

Hi Everyone

For clinicians to willingly choose an academic career focused on research is to expose oneself to the sting of rejection. That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Moshe Ben-Shosan, Patricia Li and Maryam Oskoui**. We can join them in celebrating their initial success in receiving a salary support award as Chercheur Boursier Cliniciens at the Junior 1 level from the FRQ-S. This is an extremely important early step in the pathway of academic success for those dedicating themselves to research pursuits.

Moshe is a member of the Division of Allergy and Immunology. From Israel, Moshe is a graduate of the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University and a veteran medical officer in Zahal, the Israeli Defence Forces in both the Armored Corps and the Air Force. Moshe completed an allergy and immunology fellowship here at the MCH as well as an MSc in Clinical Epidemiology at McGill. Moshe has already received significant extra-mural funding support from the Allergen National Centres of Excellence in the form of an Emerging Clinician Scientist Award and operating grant support from the Public Health Agency of Canada and the Canadian Allergy, Asthma and Immunology Foundation. Moshe already has an impressive publication record totalling more than 30 peer reviewed publications. His FRQ-S salary award is meant to support his research program into food allergies and anaphylaxis providing basic epidemiologic information and improved management for affected children.

Patricia is a member of the Division of General Pediatrics. A medical graduate of McMaster (where she was class valedictorian) and our pediatric residency program, Patricia pursued an academic fellowship at HSC that included a Master's degree in Clinical Epidemiology and research in child health services delivery which is an emerging field of scientific enquiry that has important policy implications and relevance. Patricia already has a significant record of peer-reviewed publication success and her research excellence has already been recognized by awards from the Canadian Pediatric Society and the Montreal General Hospital Foundation. Patricia's FRQ-S salary award is given to support a program that will critically evaluate community based first-line health service delivery to children. This is a vitally important issue as we witness a sea change in health care delivery provincially.

Maryam is a colleague from the Division of Pediatric Neurology. She has a remarkable personal family story of fleeing as a young child the chaos and tyranny of the Iranian revolution and arriving in Canada knowing only Farsi. A medical graduate of McGill and our pediatric neurology training program, Maryam pursued fellowship training in neuromuscular disorders at Columbia University in NYC and at the MNI. In a recurring theme for this week, she completed an MSc in Epidemiology at McGill. She too already has external operating grant success from the CIHR/HSC Foundation New Investigator Program and the Public Health Agency of Canada. Together with yours truly she is the Co-Director of the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Registry that is based within the Department and the MCH-RI. Her FRQ-S salary support award is meant to provide support for her research program that will cross-link databases to flesh out health services utilization provincially by children with cerebral palsy.

I would like to close by making several points. The first is that all of these young success stories chose to make their careers here and reflect the wonderful ethno-cultural diversity that is the Canadian matrix. All are clinician investigators utilizing epidemiologic and population based approaches. Together with more senior investigators clearly this is an area of Departmental strength. Indeed I have given Michael Kramer a specific mandate to nurture and mentor this young cadre to emulate his remarkable career. Also with these salary support awards, they each go Hors-PEM enabling their respective Divisions to additionally recruit. Finally Patricia's and Maryam's success come during maternity leaves indicating the incredible multi-tasking capability of the adult woman.

Have a great weekend everyone.