

Hi Everyone!

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement is prompted by a visit I took earlier this week and is given to the attending staff based at the RVH NICU-Daniel Faucher, Nabeel Ali, Romain Mandel, Brahim Bensouda and Alexandre Barbier.

In Daniel's absence, Nabeel took the time to give me both a tour and more importantly an overview of the activities of this group. I was impressed by both the quantity and dedication to UGME teaching together with high work demands when on service. This is a 22-23 bed unit that often features between 10-12 ventilated infants at any one time. During the work day (which is a 24-hour one), there are frequent calls on an urgent basis (average of about 8) to the case room to attend to an infant in distress. Plus there is a large volume of antenatal cases. Housestaff coverage often necessitates in-house call by the neonatologists especially in the first half of the academic year to provide adequate supervision. In response to the high volumes, the unit has developed excellent mechanisms to transfer children to Level II NICUs outside the university hospital network once they no longer need Level III care. No doubt Daniel and his team would want me to acknowledge the contribution of Neonatal Nurse Practitioners to providing first call coverage multiple times in any one month, which is supported by necessity in part by the PMG partnership and the coverage provided during the year by 9C based neonatologists, including Louis Beaumier, Richard Gosselin, Pia Wintermark, Guilherme Sant'Anna and Thérèse Perreault.

While at the RVH, I also met with Denis Querleu, the new Chair of Ob/Gyn at McGill and Robert Gagnon who heads up Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM). Together we agreed to work closely together in the move to the Glen. At the Glen, there will be a 52 bed NICU and 3000 annual deliveries of which the expectation is that 60% may be high risk. These facts together with an expanding MFM effort at the MUHC suggests that all our services will be challenged in the future by an increasing emphasis on attending to neonatal disorders in their domain as well as a shift in pediatric diagnosis to an antenatal focus. We need to be aware of this and collectively plan for this exciting opportunity.

Have a great weekend!

Michael