

“The young physician starts life with 20 drugs for each disease, and the old physician ends life with one drug for 20 diseases.”

- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

I will let you in on a secret. Every neurologist began with an interest in psychiatry since behaviour is the most fascinating manifestation of the wonder that is the brain. I was no exception. Wilder Penfield captured it best when he wrote; "The problem of neurology is to understand man himself".

As a result of this original interest I carry a substantial respect for the disorders of the mind and the physicians who must deal with them daily. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Brian Greenfield**, a psychiatrist who is an Associate Member of the Department of Pediatrics. It was actually suggested by one of our senior ER physicians, who wishes to remain anonymous, who singled out Brian and the ambulatory psychiatry crisis team for their dedication and care.

This senior physician wrote the following words which bear repeating; "I am astounded at the professional composure of Brian in dealing day in day out with these very unfortunate children. I see one/two per shift and I am affected for the rest of the day. The plight of many of these children is very sombre and yet the psychiatric team deals with each case in an optimistic way offering counselling and hope for the patient and the family. I am very thankful that we are blessed with these individuals."

One can just imagine the stress and distress that these families and children undergo as mental illness remains attached to considerable stigma and substantial challenges in care, understanding and rehabilitation back to health. We are fortunate to be living in a time when such illness is understood within a biological framework and medications exist to ameliorate symptoms. However medications and a biological understanding are only partially effective and much work always needs to be done from a social, family and individual perspective. This work requires patience and much heavy lifting for which but a few of us are well-suited to undertake.

Brian is originally from the United States but came north to do his psychiatry training, including a fellowship in child psychiatry, at McGill. He has remained here for his entire professional career and is presently an Associate Professor in both the Departments of Psychiatry and Pediatrics. He has dedicated himself ably to all aspects of the academic mission: clinical care, teaching and research. He has done so steadily and without fail in a manner that does not call for personal attention. He has developed over time a particular expertise in that most difficult of areas; pediatric suicidal ideation.

Please join me in being grateful for individuals like Brian who remain available to deal with these most difficult disorders.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael