Hi Everyone

Don't be concerned if a feeling of "déjà vu" is encountered as you read this week's Departmental Acknowledgement for **Nada Jabado** given on the occasion of yet another stupendous research accomplishment and granting success. It's one the Department simply cannot ignore.

Nada, a member of our Hematology-Oncology Division and Research Institute, currently holds a FRS Senior salary support award and was last year's Faculty of Medicine's Maud Abbot Award recipient. She follows this up with what I believe is the single largest dollar value research grant ever awarded to the MCH from Genome Canada with partnership from CIHR and the Canadian Stem Cell Consortium. Nada's award is one of 17 projects funded in the 2012 Large-Scale Applied Research Project Competition in Genomics and Personalized Health. Her McGill co-investigators include Jacek Majewski and Tomi Pastinen.

Nada's projects starts with the clinical problem of high grade astrocytomas which is a particularly lethal variant of brain cancer for which there has been little in the way of substantive survival improvements despite the heroic work of surgeons, oncologists and radiation oncologists over the years. In a seminal paper published last year, Nada and her colleagues have identified mutations in a particular gene in a significant fraction of children and young adults with this brain tumour. These mutations partly explain why this cancer remains stubbornly unresponsive to treatments. With this grant funding, Nada and her collaborators will develop new tools that will help health care providers identify these mutations in brain tumours, allowing children to receive the best individualized treatment strategy that optimizes the crucial balance between survival and toxicity. Using next-generation genomic technologies, they are looking for potential targets for drug treatment that hopefully will make a difference for these children and their families.

Please join me in congratulating Nada on this accomplishment.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael