

Hi Everyone

After noting the retirement of two "living legends" of the Department and giving last week's Departmental Acknowledgement to Wendy MacDonald, it's no secret that this week's nod will go to Harvey Guyda. Harvey officially retired from his position as AED of the MCH on September 30th.

Harvey spent over 40 years at the Montreal Children's Hospital in the Department of Pediatrics. Undergraduate and medical training was undertaken in his home province of Manitoba. Pediatrics training was at the Winnipeg Children's Hospital and post-doctoral training in pediatrics endocrinology at Johns Hopkins, the leading centre for this then emerging sub-specialty. Harvey joined our staff as a clinician scientist in 1971 and never left. He had an extra-ordinary career as a researcher, consistently securing external operating grants and becoming an internationally renowned expert on both the physiology of growth hormone and the endocrinologic control of fetal growth.

Harvey's leadership skills were evident early and he had a lengthy term as Director of the Division of Endocrinology before his appointment as Chair of the Department of Pediatrics and Physician-in-Chief of the Montreal Children's Hospital in 1996, positions he held until December 2010. It goes without saying that during this lengthy tenure as Chair, Harvey recruited many amongst us and fashioned much of the current Department. In 2007, at a very difficult time in our institution's history, Harvey stepped into the breach to assume a second full-time role as Associate Executive Director of the MCH with a responsibility for the Pediatric Mission within the MUHC. Over the past 5 years, Harvey has been instrumental in the planning of the new Children's on the Glen Site and securing our position within Quebec. He did two full time jobs at a time in their lives when most men have retired to golf games and sundowners. He did so with energy and gusto and indeed remarkably at times during which physical ailments gave him much personal pain.

As much as he was a giant on the local scene, Harvey frequently held leadership positions in provincial and national organizations. He was instrumental in the Pediatric Chairs of Canada and the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres. His enormous contributions to Canadian pediatrics were recognized by his receipt of the Ross Award of the Canadian Pediatric Society. His local legacy has been secured by the Endowment of the Harvey Guyda Chair in Pediatrics which will be held by all future Chairs of our Department from myself forward.

No précis can do justice in capturing Harvey's remarkable career trajectory. As important as the "what" is the "how". Harvey was at all times forthright in where he stood on matters. He was consistent with his convictions. He was a passionate advocate for this institution at all levels. His passion was driven by his dedication to improving the health of all children. We will miss his daily presence amongst us. We will miss his ever present sense of humour that was often self-deprecating and challenged conventions of political correctness. Let's hope he will continue being our hospital Santa each Christmas Day to hospitalized children.

Please join me in wishing Harvey the very best in his retirement. May it be one of health and happiness and satisfaction amongst the people that really matter to him.

Have a great long weekend everyone

Michael