

Hi Everyone

At the Montreal Children's Hospital and within the Department of Pediatrics we are fortunate to have several "living legends" whose careers and personalities have had a remarkable and lasting impact on child health. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to one such individual; Alice Chan-Yip.

Alice will be retiring from clinical practice at the beginning of May and will no longer be seeing patients in the Multiculturalism Clinic, the Residents' Continuity Clinic or the Emergency Room. A longstanding community-based physician, Alice's association with the MCH and McGill began with her residency training in 1963. Following a research fellowship in pediatric metabolism, she formally joined the Department of Pediatrics in 1971. She also established a vibrant pediatrics practice within Montreal's Chinese community that was a vital link for children and families in this community to access quality and comprehensible health care. Alice was an advocate for 'culturally sensitive' and 'family-centred' care long before these became buzzwords. Not only did she do the "talk", she also did the "walk" and she was instrumental in the hospital's development of a truly pioneering Multicultural Program in 1986 with other progressive forward thinkers who dared to dream and ask the question; "why not?". This has evolved to become our Sociocultural and Interpretation Multicultural Service and the Multiculturalism Clinic. The fruits of this labour can be seen by sitting in the OPD, ER or wards' waiting areas on any given day and listening to the diversity of languages spoken and seeing the ethnic and national diversity of the children and families that come by choice to seek care at our institution.

For this, Alice was recognized at a national level receiving the Order of Canada in 2010. The Governor-General's citation says it best; "For her contributions to the provision of health care in Montreal as a pediatrician, medical educator, and volunteer, and notably for her innovations in treating immigrants".

Alice is also a remarkably generous individual. At the Faculty of Medicine, she has established; 1) an International and Multicultural Prize for a selected medical student, 2) a Psychosocial and Integrative Medicine Scholarship, and 3) a Multiculturalism Endowment at the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy. At the MCH, she has recently endowed an annual lectureship on Psychosocial Medicine. Her philanthropic generosity is a model for each of us to consider.

Alice will continue to give occasional lectures on the topics that she knows best and are dear to her heart to future medical students and residents who will so greatly benefit from her practical wisdom. And for this we are grateful.

Please join me in wishing Alice a retirement that is healthy, joyous and fulfilling for her.

Have a great weekend

Michael