

VITAL SIGNS



THE NEWSLETTER OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE

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WORD FROM THE CHAIR

*Dr. David Eidelman, MD
Chair, Department of
Medicine*

LET'S TAKE A VICTORY LAP

We've known about it since the end of June, but it wasn't until August 20th that the Canadian Foundation for Innovation (CFI) finally announced the most important award in its history. After rigorous international peer review, the CFI granted \$99,998,343 for the redevelopment project of the Research Institute of the MUHC. This award will be matched by the Quebec government and will bring an additional \$50 million from the MUHC Foundation for a total of nearly \$250 million. Despite the stir created by the fact that the MUHC rather than the CHUM will receive the money, this is good news for the entire Montreal medical-scientific community.

As a member of the organizing committee, I had the opportunity to witness first hand the hard work and dedication of all who contributed to this success. Obviously, it is the scientists who merit the lion's share of the credit. Based on comments received directly and indirectly from the CFI, our success clearly reflects the excellence of the science we proposed. Too many helped out to list them all, but I must highlight the major contributions of some, including the following principal investigators. As you might imagine, I am particularly proud of the massive contribution by members of this department.

Centre for Innovative Medicine

Evaluation & Optimizing Health Management

Leader: Jacques Genest

Principal Users: Gerry Fried, Larry Lands, Nancy Mayo, Simon Wing

Innovation through Medical Informatics

Leader: Robyn Tamblyn

Principal Users: Alan Barkun, David Buckeridge, Alain Pinsonneault, James Hanley

Centre for Translational Biology

Prenatal and Childhood Origins of Diseases

Leader: Jacquetta Trasler

Principal Users: Eric Fombonne, Vassilios Papadopoulos, Constantin Polychronakis, Rima Rozen

Infectious Diseases & Immunity

Leader: Brian Ward

Principal Users: Marcel Behr, Ann Clarke, Danuta Radzioch, Erwin Schurr

Translational Research in Respiratory Diseases

Leader: Qutayba Hamid

Principal Users: James Martin, Bruce Mazer, Dick Menzies, Basil Petrof

Integrated Studies on Metastatic Diseases

Leader: Pnina Brodt

Principal Users: Armen Aprikian, William Foulkes, Nada Jabado, Janusz Rak

Drug Discovery and Experimental Therapeutics

Leader: Vassilios Papadopoulos

Principal Users: John Bergeron, Bertrand Jean-Claude, Stéphane Laporte, Bernard Robaire

Vivarium

Leader: Marcel Behr

Principal Users: Pnina Brodt, Qutayba Hamid, Rima Rozen, Jacquetta Trasler

Assuredly, our success also reflects the excellent leadership of the Principal, Heather Munroe-Blum, the Director General, Arthur Porter, Vice-Principal Denis Thérien and our Dean, Richard Levin. However I think it's important to highlight a few individuals who, working behind the scenes, made vital contributions. First and foremost,

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Michael Shapiro, consultant on this project from its inception. Without his ability to keep us on track and his deep knowledge of the management of large projects we would have been stuck at the starting line. Also, Nancy Fournier played a key role as liaison with the University. Her encyclopedic knowledge concerning the preparation of CFI applications was invaluable. I must also thank Rima Rozen, notably for her constant insistence on the importance of scientific excellence as the driving principle of the application. Finally, I want to underscore the remarkable role of John Bergeron, particularly his amazingly convincing presentation to the site visitors.

But when all is said and done, this success is due to two great members of our Department. The proposal was the brainchild of Emil Skamene, who authored many of its forward-looking concepts, particularly the Centre for Innovative Medicine. The early work by Dr. Skamene and his team set the stage for the arrival of Vassilios Papadopoulos, who despite being a newcomer, assembled one of the most remarkable health research teams in Canadian history. Dr. Papadopoulos's brilliant leadership, boundless energy and amazing enthusiasm inspired everyone. The results speak for themselves. Thanks to these two men and all those who worked on the application, today we celebrate an historic success, unmatched in the history of our Department, of the MUHC and of the University.

Let's savor this unprecedented triumph and take a well-deserved victory lap !

