Report from the New Chairman


For someone with a historical bent such as myself, the roster of previous Chairs of the Department of Pediatrics over the last 60 years cannot be ignored. Each of these individuals can truly be considered a giant in pediatrics and child health and each contributed enormously in their own way to shaping the Department and the Montreal Children's Hospital. As I consider this list I am both humbled, and indeed if truth be told, a bit terrified to be added.

While past is prologue to the future, what concerns us is the present and the future, as this is our own reality and what we can change. We have a multiplicity of roles that comprise our collective mission; to provide cutting-edge care of the highest quality to children and their families, to improve child health, to advocate for children, to educate the next generation of health professionals, and through research to add to the sum of what is known in child health. The work we do is so important and so vital to the community at large. It’s one I know we each bring enormous effort and dedication to.

It is perhaps a cliché to say, but it bears often repeating; "our most precious resource is our human resource". I see my primary responsibility and obligation as that of providing an environment in which each member of our Department can achieve excellence in their particular role in our collective mission. Fostering opportunities and facilitating excellence is my mandate as a "rising tide raises all boats".

There are of course significant challenges before us. Challenges of recruitment, resource allocation, funding, and perhaps most evident on the horizon, a physical transition from our home of more than 50 years to a new site that offers both enormous advantages and some difficulties. Collectively I know that we can meet these challenges as our predecessors have done with the challenges they faced in their own times. We will not drop the torch that they have passed to us.

I have embraced a distributive leadership model and I am incredibly grateful for my Vice Chair and Associate Chairs. Emmett Francoeur, Robert Brouillette, Aurore Côté, Harley Eisman, Bruce Mazer, Saleem Razack, and Mitchell Shiller - each of these individuals brings enormous expertise in their particular domain, and perhaps most importantly, a passionate level of commitment to the Department and the MCH. Furthermore I am most impressed by leadership already in place in PGME (Richard Gosselin), UGME (Preetha Krishnamoorthy, Wendy MacDonald) and the Research Institute (Jacquetta Trasler and Robert Brouillette). Finally, through my individual meetings and breakfast sessions since taking office, I am also quite impressed by the capabilities of the various Division and Program Directors who each ably represent their respective constituents and responsibilities.

I am also very grateful for the kind words of support and encouragement offered by many Departmental members in response to some of my early initiatives and efforts. It gives me the sense that I am on the right track. I do want to emphasize that I very much appreciate feedback and that I am very open to hearing from anyone about potential initiatives that can make a positive difference in our mission.

On a personal level, I want to thank Bob Brouillette, who as Interim Chair from January 2011-October 2011 (inclusive) ably managed the Department and effected a smooth transition that will be a model for how I will turn this office over when my time to do so comes. I also need to thank the administrative staff of the Office of the Chair (Sylvie, Marlene, Juliet Ann, the Filomenas', Judy, Alessandra, and Olga) and the PMG staff (Patty and her gang) for being patient with myself as I settle in and learn the ropes. All of these individuals go well beyond the call of duty and are committed to what they do.

The following newsletter is indicative of all the good things we do. Congratulations to all who are mentioned for their accomplishments. Please be sure to keep Sylvie informed so we can be as complete and informative as possible.

Michael Shevell

Staff Updates

Dr. Lorraine Bell has stepped down as Director, Pediatric Nephrology Residency and Fellowship Training Program, effective December 31, 2011, after eight years of dedicated work. Dr. Bell will continue to contribute to the Pediatric Nephrology Division, the Hospital and the MUHC community as Director of the Pediatric Renal Transplant Program and Director of Pediatric Transition to Adult Care at the MUHC.

Dr. Martin Bitzan has stepped in as Interim Director, Pediatric Nephrology Residency and Fellowship Training Program, effective January 1, 2012.

Dr. Chantal Poulin has accepted the position as Acting Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, as of November 1, 2011. A search committee for the
Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology has been established. The committee will start to meet in February 2012.

Dr. Michael Shevell has stepped down as Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, as of October 31, 2011.

Dr. Michael Shevell has been appointed as Chair, McGill Department of Pediatrics and as Pediatrician-in-Chief, for the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), effective November 1, 2011.

Staff Resignations/Retirements:

Dr. David McGillivray resigned from his position as staff physician in the Department of Pediatric Emergency Division, Department of Pediatrics, at the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, as well as from his academic appointment as Associate Professor within the Faculty of Medicine of McGill University, effective December 31, 2011. We thank Dr. McGillivray for his tremendous contributions to the University and the Hospital.

New Recruitment:

Dr. Sylvia Abadir has accepted a position as Adjunct Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as staff physician as “Associé” within the Division of Pediatric Cardiology of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective September 1st, 2011. She holds an “Actif” status at the CHU Ste-Justine. Dr. Abadir is a graduate of Université de Rangueil, Toulouse, France, (MD 2002). She completed her residency training in cardiology and cardiology diseases in Clermont Ferrand, France. She subsequently completed her fellowship in pediatric cardiology at CHU-Sainte-Justine, Montreal (2009). Dr. Abadir obtained her Masters II in research on surgical sciences at the Necker enfants malades, Paris, France (2006). She also completed a specific training in interventional pediatric cardiology, as well as in pediatric electrophysiology at CHE-Sainte Justine (2009).

Dr. Genevieve Bernard has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical- (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics and Neurology and Neurosurgery, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of Pediatric Neurology of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective October 1st, 2011. Dr. Bernard obtained her medical degree (2002) and a Master’s degree in Neurosciences (2003) both at Université de Montréal. She completed her residency in Pediatric Neurology at McGill University (2008), and completed her fellowship training in Neurogenetics at Université de Montréal (2011).

Dr. Adam James Fleming has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of Hematology-Oncology of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective July 1st, 2011. Dr. Fleming is a graduate of the University of Toronto (MD, 2004). He completed his pediatric residency training at the British Columbia Children’s Hospital in Vancouver (2007), and completed his fellowship training in pediatric hematology-oncology at the British Columbia Children’s Hospital in Vancouver (2010) and his fellowship training in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Children’s Hospital Boston, in Boston (2011).

Debbie Friedman has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor in the McGill University Department of Pediatrics, effective March 1, 2011. This appointment is in recognition of her teaching and research activities in the field of Pediatric and Adolescent Trauma at the Montreal Children’s Hospital - McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Reut Gruber has accepted a cross-appointment position as Associate Member in the Department of Pediatrics, Division of General Pediatrics in the Pediatric Sleep Medicine Clinic at the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective March 1, 2011. This appointment is in recognition of her clinical psychologist expertise, her continued collaboration in sleep medicine research and foreseen contributions in sleep education for trainees and students within the Department of Pediatrics.

Dr. Patricia Li has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of General Pediatrics of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective August 1st, 2011. Dr. Li obtained her medical degree from McMaster University (2004) and she completed her residency training at the Montreal Children’s Hospital (2008). She has subsequently completed her fellowship in academic general pediatrics at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto (2010) and undertook an additional year of research training in child health services (2011). She completed a Master’s degree in Clinical Epidemiology and Health Care Research at the University of Toronto (2010).

Dr. Andreea Gorgos has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of General Pediatrics of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective August 15th, 2011. Dr. Gorgos is a graduate of the University of Toronto (MD, 2007), and completed his fellowship training in pediatric cardiology at the British Columbia Children’s Hospital in Vancouver (2010) and his fellowship training in Pediatric Neuro-Oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Children’s Hospital Boston, in Boston (2011).
Dr. Claire Leblanc has accepted a position as Full-Time Associate Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of Pediatric Rheumatology of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective September 1st, 2011. Dr. Leblanc obtained her medical degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia (1983). She completed her pediatric residency training at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario (1987). She has subsequently completed a fellowship in Pediatric Rheumatology at The Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto (2001).

Dr. Maryam Oskoui has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical-Joint (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics and Neurology and Neurosurgery, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of Child Neurology of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective September 1st, 2011. Dr. Oskoui obtained her medical degree from McGill University (1999). She completed her pediatric neurology residency training at the Montreal Children’s Hospital (2004). She has subsequently completed a pediatric neuromuscular fellowship at New York Presbyterian Hospital, Columbia University, New York, NY (2007) and a second clinical research fellowship in ALS at the Montreal Neurological Institute, McGill University (2009).

Dr. Adam Shapiro has accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as staff physician within the Division of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine of the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the MUHC, effective July 1st, 2011. Dr. Shapiro obtained his medical degree from McGill University (2004). He completed his internship year of pediatric residency training at the University of Minnesota (2005) and his residency training at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, North Carolina (2007). Dr. Shapiro completed his fellowship training in pediatric pulmonology at the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, North Carolina (2011). Dr. Shapiro brings particular expertise in primary ciliary dyskinesia.

Maternity Leave Replacement

Dr. Samir Hussain did a maternity leave replacement for Dr. Caroline Ouellet from September 20, 2010 to September 20, 2011.

Dr. Samir Hussain is doing a maternity leave replacement for Dr. Maala Bhatt from October 17, 2010 to March 31, 2012.

Dr. Lisa Anne Rasmussen did a maternity leave replacement for Dr. Myriam Sroun from October 18, 2011 to January 6, 2012.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ... 

Dr. Marie Béland for having been inducted in the McGill Quarter Century Club, at its Annual McGill Quarter Century Club Gala, on October 19, 2011.

Dr. Lorraine Bell for having been inducted in the McGill Quarter Century Club, at its Annual McGill Quarter Century Club Gala, on October 19, 2011.

Dr. Dominic Chalut for having been elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association des pédiatres du Québec for the year 2011-2012.

Dr. Evelyn Constantin for having been elected as a member of the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR). The election to this Society represents peer recognition of research achievements in pediatrics.

Dr. Daniel Faucher for having been elected as a member of the Board of Directors of the Association des pédiatres du Québec for the year 2011-2012.

Dr. Carolyn Freeman for having been elected President of the International Pediatric Radiation Oncology Society for the years 2011-2014.

Dr. Brian Greenfield for having been inducted in the McGill Quarter Century Club, at its Annual McGill Quarter Century Club Gala, on October 19, 2011.

Dr. Michael Kramer for having been named a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Dr. Dominique Lévesque for having spearheaded the creation of a provincial TRACC program (Transition pour les patients atteints de Crohn et de Colite ulcéreuse) whose aim is to develop a network of adult gastroenterologists across the province of Quebec who will be involved in the standardized transition of IBD patients.

Dr. Patricia Li for having been awarded the MGH Foundation Award, by the Scholarship and Awards Committee of the Research Institute of the MUHC. This award was presented to Dr. Li at the Annual RI MUHC Awards Dinner, held on October 19, 2011, at the Sofitel Montreal.

Dr. Guilherme Sant’Anna for having been elected as a member of the Society for Pediatric Research (SPR). The election to this Society represents peer recognition of research achievements in pediatrics.

Dr. Earl Rubin for having been designated CPDP representative to the MUHC Board of Directors, effective February 1, 2012.

Dr. Martin Bitzan whose application to become “Educational Ambassador” for the International Society of Nephrology Global Outreach Program (ISN) has been approved. The ISN has also approved Dr. Bitzan’s participation in the training of pediatric nephrologists at the CHU Nafissa Hamoud Hospital in Alger (Algeria).
Dr. Gloria Tannenbaum for having been accorded the designation of Professor Emerita, effective May 31, 2010.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY WEDS:

Nabeel Ali and Samira on their marriage on July 23, 2011.

