

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement also goes to a familiar name and indeed some readers may feel like they have heard this tune before.

Saleem Razack gets the nod for his being selected as one of the Faculty of Medicine's inaugural laureates for the Haile T. Debas Prize. This prize seeks to promote diversity at all levels in the Faculty and is given to a faculty member who promotes diversity by acting as a role model, mentoring, or implementing new policies that seek to increase the participation of under-represented minorities in undergraduate or postgraduate training, faculty recruitment, retention or promotion. Clearly Saleem has done all of these good things in his career.

The Prize is named in honour of a remarkable graduate of McGill. Haile Debas was originally from Eritrea in the horn of Africa and received his MDCM from McGill in 1963. He went on to become a surgeon and after faculty stints at UBC, UCLA and the University of Washington, he became Chair of Surgery at UCSF. He then became Dean of UCSF's Faculty of Medicine in 1993 and eventually served as the university's seventh Chancellor. Amidst all this, he was the founding Director of UCSF Global Health Services and a member of UN Commissions on HIV/AIDS and Governance in Africa. A truly substantial record of accomplishment for any individual.

Saleem is a former PGME (residency) training director for the Department of Pediatrics. He is also the Department's Associate Chair for Education and an Assistant Dean in the Faculty for Admissions. He has been instrumental with others in creating a curriculum and opportunities for pediatric residents to learn and be exposed to social determinants that relate to child health. He teaches fourth year medical students on race, ethnicity and culture and its relationship to health and health care. He has also worked hard to formulate the medical school's admissions process and policies to expand its potential pool of applicants so that the accepted class better reflect the diversity of the population at large. If all of this wasn't enough, Saleem holds a SSHRC operating grant that critically and systematically evaluates aspects of the admissions process that relate to equity and diversity.

Please join me in congratulating Saleem on this personal accomplishment. I know Saleem well enough that he would immediately give credit to the nurturing and support he has received from our Departmental and hospital communities.

Have a great weekend.

Michael

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