UPCOMING VISITING SPEAKERS TO GRAND ROUNDS

RVH/MGH Tuesdays at noon

Oct. 28 -- Dr. Erol Cerasi, Hebrew University, Jerusalem

Nov. 4 -- Dr. Jared Randall Curtis, Harborview Medical Center, Seattle

JGH Mondays at 12:30 PM

Oct. 6 -- Dr. Jonathan Cohen, UT Southwestern Medical Center, Dallas

Nov. 3 -- Dr. Serge Marchand, CHUS

Nov. 24 -- Dr. Tomas Ganz, UCLA



Dr. James Martin, Professor and Director of the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, is returning from a sabbatical year in Ireland and we have asked him to share a few of his thoughts with us.

A TASTE OF THE CELTIC TIGER

In September 2007 I arrived in my old alma mater, University College Cork, Ireland. I was based in a new Biosciences Institute on the rather nice campus overlooking the river Lee, far from the university hospital. More specifically I worked in the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre, comprised of a group of scientists with expertise in the health promoting properties of commensal bacteria. Commensal bacteria in the intestine (microbiota) may have substantial immunomodulatory properties that extend to tissues other than the intestine itself. Probiotics are increasing in popularity for their potential therapeutic effects in diseases such as irritable bowel syndrome and eczema and the group I worked with has a product on the shelf in the US. I explored the utility of probiotics in allergic airway disease and I studied the microflora of the airways, both areas that are receiving more interest these days.

After several decades in North America, one cannot help being struck by the growth in research activity and funding that is evident in the countries of the European Union. However the funding is often principally motivated by the potential economic spinoffs. Politicians are understandably anxious to promote a knowledge-based economy and where better to look for innovation than in universities. However, pressure to patent, license and show economic benefits is high and the lack of appreciation of the long-term nature of research by politicians is a frustration to researchers. Networking among universities is also a frequent requirement for eligibility for grants.

While in Ireland, I was sheltered from the health care system although I did give several Grand Rounds in Cork and in Galway University Hospitals. There is a malaise associated with health care in Ireland. It has a two-tier system, which is a major source of problems for patients

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and for academic medicine. It is a boon though for the enterprising physicians and surgeons for whom large revenues are the primary objective. Private medicine in university hospitals is a distraction from academic pursuits. Professors often abandon the public hospital to spend their afternoons in private clinics. There is a shortage of consultants but the cost to the system of a consultant (more than three times current Quebec levels of remuneration) seems to preclude remedying this problem. Many physicians, particularly the well-trained younger ones, would be happier to work less and have less income but a more satisfying work experience.

Of course any two-tier system advantages the elites or, at the very least, the better off persons in society. The public system is often impersonal and not responsive to patient needs. Long waiting lists for procedures and tests characterise the public system whereas the private patients have rapid, albeit expensive, access. Promises of common waiting lists for public and private have not been implemented. Almost 50% of the population have now opted for private medicine, an expression of their discontent with the public system. Lawsuits abound.



University College Cork

The delivery of health care in Ireland is also organized by myriads of bureaucrats, reminiscent of Quebec. Hospital administrators are often at loggerheads with the professionals. Rational planning is often impossible. The aim of containing costs within academic centres often leads to absurd restrictions on innovative practice, even when uniquely qualified doctors bring valuable services to the population. Overall given the money expended on the system one might have hoped for better. Hopefully Canada will not adopt a two-tier system that leads us down the same paths as the system in Ireland and indeed other countries in Europe that have similar models.

CONGRATULATIONS

We are delighted to recognize the following milestones:

JAMES MCGILL AWARDS

Dr. Louise Pilote (formerly William Dawson Scholar): Dr. Pilote's research is focused on the clinical epidemiology of cardiovascular diseases. She and her group have contributed a number of important observations in the areas of quality of life, outcomes research and health care deliveries.

Dr. Stéphane Richard (formerly William Dawson Scholar): Dr. Richard studies signal transduction, with particular attention to specialized domains in a variety of kinases.

Dr. Qutayba Hamid (renewal): Dr. Hamid is an internationally recognized authority in the field of airway inflammation, particularly as applied to allergic airways disease.

CRC TIER 2

Dr. Salman Qureshi (renewal): Dr. Qureshi uses experimental models for the genetic analysis of mammalian host defenses to determine the molecular mechanisms and impact of infectious diseases on human health.

EDWARDS PROFESSOR OF CARDIOLOGY

Dr. Allan Sniderman (renewal): Dr. Sniderman studies the role of adipose tissue as a determinant of the flux of fatty acids and develops advanced algorithms for the identification and treatment of those at elevated risk for vascular disease.

