

Hi Everyone,

The first Departmental Acknowledgement this week was suggested by Sam Shemie and reflects the vital fact that in 21st century tertiary and quaternary care pediatric medicine no one can do what they do alone. Over the past three to four weeks our PICU based ECMO (extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation) team has provided continuous care to two infants; one a newborn with an AV canal cardiac defect complicated by septic shock and the other with severe pulmonary hypertension and right ventricular failure. In ECMO, blood is continuously diverted to a machine that then oxygenates it before returning the blood to the body for re-circulation to vital organs. It is a lifesaving measure that enables survival until such time that the individual's lungs do recover. It is an amazing piece of technology to witness in action and without it the child dies. With it, there is a hope for survival, though as a neurologist I can't ignore the possible risk of later neurological sequelae. In one case, the ECMO was initiated remarkably when the child suffered an unexpected asystolic cardiac arrest while in the PICU. Typically, there is a period of deterioration that enables ECMO's use to be anticipated. Listed below are the members of our MCH ECMO team who participate in this program and includes PICU attendings, fellows, nurses and cannulating surgeons. That we can do two at one time and one on an emergent basis is a testimony to the skills and dedication of the ECMO team. I have said it before, and no doubt I will say it many times in my term as Chair, somewhere in this Department every day we really do miracles.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji
Dr. Ronald Gottesman
Dr. Pramod Puligandla
Dr. Sam Shemie
Dr. Samara Zavalkoff

Dr. Salman Al-Shammari
Dr. Allon Beck
Dr. Tanya Di Genova
Dr. Yasser Kazzaz
Dr. Karen Trudel

Dr. Christo Tchervenkov
Dr. Sherif Emil
Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge

Stacey Broome
Christos Calaritis
Janique Collin
Eric De Connick
Bernard Groleau
Tanya Leblanc
Marisa Leone
Linda Massé
Cherine McCrory
Suzanne Ouimet
Jennifer Piette
Yousef Rizeq
Lori Seller

The second Departmental Acknowledgement goes to one of our unsung heroes. George Mandich is a community based pediatrician who has been doing social pediatrics with his practices in Ville Ste Pierre and Pointe St Charles long before the term was invented. If that wasn't enough for recognition, George has for many years carried the torch as the Departmental representative on the MUHC wide efforts to

move toward an electronic medical record. He has vigorously served as the bridge between the end users of medical information (that's us) and the folks managing the informatics side. There have been numerous meetings and communications and it appears that there is indeed a light at the end of the tunnel (hopefully it's not an oncoming train). That any progress has been made and that there will be an end result that can make a difference in health care (the only metric that really matters) is a tribute to the hard work of George.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael

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