Hi Everyone,

Like last week, this week's Departmental Acknowledgment goes to an individual recently featured, however the occasion is too important to ignore.

Nada Jabado is this year's recipient of the Faculty of Medicine's Maude Abbott Prize. This Prize, established in 2010 is given annually to women faculty members who excel in education, research or administration with a focus on those at the early stages of their careers.

The Prize is named in honor of Maude Abbott who was among the "Donaldas" as the first women graduates of McGill University were known. Born and raised in the Eastern Townships, she was a cousin of Canada's third Prime Minister John Abbott. She received her Bachelor's degree in Arts in 1890, but was refused admission to McGill's Faculty of Medicine. She thus went to Bishop's College in Lennoxville, where she completed her medical degree in 1894. She followed this with extensive post-graduate work in a number of leading European centers. She returned to Montreal and undertook leadership of McGill's Pathological Museum. She re-configured the Museum's activity to become an important educational resource and site of research activity. She also spent some time with Osler while he was at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore. Abbott's career focused on congenital heart disease and she contributed the chapter on this topic to Osler's 1905 masterpiece System of Medicine. In 1935 she completed her own classic entitled "The Atlas of Congenital Cardiac Disease". Abbott was among the first inductees into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame.

Like Maude Abbott, Nada is a pioneer. Like Maude Abbott, she has devoted her career efforts both at the bedside and the bench to improving the survival of a group of children with a predominantly fatal disorder. While Maude Abbott chose congenital heart disease, Nada works on pediatric astrocytomas. Nada has revolutionized our basic understanding of this disorder making seminal discoveries of its underlying basic biology and genetics. Her discoveries (published in Nature) have recently helped clinicians to potentially understand the basis for tumor resistance suggesting new pathways in treatment. She has assumed a leadership role in national and international organizations that bring together interested clinicians and researchers to improve care. She has an enviable track record of success in all aspects of academia and is a well-recognized teacher whose students have already won their own prestigious awards. She also serves as a role model for young women embarking on a career in academic medicine. Please join me in congratulating Nada on this remarkable personal accomplishment.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael Shevell