FULL PROFESSOR PROMOTION

Dr. Nancy Mayo: Dr. Mayo is internationally recognized for her work in health services and outcomes research as applied to the study of populations with chronic disease. In addition to her outstanding research, Dr. Mayo is an award winning teacher and an excellent student supervisor.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Qutayba Hamid is appointed as Scientific Director of the Meakins-Christie Laboratories as of October 1, 2008. Currently Associate Director of the Labs, Dr. Hamid was selected for this position after a highly competitive international search. Dr. Hamid is an internationally recognized authority in the field of airway inflammation, particularly as applied to allergic airways disease. He is the author of more than 350 papers; actively collaborates with most of the major pulmonary research groups around the world and is widely sought out for his expertise in airway biology.

This appointment marks the end of **Dr. Jim Martin's** term as Scientific Director. Throughout his 15 years as its leader, Dr. Martin displayed exceptional vision and leadership, greatly expanding the international influence and research scope of the Laboratories. The Department owes him a debt of gratitude for his enormous contributions to the Meakins-Christie Laboratories, the Department of Medicine, the Research Institute of the MUHC and McGill University.

Dr. Pierre Ernst has joined the Pulmonary Division in the Department of Medicine at the JGH starting July 1, 2008. An accomplished physician, Dr. Ernst is currently Professor of Medicine with an outstanding academic and research record, having authored some of the pivotal studies on asthma care, treatment and treatment side effects. His principal role at the JGH will be to start an airways centre. In addition, Dr. Ernst will take part in clinical duties with the Division, such as rounding on consult and weekend service and other academic activities within the Division.

Dr. Dev Jayaraman has taken over responsibility for the 15E CTU effective July 1, 2008. Having just returned from Harvard where he pursued advanced training in patient safety and quality, Dr. Jayaraman brings enormous energy and clinical skills to this important position.

Dr. Jayaraman's appointment marks the end of **Dr. Suzanne Morin's** long stint as CTU Director. Dr. Morin brought her clinical and educational expertise and enthusiasm to the position, setting high standards and improving all aspects of 15E functions. The Department extends its appreciation and gratitude for a job well done.

NEW CHALLENGE

We are very proud to announce that **Dr. Linda Snell** has taken on an exciting new opportunity at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada as the first Senior Clinician-Educator, CanMEDS. This appointment reflects Linda's preeminence in the field of medical education nationally and internationally. Unfortunately for the Department of Medicine, this appointment marks the end of Linda's term as Associate Physician-in-Chief and as the first Vice-Chair, Education in the Department's history.

Linda's term saw the accomplishment of a number of milestones. Under her direction we ran a number of successful department wide retreats, bringing together our members as never before. Within the MUHC, Linda revamped Grand Rounds and oversaw our implementation of televised, cross-site presentations. In her role of Vice-Chair, Education, Linda skillfully coordinated among the various clinical educational missions within the Department. Most recently, she set up and successfully ran an important and exciting peer-review of the clinical teaching units at the MUHC.

We are grateful to Linda for her outstanding contributions to the department and wish her every success in her new role.

JEWISH GENERAL HOSPITAL AWARDS

The JGH Department of Medicine Staff and Residents Year-End Party took place on June 19th, 2008. Congratulations to this year's recipients!

Dave Feder Award

Presented to the resident who practices medicine with most compassion and sensitivity, displays kindness, respect and camaraderie towards colleagues and educators and carries a positive outlook enabling him/her to enjoy a meaningful balanced life beyond his/her profession.

- **Dr. Jennifer Nguyen**

Sheldon Zelman Memorial Award

For academic excellence and outstanding contribution to patient care.

- **Dr. Nathaniel Bouganim**

Dr. Allen Spanier Internal Medicine Award

To the resident who exhibits an enduring passion for the practice of medicine through the enjoyment of solving the challenges of patient care and sharing the solutions with others, while maintaining a high level of professionalism, which best embodies the unique legacy of Dr. Allen Spanier.

