

Hi Everyone!

Some weeks the choice for the Departmental Acknowledgement is an obvious one and such is the case for this week and next. The reasons for this is that two "living legends" of the Department are officially transitioning to retirement. Politeness necessitates that ladies go first so this week the Acknowledgement goes to Wendy MacDonald.

Its hard to believe but Wendy will be retiring from all her activities at the MCH and within the Department after a remarkable career of more than 35 years here. Wendy is synonymous with undergraduate medical education in pediatrics at McGill and for almost 4 decades she has poured her heart and soul into this effort. Long before medical education was a topic for discussion and serious consideration, Wendy fashioned a curriculum and evaluation standards that provided every medical graduate at McGill a core clerkship experience that gave them the basics in child health no matter what eventual career path in medicine they chose to pursue.

However it is more than just the basics, as for many of us this experience fashioned by Wendy was a key reason why we chose pediatrics or one of its sub-specialities. For a long time now McGill grads have disproportionately chosen pediatrics and any analysis would give Wendy the credit for this.

Her excellence in teaching is renowned as exemplified by her receipt of no less than 4 Osler Awards from the graduating class. This award is given to the Faculty member recognized by the class as their best teacher in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Her multiple Osler Awards are without peer at McGill. No less than her local recognition are her national awards in this field.

Within the Faculty, Wendy has always been appreciated for her lack of pretention and straight forward pragmatic approach to all issues. Her advice was constantly being sought out and frequently when there was a difficult task to undertake, the Faculty would turn to Wendy knowing that the job would get done fairly and efficiently with a minimum of fuss.

Wendy told me that she knew it was time to retire when both the Chair of Pediatrics and the Dean of the Faculty were former students of hers. Like all truly great leaders she knew that she would have to turn things over at some point and she identified and groomed her successor Preetha Krishnamoorthy and for this we are grateful.

Despite several attempts by myself, Wendy has refused that the Department undertake any formal recognition of this personal transition. This is in keeping with her personal modesty and her wish will be respected unless she changes her mind.

Please join me in wishing Wendy a retirement that is one of health and the pursuit and enjoyment of the things in life that matter to her. If you wish please take the time to email your best wishes personally to her.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael