

“Taking a lady’s hand gives her confidence in her physician.”

Sir William Osler

NB; It appears that Sir William may have been a bit of a misogynist and could have appeared before licensing authorities if he had practiced in the 21st century....

Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **John Mitchell** and is the final one in a series of three highlighting’s this year’s promotions to Associate Professor.

Originally from British Columbia, John originally came to Montreal for his MSc in Genetic Counselling. He then stayed put and worked as a genetic counsellor at the MCH. Indeed he was the genetic counsellor in my Neurogenetics clinic in the early '90s (when I had a full head of jet black hair...) where-in he asked me for a letter of recommendation for medical school. In spite of what I wrote (perhaps the one from Charles Scriver was the clincher), he went on to a medical degree at UBC followed by a residency in Pediatrics at the MCH and fellowships both here and at the Westmead Children’s Hospital in Sydney, Australia.

The Department was fortunate to recruit John back to Montreal in 2004 where he has held appointments in both pediatric endocrinology and medical genetics. John’s profile is that of a clinical-researcher and educator focusing on population screening for genetic disorders and the treatment of rare genetic disorders. Both of these topics are ones for which the Department and hospital can take pride in being historical pioneers. John has held a number of external grants from both governmental and pharmaceutical sources evaluating in a rigorous and often novel way treatments for various clinical populations (eg PKU, mucopolysaccharidosis). In addition to these clinical efforts John has been active in UGME in the pre-clerkship years and as well he has had a regular involvement in both undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in both the Faculty of Science and Medicine.

John also has developed fairly rapidly a national and international profile in his chosen area of expertise. He is currently President of the Garrod Society of Canada, involved in Guidelines Development for PKU for the NIH and the American College of Medical Genetics and on the Advisory Committee for population screening for Ashkenazi Disorders (American Society of Human Genetics) and sickle cell (Institut National de Sante Publique du Quebec).

Though now almost 15 years removed from living on the West Coast, John always gives off that relaxed easy-going vibe that comes with having lived in lotus land (must be something in the water???). As a fellow clinician, its always a delight to interact with him.

Please join me in congratulating John on this significant personal accomplishment. As for all those promoted, its so well deserved and one more step on a successful professional career.

Have a great weekend.

Michael

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