



# DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2017

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

“Turning the corner” is a highly visual idiom that suggests both anticipated future improvement after passing through difficult times or the completion of a critical point in a process that implies substantial change. From my perspective, I feel that this is where our academic community presently finds itself. The move to the Glen is well behind us. Memories of the legacy site are becoming more nostalgic than real and now in our third year of occupancy, the Glen is most certainly our home. The challenges of an outdated Plan Clinique, drastic PEM cuts, rigid application of draconian Replacement rules, and systematic underfunding of our hospital-based operations have been adapted to. These adaptations have been achieved by our own efforts utilizing creativity, ingenuity and a remarkable commitment to our Mission and Vision, coupled with an affirmation of our core values ([www.mcgill.ca/peds/missionvisionvalues](http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/missionvisionvalues)). An adjacent ambulatory centre linked to McGill has been opened and the CORE group of ‘dry-labs’ have settled recently into a remarkable physical space that will no doubt foster synergies amongst investigators and enhance research productivity. Basically operational challenges have been met for the most part and the sky, despite the predictions of some, has certainly not fallen.

Of course this most assuredly does not mean we will stand pat. We are as a community committed to continual improvement, knowing that while we may achieve excellence, perfection remains an unobtainable goal that motivates us to always strive to do better.

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However there are challenges well beyond the operational. Quite frankly we are at an important decision point strategically as an organization. By definition, strategic decisions are complex and deal with the organization as a whole, and feature substantial propositions regarding resource allocations, orientations, alignment and efforts. They are an effort to position an organization to ensure its long-term vitality addressing strengths, weaknesses and potential threats to its success. Ideally they represent the product of a thorough process of examination, reflection and creative thinking. By their nature such decisions involve uncertainty and risk.

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*“He was reluctant to open it, for once such a thing is opened, it cannot be shut again.”*

*Alan Paton*

*“If you risk nothing, then you risk everything”*

*Geena Davis (really...)*

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The move and multiple extrinsic factors have compelled us to undertake this strategic effort. For the past 18 months, a Departmental Strategic Planning Initiative (SPI) has been underway involving considerable consultation with Departmental membership, varied stakeholders and external review. I am afraid that your summer will involve some work beyond the usual. The SPI will be disseminated shortly in draft form, outlining actions to be taken that do involve substantial propositions that directly impact on our future. Meetings will be held with Divisions to get feedback that will be incorporated into the final document. This will set the stage in the Fall for a Department wide conversation that I am hoping will feature wide and honest engagement. Ultimately the Department will be asked to endorse this Plan that will guide us forward for the remainder of my mandate as Chair.

The discussion will be about what type of community we wish to be going forward. It involves an open and thorough recommitment to all aspects of our academic mission. It is a recommitment that the Department leadership does not shy away from. I have no doubt that the Departmental membership will share this view and look forward to your partnership as we embark on this next phase of our journey.

Have a great summer everyone!

Michael

## STAFF UPDATES

**Delphine Collin-Vézina** was appointed as the inaugural holder of the **Nicolas Steinmetz-Gilles Julien Chair in Social Pediatrics in the Community** in the Department of Pediatrics. This role will focus chiefly on the challenges faced by disadvantaged children and the social factors that affect their health and wellbeing, as well as the defense of children's rights and the drafting of social policies.

**Annette Majnemer** was appointed as Vice-Dean (Education) in the Faculty of Medicine, and will strategically guide the Faculty on all educational matters.

**Marie-Noël Primeau** was appointed as Part-Time Faculty Lecturer in the Department starting April 2017.

**Saleem Razack** was promoted to the rank of **Full Professor**.

**Robert Sternszus** was appointed as the Program Director of the General Pediatric Residency Training Program starting June 2017.

**Olivia Tse** will be continuing her role in the leadership of the General Pediatric Residency Training Program, and was appointed as Associate Director.

The following individuals were promoted to the rank of Associate Professor:

- ❖ **Reza Alizadehfar**, Division of Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology
- ❖ **Gaëlle Chedeville**, Division of Rheumatology
- ❖ **Laurie Plotnick**, Division of Emergency Medicine
- ❖ **Pia Wintermark**, Division of Neonatology

The following individuals were appointed as Assistant Professors:

- ❖ **Marie-Astrid Lefebvre**, Division of Infectious Diseases
- ❖ **Nina Nouraeyan**, Division of Neonatology (JGH)
- ❖ **Catherine Nolin**, Division of General Pediatrics
- ❖ **François Olivier**, Division of Neonatology (MCH)
- ❖ **Jade Séguin**, Division of Emergency Medicine
- ❖ **Elisabeth Simard-Tremblay**, Division of Pediatric Neurology.



*Celebrating the formal establishment of Delphine Collin-Vézina as the Nicolas Steinmetz-Gilles Julien Chair in Social Pediatrics. Left to right: Drs. Nicolas Steinmetz, Delphine Collin-Vézina, Gilles Julien.*

## AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

**Ilana Bank** was appointed the lead of the Pediatric Simulation Centre and the Department's liaison to the Faculty's Simulation Centre.

**Ilana Bank** (2017-18) was honored with selection to the Faculty Honour List for Education Excellence in recognition of her outstanding contributions to education in the Faculty of Medicine, in the areas of teaching, educational leadership and innovation, faculty development, and research and scholarly activity.

**Larry Lands** was honored with the 2017 Lifetime Achievement Award in Pediatric Respiratory Medicine from the Pediatric Assembly of the Canadian Thoracic Society.

**Stephen Liben** was awarded the 2017 Sub-Zero and Wolf Medical Award of Excellence from the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.

**Annette Majnemer** was the recipient of the 2017 Pfizer Research Award of Excellence from the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation.

**Laurie Plotnick** was awarded a 2017 Canadian Association for Medical Education (CAME) Certificate of Merit Award, which promotes, recognizes and rewards faculty committed to medical education in Canadian medical schools.

**Robert Sternszus** was awarded the 2017 Paige and Bernard Kaplan Award in recognition of outstanding contributions as a clinical role model and teacher in the Department of Pediatrics, MCH.



## RESEARCH & FUNDING

In February 2017, **Larry Lands** was appointed as Chair of Cystic Fibrosis Canada's Research Advisory Council, which will provide input on the development of new research programs and initiatives.

Congratulations to the following on being awarded **2017 Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Project Grants**:

**Geneviève Bernard** received \$563,959 from 2017-2020 for "Unraveling the molecular basis of novel forms of hypomyelinating leukodystrophies".

**Nancy Braverman** was awarded \$959,310 from 2017-2022 for "Getting ready for vision therapy in peroxisome biogenesis disorders".

**Lily Hechtman** received \$715,276 from 2017-2021 for "Efficacy of cognitive behavioural and skills training therapy of adolescents with ADHD".

**Laurent Legault** was awarded \$351,901 from 2017-2020 for "Optimizing insulin basal rate adjustments to prevent exercise-induced hypoglycemia in patients with type 1 diabetes using insulin pump therapy".

**Maryam Oskoui** received \$600,524 from 2017-2021 for "Genetic insights to the causes of cerebral palsy".

**Aimee Ryan** was awarded \$837,675 from 2017-2022 for "Transient disruption of blood-testis barrier for efficient delivery of spermatogonial stem cells to their niches: Toward a novel fertility restoration strategy for boys with cancer".

Salary Support Awards:

- ❖ **Marie Brossard-Racine**  
FRQ-S Chercheur – Junior I
- ❖ **Mary Ellen MacDonald**  
FRQ-S Chercheur – Junior II
- ❖ **Maryam Oskoui**  
FRQ-S Chercheur – clinicien Junior II
- ❖ **Janet Rennick**  
FRQ-S Chercheur – clinicien Senior

## PEDIATRIC MEDICAL GRAND ROUNDS

### September 2017

- 06 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Alan Ross Lecture  
*Dr. Stephen Back*
- 13 *Dr. Rishi Agrawal*
- 20 Department Town Hall Meeting  
(Strategic Planning)
- 27 Trauma Conference Joint Rounds

### October 2017

- 04 Robert H. Usher Lectureship
- 11 *Dr. Robert Nelson*
- 18 *Dr. Jonathan Klein*
- 25 Women in Leadership Task Force Report  
*Dr. Laurie Plotnick*

## GENERAL PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM NEWS

The arrival of summer always brings with it the bittersweet end of the academic year, with the notable highlights of 2016 – 2017 being the innovative work being done by our program in moving forward (Competence by Design), re-designing the academic half-day curriculum including the development of several wellness initiatives, the development of several new rotations (i.e. Psychiatry, Community Neonatology at LaSalle Hospital, Ophthalmology) that are now ready to be launched on July 1, 2017, and the launching of annual resident awards, based on CanMEDs roles and selected by faculty and residents, which were announced at our annual graduation ceremony. We are so proud of the hard work and accomplishments of all of our residents and we are delighted to soon be welcoming our 10 new Pediatrics R1s, as well as 4 new R1's in Pediatric Neurology and Medical Genetics on July 1. We will also be welcoming Kim Phung, who will be transferring into our program as a 2nd year resident on July 1.

On June 9th, 2017, in what is now an 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. *(See page 5 for list of graduates)*

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, Stephanie Larocque, Alessandra Tedeschi, Jabeen Laulloo, Cassandra Marsillo, and Bobbie Carin, who are an incredible support to the program and to the residents. We would also like to congratulate Alessandra on the birth of her second child earlier this spring!

And finally, we would like to formally thank Catherine Henin for the incredible job she did as Program Director over the last 3 years. Her selfless and tireless dedication to the residents was truly remarkable. Olivia and I feel so fortunate to be taking over a program that has benefited from all Catherine has to offer.

Wishing you all a wonderful summer!

Rob and Olivia  
Director and Associate Director  
Pediatrics Residency Program



## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED PARENTS!

**Marie Brossard-Racine**  
welcomed a baby girl,  
Victoria, on May 22, 2017.

## DEPARTMENT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

### January 2017

- 20 Drs. Alexandre Barbier, May Khairy, Pia Wintermark
- 27 Dr. Laurie Plotnick

### February 2017

- 03 Dr. Dominic Chalut
- 10 Dr. Geoffrey Dougherty
- 17 Sally Crawford
- 24 Dr. Richard Haber

### March 2017

- 03 Dr. Nicolas Steinmetz
- 10 Drs. Reza Alizadehfar, Genevieve Bernard, G elle Chedeville, Laurie Plotnick and Pia Wintermark
- 17 Dr. Delphine-Collin V zina
- 24 Dr. Elisa Ruano Cea
- 31 Dr. Louise Auger

### April 2017

- 07 Drs. Marie-H l ne Gagnon and Esli Osmanlliu
- 21 Dr. Johanne Morel
- 28 Dr. Saleem Razack

### May 2017

- 05 Dr. Ilana Bank
- 12 Drs. Harley Eisman and Mitchell Shiller
- 19 Dr. Paul Rossy
- 26 Dr. Bernard Rosenblatt

### June 2017

- 02 Drs. Marie Brossard-Racine, Mary Ellen MacDonald, Maryam Oskoui and Janet Rennick
- 09 Nurses, Students, Residents and Attendings – Successful Surge
- 16 Dr. Larry Lands
- 22 Graduating Residents

To read acknowledgements, please visit:  
[www.mcgill.ca/peds/mission/acknowledgements](http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/mission/acknowledgements)

## CONGRATULATIONS 2017 GRADUATES!

### R4 General Pediatrics Residents:

- ❖ *Hatem Al-Rawahi*
- ❖ *Estelle Chetrit*
- ❖ *Samuel Freeman*
- ❖ *Tania Giannone*
- ❖ *Kristen Lambrinakos-Raymond*
- ❖ *Alexandra Langlois*
- ❖ *Yalin Lin*
- ❖ *Christina Maratta*
- ❖ *Stephanie Mourad*
- ❖ *Julie Nadeau-Lessard*
- ❖ *Nikki Rink*
- ❖ *Bindu Suresh*

### R3 General Pediatrics Residents (Completing core training & pursuing Fellowship training elsewhere):

- ❖ *Marie-Hélène Gagnon*
- ❖ *Eslî Osmanliu*

### Sub-Specialty Fellows:

- ❖ *Ghalia Al-Yazidi* (Neurology)
- ❖ *Mher Barbarian* (Emergency Medicine)
- ❖ *Dania Basodan* (Rheumatology)
- ❖ *Adam Byrne* (Allergy & Immunology)
- ❖ *Janie Charlebois* (Hematology-Oncology)
- ❖ *Daphne Cloutier* (Endocrinology)
- ❖ *Lalida Kongkiattikul* (Pediatric Critical Care Medicine)
- ❖ *Alicia Lambrinakos-Raymond* (Neonatal – Perinatal Medicine)
- ❖ *Nina Nouraeyan* (Neonatal – Perinatal Medicine)
- ❖ *Anne-Claire Paquet De Varennes* (Social Pediatrics)
- ❖ *Marie-Eve Robinson* (Endocrinology)
- ❖ *Kantara Saelim* (Pediatric Critical Care Medicine)
- ❖ *Sarah De Schryver* (Allergy & Immunology)
- ❖ *Aaron St-Laurent* (Respirology)
- ❖ *Sandrica Young-Pearl* (Nephrology)
- ❖ *Zofia Zysman-Colman* (Respirology)

## 2017 GRADUATION RESIDENT AWARDS

### Communicator Award:

- ❖ *Tania Giannone*
- ❖ *Samuel Freeman*

### Leadership Award:

- ❖ *Marie-Hélène Gagnon*

