

# 2013 Annual Report for the Department of Pediatric Surgery

The Department of Pediatric Surgery is comprised of 36 surgeons with full time or near full time activities in pediatric surgical specialties working predominantly at the Montreal Children's Hospital and Shriners Hospital of McGill University. All surgeons from this department also have appointments in their corresponding disciplines (division or department) at McGill University. Of note, the McGill program directors in Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics, and Otolaryngology programs are all full time members of the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Twenty thirteen marked the second year of existence of McGill's Department of Pediatric Surgery. Our developmental activities are focusing on our upcoming move of both the Children's and Shriners Hospitals to the Glen site in the very near future.

## Research and Publications

Again this year, the Department has been busy in the bench and clinical research domains. The attached URL link ([http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/pediatricsurgery/AnnualReport\\_2013-Publications\\_Presentations.pdf](http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/pediatricsurgery/AnnualReport_2013-Publications_Presentations.pdf)) establishes that 146 peer reviewed publications, 12 book chapters, 46 posters or platform presentations at international meetings and 74 visiting professorships from members of the Department of Pediatric Surgery occurred in 2013.

This year like last year, Drs. Jean-Martin Laberge from Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Robert Koenekoop from Pediatric Ophthalmology, Dr. Reggie Hamdy from Pediatric Orthopedics, Dr. Jean Ouellet from Pediatric Orthopedics, Dr. Roman Jednak from Pediatric Urology, Dr. Sam Daniel from Pediatric Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery, were recipients of significant grants for the 2013 calendar year. Dr. Mirko Gilardino and Dr. J.P. Capolicchio also received external funding for their research activities. The estimated 2013 income from "multiyear" external grants is again 2 million. Along philanthropy lines, Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer was successful at obtaining support for neurosurgery magnetic resonance imaging research and neurodevelopmental imaging of the order of \$350,000. Our department was also instrumental in convincing Dr. Wendy MacDonald to accept to have a Pediatric Education Chair named after her. Funds for towards the creation of this chair near the 3 million mark. The future chair holder will foster education in both the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Pediatric Surgery.

Several members of the Department were key players in national and international organizations. Several members were also asked to moderate sessions and discussions at

international meetings in pediatric surgical subspecialty societies. Please consult the URL link for further clarifications.

In particular, Dr. Pramod Puligandla was elected Chair of the MUHC Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists as well as Chair of the Canadian Association of Pediatric Surgery Training Program Directors and co-director of CAPSnet in 2013. Dr. Sherif Emil was appointed McGill Clerkship Component Chair in the Faculty of Medicine in September 2013. Dr. Mirko Gilardino was appointed Chair of Competency-Based Education by the Royal College Plastic Surgery Specialty Committee in 2013.

## Teaching and Learning

As mentioned previously, five of McGill's Faculty of Medicine Program Directors are members of the Department of Pediatric Surgery (Dr. Pramod Puligandla, Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Jeffrey Atkinson, Neurosurgery, Dr. John Manoukian, Otolaryngology, Dr. Mirko Gilardino, Plastics and Dr. Thierry Benaroch, Orthopedics). Dr. Mirko Gilardino is Chair of the Competency-Based Learning Committee as appointed by the Plastic Surgery Specialty Committee of the Royal College of Surgeons of Canada in 2013. Dr. Thierry Benaroch, orthopedic program director, received the 2013 Pediatric Surgical Teacher's award from the McGill Department of Pediatric Surgery at McGill.

In 2013 Dr. Sam Daniel was appointed as Chair of the Continued Professional Development / Continued Medical Education sector of the Federation of Medical Specialists of Quebec. He also organized 4 "Masters of Science in Otolaryngology courses" and also taught in Unit 7 of the undergraduate medical curriculum. Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer also provided the Hydrocephalus lecture in the CNS course of the undergraduate medical curriculum. Dr. Emil teaches embryology to medical students. Dr. Pramod Puligandla also teaches in the Basics of Medicine and Clinical Clerkship lectures to medical students.

Drs. Daniel, Koenekoop, Hamdy, Emil, Laberge and Farmer supervise masters or graduate students. It is estimated that approximately 25 graduate students were supervised within the Department for the year 2013.

Our Pediatric Grand Rounds series was expanded to approximately 16 lectures over the academic year, a number of them with visiting professors. The 6<sup>th</sup> Annual David R. Murphy Visiting Professorship took place on March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The visiting professor was Professor Claes Lauritzen, Professor of Craniofacial Surgery (Emeritus), University of Gothenburg, Sweden. His topic was "*Craniofacial Surgery: Big Surgery Getting Smaller*". We also held a symposium on Pediatric Trauma on April 8, 2013. The Visiting Professors for this day were Dr. Michael L. Nance, Professor of Surgery, Josephine J. and John M. Templeton, Jr. Chair in

Pediatric Trauma, Department of Surgery, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and Dr. Aaron Donoghue, Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Pediatric Emergency Medicine and Pediatric Critical Care, Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The topics of their presentations were *"Imaging of the Pediatric Trauma Patient"* and *"Airway Management in Pediatric Trauma Patients"* respectively.

The Division of Pediatric Otolaryngology held a McGill International Update Conference on May 5-6, 2013. The visiting professor was Dr. Françoise Denoyelle, Professor of Otolaryngology, Armand-Trousseau Children Hospital, Paris. The topic of her presentation was *"Painful procedures in pediatric Otolaryngology - strategies to avoid general anesthesia"*.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual H. Bruce Williams Pediatric Surgical Research Day was held on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013. The visiting professor was Dr. David L. Sigalet, Chief of Surgery, Sidra Medical and Research Centre, Doha, Qatar. The topic of his presentation was *"Advances in the nutritional care of surgical infants: Something fishy is going on here!!"*. During this day, the students and trainees presented on their research work and the following trainees received first, second and third prize for their research presentations: Dr. Sofia Waissbluth (Otolaryngology - Dr. Daniel's lab) (1<sup>st</sup> prize), Drs. Mann Alkharashi (Ophthalmology – Dr. Robert Koenekoop's lab) and Asim Makhdom (Orthopedic Surgery – Dr. Reggie Hamdy's lab) (2<sup>nd</sup> prize), Dr. Abdullah Alshehri (General Surgery – Dr. Sherif Emil's lab) (3<sup>rd</sup> prize). The surgical research day was a great success.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual A.R.C. Dobell Visiting Professorship in Congenital Cardiac Surgery was held on December 9, 2013. The visiting professor was Dr. Jeffrey P. Jacobs, Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeon, All Children's Hospital and Florida Hospital for Children and Professor of Surgery, University of South Florida. The topic of his presentation was *"Outcomes, analysis and quality improvement for the treatment of patients with congenital heart disease"*.

## **Involvement in the Community**

Several surgeons continue their global health initiatives in Rwanda, Somaliland and Cameroon. The exchange program with African trainees in Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery continues with success. Dr. Robert Baird has received an innovation bursary from McGill and launched an iTunes application entitled *"My First Surgery"* on October 29, 2013. This app currently in English helps young children prepare for their first surgery. It is interactive and was well received at the press conference. He plans to get it translated into French and to develop other apps to help children prepare for other types of surgeries.

A press conference was also held in June 2013 around the publication of the high profile paper detailing the 10 to 15 year clinical outcome following selective dorsal rhizotomy in children with cerebral palsy. The McGill group treating spasticity headed by Dr. Farmer is now well recognized internationally for its technique and in particular for its outcome evaluations in the long-term. Both press conferences were very well attended.

## Milestones

In April 2013 we held our second annual retreat. The discussion was related to research initiatives within the Department. Several members involved in research exchanged on their research projects with the intent of creating a symbiosis amongst research initiatives in the Department.

All department members were subjected in 2013 to a PULSE (Physicians Universal Leadership Skills Evaluation) survey. The object of this exercise was to identify through a 360 degree evaluation process the perceived strengths and weaknesses of individual surgeons in the Department. This was followed by the Chair reviewing the PULSE survey with our professors and the establishment of start goals, stop goals and keep goals for every member of the Department. The feedback sessions were well received and appreciated by the members undergoing evaluation. Clearly, behaviours and approaches were influenced positively by the process.

The departmental promotions committee proceeded to the evaluation of a number of departmental promotion submissions. In 2013, promotions dossiers of three CAS professors and one tenured professor were submitted to the Faculty. Dr. Jean Ouellet was promoted to Associate Professor CAS (Clinical), Dr. Mirko Gilardino to Associate Professor CAS (Clinical), Dr. Mohamed El-Sherbiny to Associate Professor CAS (Clinical) and Dr. Sam Daniel's promotion to Full Professor with Tenure was initiated in 2013 and completed in early 2014.

In 2013, three individuals were in fellowship with projected returns in 2014. In July 2013, Dr. Roy Dudley, MD, PhD started a fellowship in Colorado Children's Hospital in Pediatric Neurosurgery. Dr. Melanie Duval, MD, M.Sc. started a fellowship in Pediatric Otolaryngology in Salt Lake City, Utah and Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier, M.D., M.P.H. started his fellowship in Children's Hospital of Philadelphia in October of 2013 in congenital cardiac surgery.

Within the departmental structure, a new position was created. Dr. Reggie Hamdy also currently Chair of the Promotions Committee was asked to accept the position of Associate Chair for Glen Site Development given that the new Children's Hospital and the new Shriners' Hospital will open juxtaposed and will be together the new home of the Department of Pediatric Surgery at McGill. A significant amount of time has been spent trying to orchestrate a

new relationship between the two hospitals to the benefit of the patients treated by the departmental members and of our collective academic development.

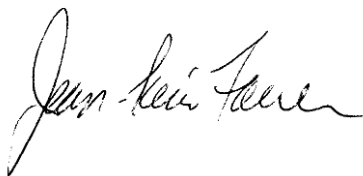
## Honours, awards and prizes

Dr. Melvin Schloss received the MCH Foundation Medical Award of Excellence on May 8, 2013. Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge received the “Prix d’humanisme du Collège des Médecins du Québec” on May 10, 2013. He also was the Faculty’s nominee in 2013 for the Principal’s Prize in Teaching, McGill’s highest teaching award. Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer received an Honorary Prize in Continued Professional Development from the Federation of Medical Specialists on November 15, 2013. This prize was awarded in recognition of the creation of a new McGill Department of Pediatric Surgery in November 2011. Dr. Mohamed El-Sherbiny received the Elsevier Certificate of Excellence in recognition of his outstanding role as a reviewer in 2013. Dr. Sam Daniel was inducted into the American Laryngological, Rhinological and Otolaryngological Society (aka The Triological Society) in April 2013. Membership in the Triological Society (founded in 1895) brings a distinction of being elected to the most prestigious society in Otolaryngology. Dr. Daniel also received in May 2013 the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada “Innovation in Professional Development” award. In May 2013, Dr. Jose Luis Montes received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists in recognition of his remarkable contribution to the development of pediatric neurosurgery at McGill.

## Closing remarks

In addition to the academic activities reported above, our group of professionals has performed over 7000 surgeries in 2013. The Department invites the reader to consult the attached URL link ([http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/pediatricsurgery/AnnualReport\\_2013-Publications\\_Presentations.pdf](http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/pediatricsurgery/AnnualReport_2013-Publications_Presentations.pdf)) to review in more depths our activities and to find out more about its individual members. This Department is vibrant as it advances relentlessly towards its new facilities, its new ways of teaching and its new ways of providing high quality care to young children with surgical ailments at the Glen site. The opening of the Children’s Hospital is scheduled for May 2015, that of the Shriners Hospital for October 2015.

Respectfully Submitted,



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