolussi, MD | January 11  |
| <b>Pediatric Jeopardy</b>   | January 18  |
| <b>Family Literacy Day</b><br>“The Literacy in Health Literacy for Government Assisted Refugees”<br>Lynn Farrales, MD, MSC, CCFP      | January 25  |
| <b>Dr. Robert Platt, PhD</b>  | February 1  |
| <b>Alice Chan-Yip Lectureship in Integrative and Psychosomatic Medicine</b>   | February 8  |
| <b>Dr. Hema Patel, MD, FRCPC</b>  | February 15 |
| <b>Francoeur Family Foundation Lecture</b>  | February 22 |
| <b>14<sup>th</sup> Annual Kenny Vineberg Pediatric Lectureship in Hematology-Oncology</b>   | March 1     |

## TOWNHALL MEETING with Dean Eidelman

Wednesday, April 16, 2016 | 8:00 a.m.

MUHC Research Institute Auditorium  
Room E.S1.1129



*All are encouraged to attend!*

For more upcoming Pediatric Medical Grand Rounds please visit:

[www.mcgill.ca/peds/grandrounds](http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/grandrounds)