

Dear colleagues,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgment was suggested by Catherine Henin and goes to Hema Patel.

Hema Patel has recently chaired a multidisciplinary task force entitled Hospital @ Home. This task force jointly mandated by the MCH and HSJ has addressed the issue of mobilizing resources for complex care needs children to enable them to remain in the best environment possible; their family home. This task force recently presented its efforts to the MSSS's Table Mere-Enfant. The presentation was extremely well received and it appears that governmental action will be taken shortly to put in place the task force's major recommendations.

Hema's efforts in this regard is but a natural extension of her long standing commitment to children with complex care needs through her involvement and leadership of our Intensive Ambulatory Care Service. Hema builds on her previous success in advocacy as through her efforts a province wide newborn hearing screening protocol now exists. This protocol has enabled children with hearing loss to be detected early, so that effective remediation can be implemented as soon as possible, thus preserving potential language skills.

It is extremely gratifying for the Department to witness an individual's clinical expertise be translated through effective advocacy into policy changes that make a difference in health care for children well beyond our direct service sector. Hema's efforts and success in child health advocacy should be an example and inspiration to us all.

Have a great weekend everyone.

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