

Hi Everyone

Primum non nocere is probably the Latin phrase that gets repeated the most in medical school. "First do no harm" is THE foundation stone of medical ethics. Yet the stats on patient safety and iatrogenic injury amongst hospitalized patients under medical care are both appalling and astonishing. Long ignored, and perhaps swept under the proverbial carpet, a clarion call has been issued to the profession by patients and third-party payers to address in a tangible way this topic. Most of these errors are preventable by a systems approach.

I am proud to say that patient safety is an explicit value contained in our Departmental Mission/Vision/Values statement. It was the focus of our recent Faculty Renewal event held earlier this month. It was there that I witnessed the passion and energy brought to this issue by this week's trio for the Departmental Acknowledgement of **Sasha Dubrovsky, Nadine Korah and Samara Zavalkoff**.

All are recent additions to our Faculty following medical degrees at McGill and residencies in pediatrics at the MCH. Sasha is an ER physician with an incredible energy level who also attends on our medical in-patient wards. He is "connected" technologically and constantly innovating and advocating for methods to improve patient safety. A nice example is the use of the IPAS for effective communication during ward handovers. Nadine is currently completing a fellowship in academic general pediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children. There she is pursuing formal academic training in patient safety and quality improvement supported by our Department. She will bring this advanced and rather unique skill set back with her to our institution when she returns over the summer months. Samara is a pediatric intensivist who did fellowship training Down Under in Melbourne in cardiac critical care. Since returning she has fostered significant patient care and safety improvements within our PICU.

We are fortunate to have such expertise distributed in key areas of patient interaction throughout our Department. It speaks well of our Departmental recruiting efforts that at all times must be focused on quality, needs and be strategic in long-term orientation.

I would also like to acknowledge the terrific team effort of the Renewal Planning Committee led by our Vice Chair Emmett Francouer. Members (in addition to Sasha, Nadine and Samara) included; Micheline Ste-Marie, Farhan Bhanji, Mark Daly, Richard Gosselin, Daniel Faucher, Kathy Harrington and Sylvie Sahyoun. All who attended would agree that the event was tremendous in all aspects.

This is the last Departmental Acknowledgement prior to the Summer hiatus. We will resume the week after Labour Day. Please have an enjoyable summer. Soak up some sun, spend time with family and friends and indulge in what gives you happiness.

Have a great summer everyone!

Michael