Patricia Li and Matthew Ferguson on their marriage, on July 23, 2011 at which Evelyn Constantin performed a beautiful song entitled “Make you feel my love” from Adele.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED PARENTS:

Farhan Bhanji and his wife Fabi on their baby boy (Lucas), born on June 29, 2011.

Adam Bretholz and his wife Samantha on their baby girl (Lillian), born on July 4, 2011.

Adrian Dancea and his wife Manuela on their baby girl (Amelie), born on October 2, 2011.

Alexander Sasha Dubrovsky and his wife Sandie on their baby boy (Nathaniel Tristan), born on July 25, 2011.

Brian Greenfield and his wife Melissa on their baby girl (Julia), born on August 22, 2011.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED GRAND-PARENTS:

Dr. B. Mazer and his wife Barbara on their granddaughter (Talia Beila), born in Haifa, Israel, on December 9, 2011.

WWEEEEKULLY  DDEEPPAARRTTMMEENNTTAALL  AACKNNOOWWLLEEDDGGEEMMEENNTS (began in November 2011)

November 2011
11 - Dr. Therese Perreault
18 - Drs Diane Munz, Olivia Tse, Carl Cummings, Nana Graves and Agnes Frank
25 – Dr. David McGillivray, Dr. Samara Zavalkoff, PICU team and Vincent (PICU patient)

December 2011
2 – Drs. Catherine Henin, Mylene Danavino and the Rhaly Residents.
16 – Dr. Hema Patel.
21 – Those who work in the ER and attend on the wards/NICU/PICU or cover on call a subspecialty during the Holidays and Dr. Harvey Guyda.

January 2012
13 – Drs. Karen Watanabe Duffy and Giuseppina (Giosi) Di Meglio.

MCGILL FACULTY OF MEDICINE

New Appointments

APPOINTMENT OF DR. SAMUEL BENAROYA AS INTERIM VICE-PRINCIPAL (HEALTH AFFAIRS) AND DEAN OF MEDICINE

Dr. Samuel Benaroya has been named as the Interim Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine at McGill University with full portfolio responsibilities, effective July 15, 2011, and continuing until a new Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine assume office.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. ANNETTE MAJNEMER AS DIRECTOR AND ASSOCIATE DEAN, SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

Dr. Annette Majnemer, OT, PhD, FCAHS, has been appointed as Director and Associate Dean, School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, McGill University Faculty of Medicine. Since July 2010, Dr. Majnemer has served with great distinction as Interim Director.

APPOINTMENT OF DR. MICHAEL SHEVELL AS CHAIR OF PEDIATRICS AND PEDIATRICIAN-IN-CHIEF

Dr. Michael Shevell has been named as the Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the McGill Faculty of Medicine and Pediatrician-in-Chief at the Montreal Children’s Hospital of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), effective November 1st, 2011. Dr. Shevell replaces Interim Chair, Dr. Robert Brouillette, who graciously took the helm from Dr. Harvey Guyda on January 1, 2011.

Dr. Shevell brings to his new position a deep commitment and passion for the fields of pediatrics and neurology, together with a history in the MUHC-McGill community. A clinician-scientist and professor for two decades, as well as a McGill alumnus, Dr. Shevell began his career, BSc in Physiology and MDCM in hand, with residency training in pediatrics and neurology at The Montreal Children’s Hospital, as well as in Neurology at the Montreal General and Montreal Neurological Hospitals. He then completed a postdoctoral fellowship in molecular (medical) genetics under the supervision of Dr. David Rosenblatt. In 1991, he joined The Montreal Children’s attending staff in the Division of Pediatric
Neurology and McGill’s Departments of Neurology/Neurosurgery and Pediatrics. He became a full professor in 2005 and Director of the Division of Pediatric Neurology shortly thereafter. His research focuses on neurodevelopmental disabilities, estimated to occur in 5 to 10 per cent of children, as well as neonatal neurology and ethical/historical aspects of neurologic practice.

