

Hi Everyone

What I especially like about this week's Departmental Acknowledgement is that it is an example of 'paying it forward'. It goes to **Patricia Fontela** and was suggested by Caroline Quach earlier this week just days before I distributed notice of her Acknowledgement last week. I will reprint what Caroline wrote to me regarding Patricia.

"I just spent the week-end at the annual national meeting from the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program (CCHCSP) in Toronto. This CIHR training and award program aims to develop young up and coming clinician scientists in child health from all disciplines across Canada (social sciences, nursing, OT, PT, MD, psychology, dentistry, etc.) and help them transition into their faculty position. The most prestigious award at CCHCSP is the Career Development Award, a CIHR-based salary award, that is highly competitive and recognizes the talent and research potential of young faculties. Dr. Patricia Fontela, PICU, was the only one awarded this distinction in the last fall competition and I would like to congratulate her on this achievement!

Patricia and I go a while back. I first met Patricia because of Jesse (you can ask Jesse about all the positive comments I made at the time on Patricia)... I then had the chance to co-supervise Patricia with Robert Platt during her PhD in Epidemiology at McGill University; needless to say that this supervisory role was really easy! Patricia completed her PhD with flying colours and has, since January 2012, started her own research career at The Montreal Children's Hospital. She aims to tailor antimicrobial use in the PICU. To do so, Patricia has already put together an innovative and complete research program that encompasses a systematic literature review, a survey of current practices in Canada and the US, a cohort study, and eventually a randomized controlled trial. She has also joined very prestigious and efficient ICU research networks both in Canada and the United States and has been praised wherever she presented. With this program and support in hand, she applied to the CCHCSP competition last fall and was awarded a Career Development Award that will allow her to have 75% protected research time for the next 4 years.

Since Patricia started to develop her independent research program, I can only say that I have been impressed with her hard work, perseverance, tenacity and resilience! She has never given up or lost her calm - despite the many hurdles that she has already encountered. Even with all the challenges, Patricia has assembled a great team of collaborators, both from Canada and the US, and is almost at the point of launching her first study.

Having gone through what Patricia is now doing and as a clinician scientist who had to figure most of it out on my own, I admire Patricia's strategic planning: she has laid out all the next steps - and has a plan B. I am honoured to have been her mentor and am convinced that she is a great asset for clinical and epidemiologic research at the Children's."

I would like to echo Caroline's heartfelt words. Patricia is a tremendous asset to our Department who is making a vital contribution to our academic mission at multiple levels.

Have a great long weekend everyone!

Michael