

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgments, the last for 2011, are motivated by the season.

The first goes to too many to name individually. Specifically I am referring to those among us who give up time with family and friends this season to do a shift in the ER, attend on the wards/NICU/PICU or cover on call a subspecialty. It's a potent reminder that we are there for the community we serve 24/7. While this may be the time for holiday cheer, it may also be the time that RSV make a child's breathing difficult, a mutation in the SCN1A gene may cause seizures to occur, or a baby expected in March next year is born over the holiday season. We need to be there for these children and their families and the simple truth is we are.

The second Departmental Acknowledgement goes to my predecessor Harvey Guyda. It's not for Harvey's tireless dedication to the hospital as a long serving pediatric Chair and now current AED, but rather for what I know he will be doing on December 25th. Once again, for yet another XMAS Day, Harvey will don his Santa outfit (I think he really likes the wig) and spend a good part of the day delivering toys to kids who find themselves in hospital. Needless to say it brings a smile to the kids and their families and is an important part of the healing process.

Let me close by wishing everyone on behalf of myself. My family and the Office of the Chair all the best for the holidays and the New Year.

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PS: These Acknowledgements will resume the week of January 9th.