- **Dr. Jed Lipos**

Teacher of the Year voted by the residents

- **Dr. Mark Miller**

In 2007, the JGH Department of Medicine has instituted a Clinical Research Award Program aimed at compensating, in part, GFT-H members of the Department involved in clinical research activities. The 2007 recipients, **Dr. Andre Dascal**, **Dr. Chris Greenaway**, **Dr. Andy Szilagyi** and **Dr. Vicky Tagalakis**, were renewed for an additional year in light of their productivity in their fields. The 2008 recipients of this award are **Dr. Sarit Assouline**, **Dr. Murray Baron** and **Dr. Morris Schweitzer**.

The JGH Department of Medicine has also created a new Teaching Improvement Award to continue to upgrade the quality of teaching at the JGH. **Dr. Leora Berkson** is the first recipient of this award. She just completed a sabbatical studying Knowledge Translation at the University of Ottawa with Dr. Jeremy Grimshaw.

Dr. Manish Khanna has been awarded the 2007-2008 Teacher of the Year for the Dermatology Division.

Dr. Nathaniel Bouganim is the recipient of the Medical Resident Research Award.

Dr. Oriana Yu won the McGill Resident Research Night Award.



RECRUITMENTS



It is a pleasure to announce the recruitment of **Dr. Beth-Ann Cummings** to the Division of Internal Medicine. Dr. Cummings trained in Internal Medicine at McGill University and is now completing her Masters in Medical Education. She has now joined the staff at the JGH and will pursue her interests in medical education and pre-operative medicine. Dr. Cummings has a special interest in undergraduate education and will be involved in research in education while completing her Masters. She will also develop a special pre-operative consultation service.

It is with pleasure that we announce the arrival of **Dr. Thérèse El Helou** to the Division of Dermatology. Dr. El Helou did her residency training at the American University of Beirut Medical Center, a one-year fellowship in dermatopathology at Boston University School of Medicine and a final year of training at the MUHC. Primarily based at the MGH, Dr. El Helou will be active in clinical dermatology at both adult sites and at the MCH, as well as joining the nucleus of dermatologists who provide consultation services to Rouyn-Noranda.



We are delighted to announce the recruitment of **Dr. Marta Kaminska** to the Respiratory Division. Dr. Kaminska trained in Internal Medicine and Respiratory Medicine at McGill University and then completed a fellowship in Sleep Medicine at the *Université de Montréal*. She has now joined the staff of the MUHC and will join the Sleep Group at the RVH site, reflecting her focus on Sleep Medicine. In her first two years, Dr. Kaminska will continue research training, completing a Masters in Epidemiology to develop further expertise in the relationship between neuromuscular disease and sleep disordered breathing.

We are pleased to announce the arrival of **Dr. Maia Kokoeva** to the Fraser Laboratories of the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism. Dr. Kokoeva comes to us from a postdoctoral fellowship in the lab of Dr. Jeff Flier, currently Dean of Harvard Medical School, where she did outstanding work describing neurogenesis in the hypothalamus leading to remodeling of the hypothalamic control of appetite and body weight. She will be continuing and extending her work in this area of CNS regulation of energy balance.



We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Dr. Matthew Oughton** to the JGH Department of Medicine, Division of Infectious Diseases and the Department of Diagnostic Medicine, Division of Clinical Microbiology. Dr. Oughton attended medical school at the University of Manitoba and then completed residencies in Internal Medicine, Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology in both Toronto and Montreal. He is the recipient of the CIHR/AMMI/CFID/Bayer Healthcare - Research Fellowship with which he undertook research in *C. difficile* genomics. Currently, his research interest is comparative genomics of *C. difficile* as a means to assess genetic diversity between strains for this increasingly important nosocomial pathogen.

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We are happy to announce that **Dr. Brent Richards** has joined the Division of Endocrinology at JGH. After undergraduate studies in Human Genetics at McGill, Dr. Richards studied medicine at the University of Calgary and undertook his residency in Internal Medicine at the MGH and a Masters degree in Epidemiology and Biostatistics at McGill. This post-graduate training was completed during his sub-specialty training in Endocrinology and Metabolism at McGill University. Dr. Richards carried out post-doctoral research with Drs. David Goltzman and Lawrence Joseph, which led to several high-impact publications in the field of osteoporosis and at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals in London, UK in genetic epidemiology. His research vision is to perform gene finding for common, complex and heritable diseases through genome-wide association studies.

It is with pleasure that we announce the arrival of **Dr. Constantine (Dean) Soulellis** to the Division of Gastroenterology. Dr. Soulellis received his MDCM from McGill in 2002 and did his Internal Medicine training at the JGH, followed by a fellowship in Gastroenterology from 2005 to 2007. Over the past year, he has completed his extra training in the field of pancreaticobiliary and high-risk therapeutics at the MGH. His current research interests include balloon enteroscopy and Barrett's esophagus. Dr. Soulellis will play an integral role in the initiation of a program at the MUHC to diagnose and treat small intestinal lesions. He will be based at the MGH.



It is a pleasure to announce the arrival of **Dr. Doreen Wan-Chow-Wah** to the Division of Geriatric Medicine. Dr. Wan-Chow-Wah trained at McGill University for both her undergraduate and post-graduate years. She did her Internal Medicine residency at the RVH and was the Chief Medical Resident in 2004-05. She recently completed a fellowship at the JGH in the emerging field of Geriatric Oncology and will continue to develop this new subspecialty at the JGH and eventually at the MUHC. Her on-going research interests are focussed on the integrated care of older adults with cancer.

We are pleased to announce that **Dr. Sven Wassmann** has joined the Cardiology Division at the JGH. Dr. Wassmann is an accomplished cardiologist, formerly Associate Professor at the University of Bonn, Germany, where he directed the cardiac catheterization laboratory of the *Medizinische Klinik II* and was group leader of the Vascular Biology Research Unit. His research has centered on atherosclerosis and endothelial function. He will continue the work he pioneered in Germany in his laboratory at the JGH and will significantly enhance vascular biology research within McGill.



HONOURS



Congratulations to **Dr. Mark Wainberg**, Professor in our Division of Allergy and Immunology

and Director of the McGill AIDS Centre at LDI-JGH, who has been named Chevalier of France's [*Légion d'honneur*](#). The world-renowned order, established by Napoléon Bonaparte in 1802, is the highest decoration in France. A tireless HIV/AIDS researcher and activist, Dr. Wainberg has dedicated his career to meeting with scientists, world leaders, industrialists and celebrities in a quest to raise awareness and shape policies geared toward slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS and eradicating the condition.



The [Endocrine Society](#) has selected **Dr. David Goltzman** to receive the 2009 Gerald D. Aurbach Award

Lecture, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to research in endocrinology and many years of scientific leadership. Dr. Goltzman was the Director of the McGill University Department of Medicine and the RVH/MUHC Physician-in-Chief of our Department from 1994 to 2004 and is currently the Director of the Calcium Laboratory at the RVH and Professor of Medicine. Congratulations to Dr. Goltzman on this well deserved award.



Congratulations to **Dr. Vassilios Papadopoulos**, Professor of Medicine, Director of the MUHC RI and Associate Executive Director of

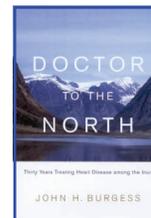
Research for MUHC, who has been recognized by his peers and elected a Member of the prestigious [Académie Nationale de Médecine de France](#), an independent academy founded by Louis XVIII's physician in 1820. This recognition is a testament to the international respect that Dr. Papadopoulos has earned in his field.



Congratulations to **Dr. Jean Bourbeau**, Associate Professor in the Respiratory Division, who has been appointed to the [Global Initiative](#)

[for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease](#) (GOLD) Executive Committee. The GOLD works with health care professionals and public health officials around the world to raise awareness of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and to improve prevention and treatment of this lung disease. Dr. Bourbeau is the first Canadian member to be nominated on the GOLD Executive Committee.

Congratulations to **Dr. John H. Burgess** for the publication of his book. In ***Doctor to the North***, he chronicles his



remarkable experiences as a cardiologist and consultant to the Inuit, services for which he was awarded the Order of Canada. Dr. Burgess is an Emeritus cardiologist at the MUHC, Professor of Medicine at McGill University, past-president of the RCPSC and author of numerous research and review articles in medical journals. [Please click here for more information.](#)



Congratulations to **Dr. Colin Chalk**, Associate Professor, who has been granted the Dr. Joseph Mikhael CAIR Award for Medical Education.

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to medical education in Canada.



Congratulations to **Dr. David Eidelman**, who has been elected a Fellow of the [American College of Physicians](#) (ACP). The

distinction recognizes his important achievements in internal medicine. Dr. Eidelman was elected upon the recommendation of peers and the review of ACP's Credentials Subcommittee.

IN MEMORIAM

By Dr. David Eidelman and Dr. Simon Wing



Quietly at home, surrounded by his family, **Dr. Leslie Kovacs**, Associate Professor of Medicine, passed away on July 23, 2008 after a long illness.

Dr. Kovacs served the Division of Endocrinology and Metabolism at the RVH and the MUHC for over 50 years and was instrumental in establishing

the Metabolic Day Centre (MDC), the first outpatient facility for management of diabetes in Canada. Dr. Kovacs was an examiner for Internal Medicine for the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and an elected representative for Internal Medicine to the *Fédération des Médecins Spécialistes du Québec*. He co-authored a significant textbook on Diabetes.

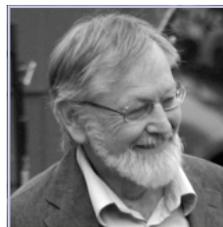
Dr. Kovacs was best known within the Department as Chairman of the RVH Department of Medicine Association of Physicians from its foundation. He was also the first chairman of its successor, the MUHC Department of Medicine Association of Physicians. In all, Dr. Kovacs helped to run the business affairs of the Department for more than 36 years. He approached this task with exceptional dedication and enjoyed the complete trust of his colleagues and the respect and admiration of the several Physicians-in-Chief that he served.

A tireless, respected internist and endocrinologist, he was a mentor to generations of physicians. His clinical care, teaching and administrative contributions were carried out with a quiet excellence that reflected a very dignified modesty that was attractive to all who came in contact with him. He was loved by his patients, his colleagues and staff for his skill, his kindness and his compassion. Although very modest, he was a leading member of our Department who distinguished himself by his quiet efficiency, his old world grace and his sense of humor. Dr. Kovacs continued to work at his office and in the MDC until just before he died, handling his illness with exemplary Oslerian equanimity. He will be sorely missed.

He was a loving husband of 60 years to Dr. Agnes Bimbi-Kovacs and an adoring father of Dr. Tom, Kathy, Dr. Julie, and Dr. Susie.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, October 10th at 3 PM in the Timmins Amphitheatre at the MNI. Donations are accepted in his name through the Division of Endocrinology, Royal Victoria Hospital Foundation, 514 843-1543, 687 Pine avenue West, Montreal, H3A 1A1. Donations will be used towards an improvement in the Metabolic Day Centre that will serve as a lasting tribute to Dr. Kovacs.

By Dr. David Blank and Dr. Jan Schulz



Dr. Peter Cernacek, Associate Professor in the Division of Clinical Biochemistry and based at the RVH, passed away after a brief illness on June 12, 2008 in the prime of his accomplished academic career.

Originally from Slovakia, Peter joined the division of Clinical Biochemistry in June 1984 after a short stay in the University of Sherbrooke's Department of Physiology and Pharmacology.

His unremitting passion for scientific research emerged while he was a young medical student in Bratislava. Peter's main investigative interests were in the field of vasoactive peptides where he focused on endothelins and atrial natriuretic peptides. His research was well recognized by the Medical Research Council of Canada (MRC) and later by the CIHR. Authoring a number of important articles on renal and cardiac pathophysiology and more recently on endothelins, Peter's work is widely cited in the literature. His lifelong commitment to research and his meticulous, innovative approach to all analysis, be it social, philosophical or clinical, was invaluable in his work as a member of the ethics committee at the RVH. Alongside his extensive research program, he contributed actively to the day-to-day operation of the clinical laboratory where his humour and kindness will be sorely missed.

Peter was devoted to medical education. For a number of years, up to his passing, he was a member of the executive of the Quebec Association of Medical Biochemists (AMBQ) responsible for postgraduate education. Students will remember him for his compassion, patience and wit. Peter organized postgraduate activities at McGill University for the Medical Biochemistry program, was a member of the McGill Medical Biochemistry Resident Training program committee as well as a member of the admission committee of the Medical Biochemistry Programme-Reseau in Quebec for 10 years.

He was a connoisseur of music, a lover of opera. He was a voracious reader, a wonderful *raconteur* and author of masterful limericks to which he treated his friends on their birthdays. He is survived by his wife Zora, two daughters Dana and Katarina and four grandchildren.

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