

Hi Everyone

There has been a number of pedagogic oriented acknowledgments recently and this week's will follow suit and goes to **Laurie Plotnick** for her formative work in the design and implementation of the Faculty's "new" medical school curriculum that gets rolled out this Fall with the incoming Class of 2017.

There are several obvious fundamental challenges in medical school curriculum; 1) the duration of medical school has remained fixed at 4 years (since before the time of Sir Wiliam!) despite an exponential growth of knowledge related to the practice of medicine, 2) the density of synaptic connectivity in the human cranium will not change, 3) there has been a revolution in how information is stored, retrieved and delivered, 4) the lifespan of correct information and "current" technology is shrinking creating a field in ever-increasing dynamic flux, 5) physicianship and professionalism are bedrock values of a meaningful therapeutic relationship, and 6) medicine now exists within a matrix of publicly driven health priorities.

McGill's MD CM curriculum was last altered in 1994 (before many of us had an internet address just to put it in perspective) and brought in unit based teaching, small groups and physicianship initiatives. Of course it was brought in to howls of protest from traditionalists (some of whom are still protesting over this change) yet to this graduate of the Class of 1984, I have observed with pedagogic envy the journey of my daughter Allison in the Class of 2014. She will be so much better prepared as a physician for a lifetime of learning than I was.

The incoming "new" curriculum will build on this excellence and innovation that is McGill's forte. It reflects well on the entire Department Laurie's important role in this process. Laurie is a highly respected and valued clinician in our Department where she practices as an ER specialist. She is also a natural teacher who has devoted herself to improving the learning experience for students, residents and practicing physicians, the latter through her longstanding involvement in the CME of the Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) offered regularly by the Department that has elevated well beyond our hospital the level of "on the spot" emergent care of a critically ill child.

Laurie will assume leadership of the Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) segment of the undergraduate curriculum. This roughly six month long interval at the end of second year forms a bridge between learning the fundamentals of disease to its application to patients as part of the clerkship experience. TCP has been revamped to emphasize more patient contact with an integral incorporation of components related to physicianship and health promotion and disease prevention. There will be a substantially enhanced pediatric component as well that should lead to a profession-wide increased awareness of child health issues.

Please join me in congratulating Laurie on this leadership role. To quote the great observer of our age Bob Dylan;

Come mothers and fathers  
Throughout the land  
And don't criticize  
What you can't understand  
Your sons and your daughters  
Are beyond your command  
Your old road is  
Rapidly agin'  
Please get out of the new one  
If you can't lend your hand  
For the times they are a-changin'.

Have a great weekend