Message from the Director

Dear Friends,

Welcome to the fall 2014 edition of the Centre for Medical Education newsletter! We've enjoyed a number of warm, beautiful days since our last publication, and I hope that your summer was a good one. For some, summer means kicking back and vacationing with loved ones. For others, it is a time to maintain productivity. During this time, many of us also represented the Centre at the AMEE (Association for Medical Education in Europe) Conference in Milan, Italy. Whatever the case may be, I hope that you enjoyed the summer and are feeling ready to take on the challenges that a new academic year brings.

Much of what defines the Centre is who we are and with whom we interact. In fact, we continually benefit from collaborations between Centre Members and visitors to McGill, and I thought I would highlight some of the guests we have welcomed since last spring. In May, Dr. Lynn Monrouxe from Cardiff University, Wales, visited the Centre and presented “The Impact of Professional Culture on Becoming a Healthcare Professional—Breaking the Mould” at Medical Education Rounds. Days later, we welcomed six IMEX (International Medical Educators eXchange) scholars, from Canada, Holland, Sweden and the UK, in what was, I believe, a truly enriching experience. In June, Dr. Brian Hodges from the University of Toronto wrapped up his Advanced Seminar on Theoretical Foundations in MedEd Research with his fifth and final session for Core Faculty and MA students in the health professions. More recently, we welcomed Dr. John Dockerty from the University of Otago, New Zealand, and Dr. Amitai Oberman, from the Baruch Padeh Medical Centre, Israel. Both individuals came to McGill to learn about Physicianship and curricular renewal, and we hope that they will be able to take some of their “lessons learned” back to their own settings. Lastly, in late October, ten physicians from Gifu University in Japan will visit the Centre and the MUHC for a one-week course in clinical teaching. We look forward to a productive visit and a lively exchange of ideas.

Closer to home, the Centre recently welcomed some new faces as well, and I invite you to read through our newsletter to learn about this year’s new Centre Members, visiting professors, postgraduate fellows and elective students. Please also continue to flip through these pages for additional information on awards, upcoming events and scholarly activity at the Centre. The fall is quickly shaping up to be a busy season, and we are pleased to share our activities and achievements with you as we continue to strive for educational excellence and innovation in the health professions.

With best wishes,

Yvonne Steinert, Ph.D.
Director, Centre for Medical Education
Richard and Sylvia Cruess Chair in Medical Education
**Celebrating Success!**

Congratulations to Core Faculty Member Dr. Richard Cruess, who was promoted to Companion, the highest rank of the Order of Canada. Dr. Cruess is also an Officer of l’Ordre du Québec.

Congratulations to Centre Member Dr. Farhan Bhanji, who was named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence for 2014-2014. Dr. Bhanji is also the Director of the Postgraduate Fellowship Program.

Congratulations to Centre Member Dr. Lily Nguyen, who was selected as one of the recipients of the 2014 CAME Certificate of Merit Award. The aim of this award is to promote medical education in Canadian medical schools and to recognize and reward faculty members’ commitment to medical education. Dr. Ari Meguerditchian, from the Department of Oncology, and Dr. Kevin Schwartzman, from the Department of Medicine, are also recipients of this award.

Congratulations to all Centre Members who presented at AMEE 2014. The Centre was exceptionally well-represented!

**Announcements**

As the academic year unfolds, we are pleased to welcome a number of new faces to the Centre.


Dr. Michael Saraga has joined us for a one-year sabbatical. Dr. Saraga is a psychiatrist from the University Hospital of Lausanne, Switzerland. He is interested in developing an epistemological framework of clinical work and clinical competence. More specifically, he aims to craft a curricular model that will harness the humanities and social sciences in the service of teaching clinical activity as well as professional identity formation.

Dr. Renato Antunes, from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, joined us as a visiting fellow at the Centre for one year as of October 2014. During his fellowship, he will work on a project entitled “The impact of partnership between the national commission of medical residents and the medical specialties association of Brazil: A critical analysis of the Neurosurgery experience.” He aims to compare the differences and similarities of Brazilian and Canadian standards related to the planning, distribution and assessment of residents.

Drs. Tudor Botnaru and Martin Kuuskne have been selected as our 2014-2015 Postgraduate Fellows. Both are Emergency Medicine residents.

The Centre is also pleased to continue to host members of medical communities from around the world.

Sir Liam Donaldson, the Flanders Family Visiting Professor, will give a workshop entitled “How to find solutions to sustainable risk reduction” on October 23, 2014 at the Arnold and Blema Steinberg Medical Simulation Centre.

Dr. Tanya Horsley, Associate Director of Research at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada, will present “Will I ever be funded?... And other questions answered about the Royal College’s Educational Grants Program” at our Centre meeting on November 13, 2014.

Dr. Arno Kumagai, from the University of Michigan, will present “Teaching and transformation: Faculty development for reflective praxis” at our Centre meeting on December 4, 2014.
Paving the Future in MedEd

Interview with Matthew Tse and Andrea Kessous
By Melissa Como

We have a number of educational programs at the Centre for Medical Education. Matthew Tse, a fourth-year medical student from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, and Andrea Kessous, a first-year resident in Family Medicine from McGill, completed their MedEd electives at the Centre from August 25 to September 21, 2014.

What made you choose an elective in medical education?
MT: I thought it would be a good idea to arrange my elective in medical education to develop an insight into education research. My previous research experience had been in the basic sciences.

AK: I chose an elective in medical education in order to further the research that I had started in the field as a medical student and to learn more about different aspects of medical education at the undergraduate and postgraduate level.

What is your main interest in medical education?
MT: For me, I love teaching. I find great pleasure in taking what may have been a bewildering topic and getting it to finally make sense. I also really like the topic of assessment - the question of how you figure out whether someone has the knowledge and skills to perform as a competent, safe doctor is, for me, a very interesting one.

AK: I have two main interests in medical education. The first is admissions processes at the undergraduate level; the second is undergraduate clerkship education.

How do you see medical education playing into your future career?
MT: I really hope to spend a decent portion of my time teaching medical students in the future. The very act of being a teacher means that one is a role model, and this is a challenge I find appealing.

AK: I hope to be able to teach medical students at the undergraduate level and to contribute to undergraduate curriculum development. I would also like to continue my research in undergraduate medical admissions.

Center Member Spotlight

Interview with Dr. Michelle Elizov
By Melissa Como

Dr. Michelle Elizov is an Associate Professor of Medicine in the Department of Medicine, a member of the Faculty Development Committee of the Faculty of Medicine, and Director of the Medical Education Electives Program at the Centre.

How did you become interested in medical education?
It was actually Dr. McLeod with whom I first sat down, who encouraged me to get involved in a MedEd project. It was really interesting to me to see that there’s a whole world of people who think about what we can do to make the education process better. I’m also the daughter of two teachers, so education and how to teach and how to assess and thinking about education beyond just doing your homework was a topic of conversation at home as well.

What are your main interests in medical education?
They’ve morphed over time. Initially I was interested in postgrad education-related topics because I was program director and it was relevant to me at the time, but then seeing what was going on and how best to help colleagues and residents and students, I sort of went into the mentorship literature, and that’s probably still my main area of interest.

What would you say are the joys of medical education?
I think it has as much to do with the people I get to work with, as the topics I get to work on. It’s so important to realize that the care of our patients is tightly intertwined with the learning of our students and residents and our own learning. If we don’t focus on medical education and just how to do it better, I think that’s a disservice in the long run to our patients. So it that makes me happy to know that I’m contributing in another way, and not just through direct patient care. I also love talking to the people at the Centre and medical educators in general who are passionate about this for the same reason. We’re particularly fortunate at the Centre to be surrounded by enthusiastic, intelligent people who are generous of their time and of their expertise. It builds this community where it’s just fun to do what we do.

What would you say are the joys of the running the electives program? I guess it’s sort of tied in.
It is tied in. I think the idea of being able to help learners think about the way they learn and how to make the education in their environment better, again by having them understand how this ultimately impacts the patient, is huge. It’s nice to see how they develop their thought process but also their appreciation for medical education as a means of making things better.

Based on your experience, what advice would you have for budding medical educators, like Matthew or Andrea?
Of course I’m biased, but I think that finding a mentor that will support you in this is key. Several of my own mentors are right here at the Centre – Peter, Linda, Yvonne – and they’ve been unwavering in their support of what I do, and helpful with their guidance and advice. So I think mentorship is a big deal. I would also suggest not losing sight of why it is that you were interested in medical education in the first place. There will be so many competing interests and so many competing demands on your time, that it’s important to say, “This is still important to me. This is something that I believe will make things better” and stick with that.
Recent Publications
In Medical Education


Don’t forget!
Please send us all your recent MedEd publications to ensure their inclusion in the newsletter.
centre.meded@mcgill.ca or resource.meded@mcgill.ca

Thank you!

The McGill Centre for Medical Education
Improving medical education today for better health care professionals and scientists of tomorrow.

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