

Hi Everyone

My Inbox started to become flooded with suggestions for this week's first set of Departmental Acknowledgements around 1 AM on Sunday morning (Sasha Dubrovsky was first). It's hard to resist a tsunami of support, so the obvious nod will go to the Department's "Dancing Docs" Preetha Krishnamoorthy and Nadine Korah. Preetha performed a Bollywood themed cha-cha and Nadine a Brazilian samba at last week's MUHC Dancing with the Docs fundraiser. They excelled at their dances and finished one-two in a field of ten bringing glory both to themselves and pediatrics. They also helped to raise over \$200,000 for the MUHC Best Care for Life Campaign that is helping to fund the construction at the Glen Site at which the new MCH will be located. Preetha's day job is Director of our highly rated UGME program (she is also a pediatric endocrinologist and mother of two), while Nadine is currently one of our Chief Pediatric residents. Nadine will be off for fellowship training next year at the HSC in both quality assurance and complex pediatric care. They are both passionate about everything they do and they obviously brought this passion to their dancing. To quote Martha Graham; "every dance is a kind of fever chart, a graph of the heart". Nice to see an apt medical metaphor that captures the allure and primal essence of this art form. Not only am I delighted by Preetha's and Nadine's success, I am equally delighted by the outpouring of communal pride in their accomplishment that reinforces the vitality that is our community of professionals.

I would also like to give a Departmental Acknowledgement to the Department's Associate Chair for Education and the Faculty's Assistant Dean for Admissions, Saleem Razack. This Acknowledgement is for Saleem being chosen the recipient of this year's May Cohen Award from the Association of Faculties of Medicine of Canada. This national award is given to an individual for efforts and contributions within medical education to issues related to equity, diversity, and gender. This award is so well deserved as evident by even a cursory consideration of Saleem's considerable track record. He has taught a fourth year student selective course in "Race, ethnicity, culture, and health"; he was one of the founders of a curriculum and rotation that exposes pediatric residents to the social determinants of health; he has a SSHRC operating grant that evaluates the admissions process with respect to concepts that include "equity" and "diversity"; and he has 'walked the walk' as Assistant Dean of Admissions to expand the medical school's pool of applicants and eventual diversity. It is important for all of us to realize that medicine has not always been a welcoming profession to those who are "different" and indeed battles for access have been fought with respect to matters of religion, race, ethnicity, gender, and sexual orientation. Of course these battles have been won only through the efforts of individuals like Saleem and needless to say they have made the profession more responsive to the challenges of the population it purports to serve. Saleem will receive his award in April at the 2012 Canadian Conference on Medical Education. Please join me in congratulating Saleem on this terrific accomplishment.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael

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