

Hi Everyone

One of my favourite aphorisms is that "Medicine is a team sport". If you want to deliver the best quality care you can't do it on your own. As someone whose professional career has been spent in child neurology with a focus on neurodevelopmental disabilities I know that the real work is done by the rehabilitation specialists from occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech-language pathology and psychology.

This month is OT month and I am going to invoke a little Chair's prerogative and give this week's acknowledgment to my very favourite OT Annette Majnemer.

Annette is a rather unique OT. After a short time as a clinical therapist she pursued graduate degrees here in the neurosciences earning a PhD. Indeed she was among the first of her profession to earn a PhD. She then embarked on an academic career at McGill in the School of Physical and Occupational Therapy (SPOT). Her research interests have been pursued at the MCH as an associate member of the Division of Pediatric Neurology and the Department of Pediatrics. She has focused her work on the outcomes of at risk children especially those who have spent time in our NICUs. Over the past few years she has emphasized factors affecting participation, activity and quality of life for these children throughout the pediatric years. She has also become an expert on knowledge translation. She has a remarkable record of continuous external funding going back to her arrival as a researcher here in the early 1990s. She is widely recognized as mentor for young academic therapists.

Annette is extensively recognized in her profession. She is currently Director of SPOT and accordingly an Associate Dean in the Faculty of Medicine. For her contributions to the field she has been awarded the highest honour of the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy (the Muriel Driver Award) and has been granted a Fellowship of the prestigious Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Many of you know that she has also been my wife for 28 years of what we mutually describe as a "mostly terrific marriage". Putting up with me on a daily basis ain't easy I will admit and despite the challenge she has always kept a smile on her face that lights up a room. Plus she has nurtured two remarkable daughters (Allison and Meaghan) that are the light of my life.

Tonight I will be treating her to two tickets on the floor at the Springsteen concert in Ottawa to celebrate OT month.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael