

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Meranda Nakhla**, yet another one of our rising research stars.

Meranda is a member of our Division of Pediatric Endocrinology, just back from maternity leave. A graduate of McMaster's Medical School, she remained there for a residency in pediatrics. Meranda came to the Montreal Children's for a fellowship in pediatric endocrinology and metabolism during which she concurrently completed a MSc in Epidemiology focusing on transition issues in adolescents and young adults with diabetes mellitus. She followed this with further training at the Hospital for Sick Children and the Institute for Clinical Evaluative Sciences where she was co-supervised by my compadre Denis Daneman, the Chair of Pediatrics at the University of Toronto and Pediatrician-in-Chief at HSC. During this she acquired special skills in the evaluation of health services delivery, focusing on health outcomes, processes of care and the utilization of large administrative databases. After a brief stop in Ottawa, we were quite fortunate to recruit Meranda to Montreal and McGill in 2010.

Meranda is among a group of young clinically oriented researchers emerging here who are critically evaluating what we do in health care to provide the evidence of what truly makes a difference in improving health. In this era of rising health care costs and the need for fiscal restraints, this is of vital importance to provide the most effective use of the resources, monetary and human, that we have available. This is indeed a new area of health care research and we are privileged to have in the Department researchers that can undertake this walk and provide the link between practice and outcomes through rigorous evidence.

Meranda has been most successful since arriving. She was successful in obtaining a FRQ-S Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Salary Support Award at the initial Junior 1 level last year (together with fellow MCH clinical researchers Genevieve Bernard [Neurology] and Pia Wintermark [Neonatology]). She has also been successful as an author publishing multiple peer-reviewed articles in high impact factor journals. Clearly she is on the right path for career success as an independent investigator. Please join me in congratulating Meranda on her promising start.

Have a great long weekend everyone

Michael