

“The first duties of the physician is to educate the masses not to take medicine.”  
- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

How many amongst us can claim that they annually save the lives of 60 infants a year whom they never have met? And has done so for the last 20 years? And will do so ad infinitum into the future?

The person receiving this week's Departmental Acknowledgment can. **Aurore Cote** spent a good part of her career as a respirologist focusing on Sudden Infant Death syndrome (SIDS). With the awareness that the frequency of this disorder was related to cultural practices of infant positioning for sleep, Aurore sprang into action relentlessly engaging in knowledge dissemination efforts throughout the province promoting "Back to Sleep". The net result was a reduction in the frequency of SIDS from 80 cases a year provincially to 20. Just think about the heartbreak, emotional pain and suffering that these families no longer endure, let alone the years of life gained for these infants by this simple act of prevention. Aurore's ground-breaking and leading role in this prevention effort was recognized with the prestigious Barry Fisher Memorial Lectureship of the American Association of SIDS Prevention Physicians.

Aurore trained at Laval and Hopital Ste-Justine before coming to the MCH for her pediatric pulmonology fellowship. This was followed by a post-doctoral research fellowship at Columbia University. She came on staff here in 1987 and secured the full cycle of external salary support from the FRSQ. She is also recognized for her educational skills as she is an early member of the Faculty's Honour Roll for Educational Excellence.

Through her SIDS prevention effort, Aurore was bitten by the outreach bug where-in she established a provincial network of key contacts in health care and health service delivery. This has been translated into her steadfast work in our hospital's outreach efforts in our geographically vast RUIS. Aurore has played a key role in establishing ententes and corridors of service with various areas with varied institutions that shares the fundamental goal of streamlining and improving care for children and their families. This is essential for our survival into the future as a tertiary care institution which can only be done by being responsive to local needs and being plugged into a functioning referral network. Aurore is now turning her attention to establishing key linkages with family medicine groups. This is a departmental and hospital priority as primary and secondary care for children is shifted from the traditional office-based community pediatrician to family practitioners.

For her successful efforts in this area Aurore has received Leadership Awards both at the MCH and MUHC levels. She also has a key place within the Department's Executive Committee where she serves as Associate Chair-Outreach. I have no doubt that under Aurore's guidance our outreach efforts will prosper and will pay big dividends into the future.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael  
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)