

"One finger in the throat and one in the rectum makes a good diagnostician"  
Sir William Osler

(Chair's note - hopefully he didn't mean the same finger....it was the pre-surgical glove era when he said it....)

Hi Everyone

Just recently I had the privilege of travelling to Bangalore, India to give some talks at a Neurodevelopmental Disabilities and Cerebral Palsy symposia targeting local practitioners. Bangalore is in southern India and is the country's "silicon valley", hence a remarkable contrast between contemporary wealth /technology and grinding endemic poverty. It has a 24 hour work schedule to match its status as the premier world call centre. If you have had a software or hardware problem and called a 1-800 number chances are you were talking to someone in Bangalore.

The above is a preface to this week's acknowledgment. Everywhere I went at the St John's Medical College where the symposia was held, I heard mention of our very own pediatric nephrologists. On the other side of the world they have fostered and nurtured a remarkable program of interaction with the local Department of Pediatrics. Building on the seed of a research collaboration (Paul Goodyer [McGill] and Kishore Phaedke [SJMC]) that began ten years ago due to a high local frequency of cystinuria, a relationship has evolved. With the support of the International Society of Nephrology (ISN) these two centers have been twinned with the goal of utilizing expertise from a resource rich setting to enhance the practice of nephrology and medical capacity in an emerging setting.

This twinning has resulted in positive and sustained interactions across the spectrum of the academic mission including; local CME activities in Bangalore utilizing our staff, monthly tele-nephrology conferences bringing together physicians and allied health professionals from Bangalore and Montreal, joint research efforts that has included the training of Bangalore-based investigators and technicians here, and the training of Bangalore based health professionals (physicians and nurses) through observerships here. There have been joint presentations at international meetings and multiple publications generated. Indeed staff from SJMC and McGill are collaborating on a book project entitled the "International Manual of Pediatric Nephrology".

It is my understanding that Paul Goodyer, Martin Bitzan, Michele Zappitelli and Indra Gupta from our Department have travelled to Bangalore. I also am aware that JP Capolicchio from the Department of Pediatric Surgery has also journeyed to Bangalore and Chantal Barnard from Pathology will be going shortly. In addition Sonia Champoux of the MCH nursing staff and Nikki Rink, as a pediatric nephrology fellow, have gone to Bangalore for knowledge dissemination.

It was clear from my visit to SJMC how much the interaction of pediatric nephrology was appreciated and how much it had made a difference in the care of children with renal disorders. This program represents what we can do to make a difference in areas remote and so vastly different from our own. I am quite frankly in awe of what has been accomplished by our group. It would be wonderful to see this involvement extend to other sectors of our academic community. Indeed it is one of my dreams as Chair to create a MCH/McGill Global Child Health Initiative that twins our expertise and capacity with two or three centres in the emerging world that are less fortunate than ours in a collaborative, sustained and innovative way that makes a difference in child health. I know that I can count on many members of our community in realizing this dream.

Have a great weekend

Michael