

“It is much more important to know what sort of a patient has a disease than what sort of a disease a patient has.”

Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

Sad to say that the passage of the Labour Day weekend means that the Summer Hiatus is over. I hope everyone was able to enjoy their summer-working less, perhaps a nice vacation with family or friends, or even simply chilling outside with a good book or fine company. As promised the weekly Departmental Acknowledgements have returned. Once again I want to encourage everyone to submit nominations and even be bold enough to write a précis to go along with the suggested Acknowledgement. This year responsibility will come to some of those selected. Every month I am going to ask one of the month's previous selectees to "pay it forward" and pick and write about someone they want to acknowledge.

This year's first Acknowledgements go to our Chief Residents **Olivier Drouin and Nina Nouraeyan**. The Chief Residents are selected annually by a vote held amongst the residents. Their selection in and of itself is emblematic of the very high regard they are held in by their peers. The Chiefs operate as a crucial bridge between the "house staff" (am I dating myself using such terminology?) and the attending staff. With my office across the hall from theirs, I am very well aware of how hard they work and the hours they put in. I conceptualize their job description as doing everything not filled in by the Venn Diagram of other folks' job descriptions here at the MCH. They concern themselves with the nitty gritty of scheduling, finding last minute replacements (often themselves) when a resident is ill so critical staffing is maintained, providing mentoring and comfort to fellow residents, finding the middle path between contract and professional/clinical responsibilities, maintaining a social life for residents that is a vital element of work-life balance (think opening season BBQ, skit night) etc, etc, etc. This takes place at a time when they themselves are fully engaged time-challenged Senior Residents. For Olivier and Nina there have been particular challenges over the last few months due to administrative staffing shortfalls in the PGME office. They have handled all this with graciousness and good humour that speaks volumes about their character.

Both Nina and Olivier are McGill grads. Nina is heading to a subspecialty in neonatology, while Olivier is heading towards general paediatrics. Nina has a background in stem cell research and has been active as an Osler fellow for medical students. Olivier has been a research fellow at the Institute for Health and Social Policy and conducted research with resulting presentations and publications on factors influencing HIV infections in vulnerable African youth. I suspect a health policy pathway lies in his future. They are both prime examples of why our PGME program is so highly regarded.

Have a great weekend everyone! And once again welcome back!