Dr. Shevell is deeply engaged in his clinical, scientific, academic and local communities. In addition to his leadership of both the Quebec and National Cerebral Palsy Registries and the Cerebral Palsy component of the NeuroDevNet NCE network, he is Vice-Chair of the Neurodevelopmental Disability Section of the Child Neurology Society and member of the Executive Board of the International Child Neurology Association. He is also a member on five editorial boards, including an associate editor of the Journal of Child Neurology and the Canadian Journal of Neurosciences and a frequent guest editor of the quarterly Seminars in Pediatric Neurology.

**APPOINTMENT OF NEW DEAN OF MEDICINE AND VICE-PRINCIPAL, HEALTH AFFAIRS, MCGILL UNIVERSITY**

Dr. David Eidelman, has been named McGill’s Dean of Medicine and Vice-Principal of Health Affairs, as of January 1, 2012.

Dr. Eidelman served as Chair of the University’s Department of Medicine. A McGill graduate and a native Montrealer, Dr. Eidelman has been a leading clinician-scientist based at the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, where his work has focused on the development of important models of asthma in animals and the application of tissue culture techniques to the study of the mechanisms of respiratory disease. Currently President of the Canadian Association of Professors of Medicine, Dr. Eidelman has been an active leader in clinical medicine and research in Canada and internationally. In addition to his research and leadership skills, Dr. Eidelman brings to this position extensive knowledge of the health care system having served as Physician-in-Chief at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) since 2004 and previously as the Director of McGill’s renowned Division of Respiratory Diseases.

**THE MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL (MCH) OF The McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)**

Department of Pediatrics: Pediatric Advisor – Patient Education

Dr. Richard Haber has been named Pediatric Advisor – Patient Education at the Montreal Children’s Hospital in recognition of his support of the Public Relations and Communications Service in the area of webinars, media relations, consultation and publication editing and review. This honorary title, which is awarded for a two-year period, acknowledges Dr. Haber’s sustained and substantial contribution to promoting the hospital and helping the Montreal Children’s Hospital fulfill its mandate to provide patient education.

**MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL - PEDIATRIC TRANSITION TO ADULT CARE**

Dr. Lorraine Bell has been named Director, Pediatric Transition to Adult Care at the MCH. She will work closely with Dale MacDonald, MCH Transition Coordinator. Dr. Bell has expertise in the area of pediatric to adult transition and will help develop several programs that will enhance our transition process to adult tertiary care sites across the province of Quebec.

**THE NEW MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL**

Cutting-Edge Design makes for Cutting Edge Emergency Departments at the Glen

As the only hospital in Quebec— and one of only two in Canada— to use a linear design for its Emergency Departments (ED), the pediatric and adult EDs at the Glen Campus will be as cutting-edge as they come.

A linear or accordion design separates the flow of patients and family members from staff, allowing for a more efficient work flow, greater privacy and confidentiality, greater visibility of patients by staff, and ease of way finding. It also allows for optimal staffing because the ED can expand and contract to accommodate changing patient and staff numbers over the course of any 24-hour period. An accordion design also allows for gradual increases or decreases in the number of stretcher and exam rooms open at any given time. As Dr. Jean-Marc Troquet, Chief of the Department of Emergency Medicine, says “we’re using the opportunity to create new processes that will make us more efficient.”

The central core of the ED design is where staff works. It is an open area adjacent to the treatment rooms that
allows personnel to visually monitor patients as well as see and interact with each other and provide assistance as needed (sliding glass doors allow for clear sight lines into the treatment rooms). Since the clinical work area is separate from the patient and family zones, interdisciplinary collaboration and teaching are enhanced.

Improved functionality can be seen in the exam rooms too. According to Dr. Harley Eisman, Medical Director - Pediatric Emergency at the Montreal Children’s Hospital, the rooms are multi-purpose and supplies and equipment will be brought to the patient. “This will improve flow and allow patients to stay in one place, maximizing privacy and helping to keep the patient and their family calm.”

Improvements will go beyond exam rooms however; as Dr. Eisman explains, “we’re planning for a lot of things ahead of time. For example, the design takes pandemic and major trauma situations into consideration, it’s not an afterthought.” Indeed, should a pandemic situation occur, both Emergencies will be capable of being separated into “clean” and “dirty” zones. This zoning includes separate ventilation systems to ensure appropriate segregation during a respiratory outbreak and designated staff and patient entrances for infection control.

THE RESEARCH INSTITUTE AT THE MONTREAL CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL OF THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

Dr. Geneviève Bernard has received a grant of $25,000 from the Fondation GO in support of her project entitled “Clinical and genetic characterization of a new form of hypomyelinating leukodystrophy more common in the Quebec population.” In addition, Dr. Bernard is part of a team of investigators led by Dr. Guy Rouleau of the U. of Montréal which has recently been awarded $472, 640 by the CIHR to carry out “Exome capture in severe early onset Essential Tremor families.”

Dr. Isabelle Gagnon, together with co-principal investigator Dr. Michelle Keightley of the U. of Toronto, has received $120,000 from The Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation and the Réseau provincial de recherche en adaptation-réadaptation in support of “Understanding and measuring integrated functioning following traumatic brain injury.”

Drs. Indra Gupta and Aimee Ryan have received $100,000 from the Kidney Foundation of Canada in support of the study entitled “Claudin function in kidney development and in disease.”

Dr. Krista Hyde has received a Discovery Grant of $145,000 from the National Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada in support of the study “Auditory and motor development: insights from specialized training.”

Dr. Nada Jabado has been awarded $90,000 by the Canadian Gene Cure Foundation in support of her project “Champions of genetics: building the next generation.”

Dr. Laurent Legault, in collaboration with Principal Investigator Dr. Geoff Ball of U. of Alberta, has received $283,672 from the CIHR in support of the study entitled “Should I stay or should I go? Understanding overweight children and their families referred for and discontinuing weight management care.”

Dr. Bruce Mazer has received the Chaim Roifman Scholar Award valued at $40,000 from The Canadian Immunodeficiency Society and Talecris in support of his study entitled “Is the defect in B-cell memory in CVID associated with impaired expression of Sema 4C?”

Dr. Caroline Quach has received a grant of $1,767,078 from GlaxoSmithKline in support of her study entitled “Vaccine effectiveness of Rotarix in a naïve population.”

Dr. Michael Shevell has received additional funding of $260,000 from the Public Health Agency of Canada, to extend the Canadian Regional Cerebral Palsy Registry, to BC, southern Alberta, NS and NFLD. Dr. Maryam Oskoui is a co-investigator.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos, in collaboration with co-principal investigator Dr. Brent Richards of the Lady Davis Institute, has received $300,000 from the Consortium Québécois sur la découverte du médicament in support of “Identification de cibles thérapeutiques cruciales pour les maladies auto-immunes.”

Dr. Charles Rohlicek has received a grant of $24,000 from the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Quebec in support of the study “Cardiovascular response to acute or chronic stress at maturity following prolonged oxygen lack in early life.”

Dr. Gloria Tannenbaum has received a CFI Leading Edge grant valued at $212,147 as part of a joint venture between McGill and the U. of Montreal for the project entitled “Linking basic, clinical and population research to prevent and treat diabetes, metabolic syndrome and complications.”
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Congratulations to...

Dr. Annette Majnemer, for being awarded membership in the American Occupational Therapy Foundation Academy of Research, the highest scholarly category of this organization.

Congratulations to Trainees

Ms. Noémi Dahan and Ms. Sina Gallo, graduate students supervised respectively by Drs. Annette Majnemer and by Dr. Celia Rodd, for receiving 2011 Graduate Student Prizes of Excellence for child health research from the Foundation of Stars.

Dr. Valerie Marcil, a post-doctoral fellow in Dr. Ernest Seidman's laboratory, for receiving a 2011 Prize of Excellence for child health research in the post-doctoral fellow category from the Foundation of Stars.

IN MEMORIUM

Dr. Mary Ellen Avery passed away on December 4, 2011 in Wellesley, Massachusetts.

In the 1950s, Dr. Avery's pioneering research efforts helped lead to the discovery of the main cause of respiratory distress syndrome (RDS) in premature babies. During a long career in academic medicine, Dr. Avery had a strong interest in helping train young physicians, particularly in pulmonary disease and neonatology. She was a role model and advocate for women entering the medical profession. Over the course of her medical career, she contributed significantly to the field of medicine as a researcher, educator, clinician, and administrator.

Mary Ellen Avery was born in 1927, in Camden, New Jersey. Graduating summa cum laude from Wheaton College in 1948 with a degree in chemistry, Mary Ellen Avery went on to earn a medical degree from the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1952. Soon after graduating, she was diagnosed with tuberculosis, and it was during her recuperation that she became fascinated with the respiratory system.

Dr. Avery returned to Johns Hopkins for her internship and residency, then moved to Boston in 1957 for a research fellowship in pediatrics at Harvard Medical School. At Harvard, she made a major discovery while comparing the lungs of infants who had died of RDS to those of healthy animals. What she had found was a foamy substance that she deduced must play a critical role in pathogenesis. Dr. Avery's observation formed the basis of a breakthrough paper published in the American Journal of Diseases of Children in 1959. By 1995 there were 1,460 infant deaths a year in the U.S. from RDS, down from almost 10,000 a year twenty-five years earlier.

In 1960, Dr. Avery became an Assistant Professor of pediatrics at Johns Hopkins University and pediatrician in charge of newborn nurseries. She went on to serve as professor and chair of the department of pediatrics at McGill University and physician-in-Chief at the Montreal Children’s Hospital from 1969 to 1974. In 1974, she joined the faculty of Harvard Medical School as professor of pediatrics. That same year she was the first woman named physician-in-chief at Boston’s Children's Hospital, where she remained until 1985.

Dr. Avery’s work is recognized around the world, and she received several major awards. In 1968, she was awarded the Mead Johnson Award for Pediatric Research. In 1984, she won the Trudeau Medal from the American Lung Association. In 1991, President George Bush presented her with the National Medal of Science, in recognition of her contributions to understanding and treating RDS. The award cited Dr. Avery as one of the founders of neonatal intensive care and “a major advocate of improving access to care of all premature and sick infants.” In 1994, she was elected to the National Academy of Sciences and went on to become president of the Academy in 2003.

Our condolences go out to her family.

Dr. Helen Brickman passed away on December 25, 2011 in Vancouver.

Born in Winnipeg, Dr. Brickman came to Montreal where she married, raised her family and practiced paediatrics at the Montreal Children's, Jewish General and Royal Alexandra Hospitals.

Our condolences go out to her family.

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OUR CONDOLENCES GO OUT TO:

Dr. Sharon Abish on the loss of her mother, Mrs. Sylvia Brodkin Abish, who passed away on July 23, 2011.

Dr. Serge Melançon on the loss of his father, Mr. Hervé Melançon, who passed away on September 12, 2011.

Dr. Earl Rubin on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Helen Rubin, who passed away on October 13, 2011.
PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDA TO ATTEND THE

SPRING TOWNHALL MEETING

With the new Dean of Medicine & Vice-Principal, Health Affairs, McGill University

DR. DAVID EIDELMAN

WEDNESDAY, MAY 9TH, 2012
8:00 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.
BREAKFAST WILL BE SERVED AT 7:30 A.M.
FORBES-CUSHING AMPHITHEATER D-182

ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED