

Hi Everyone

The first Departmental Acknowledgement this week stems from a personal experience I had last week and goes to my colleague in pediatric neurology Genevieve Bernard. Genevieve is a new full-time member of our Departmental Staff. She is both a superb clinician and teacher who is embarking on a clinical research career that will focus on the challenges of pediatric movement disorders and leukodystrophies. The acknowledgement is given for her being the driving force behind a wonderful learning experience that I hope can be emulated by other Divisions within the Department. Genevieve put forward the notion that the staff members of the Division of Pediatric Neurology should get together for a dinner after work every two months. After socializing over dinner and catching up on our busy lives, we went around the table and each staff member brought up 5 new facts from their respective sub-specialty areas. These facts included clinical pearls, diagnostic aids, further understandings regarding pathogenesis, and novel therapeutic efforts. It was an environment so conducive to sharing that it made learning both fun and easy. I was so impressed that I am willing to offer a \$100 dinner subsidy (\$200 for MER and General Peds since they have so many members) to any Division that engages in a similar effort in the next 3 months. I am hoping that all 16 Divisions that I am responsible for take up this offer and that such learning events become a regular feature of their Divisional life.

The second acknowledgement was suggested by Gus O'Gorman, Rick Haber, and Gerald Ahronheim amongst many others and goes to John "Chico" Kiteala who passed away on January 16th. Chico (BTW the origins of the nickname appears to be shrouded in the mists of history) was a McGill/MCH physician and pediatrician through and through. He was among the last of the solo community-based practitioners with a longstanding practice in the Cote des Neiges area. He was a loquacious, engaging man with a broad and hearty sense of humor. He was a devoted pediatrician, able to ignore a crowded waiting room and spend the time necessary with a child and family. He was particularly fond of music in many different styles (including opera, bluegrass, and folk) and was also an accomplished musician himself on the banjo, piano, and harmonica. I have also been told that he was also somewhat of a pool (billiards) shark regularly engaging in a weekly pool game which included another one of our community pediatricians Sam Quansah. Chico also much enjoyed his time spent at his country place in the Lachute region. Chico leaves behind his wife Ellen, to whom he was married for 51 years and his children Lori, Janet and Brian as well as 6 grandchildren. Our sympathies go to his family and friends on their loss.

Let's hope next week brings some better news to share.

Have a great weekend

Michael

Michael Shevell, MD CM, FRCPC, FAAN, FANA
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor (with Tenure)
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery
McGill University

Pediatrician-in-Chief
Montreal Children's Hospital
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)