

“Live neither in the past nor in the future, but let each day’s work absorb your entire energies, and satisfy your widest ambition.”

- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Mary Decell** and was prompted by an email I received recently from Stephen Liben pasted below.

Mary is originally from the great state of Texas (Hook Them Horns!!) where she did her undergraduate, medical and pediatric residency training. She came way North in 1989 to the MCH and McGill to undertake a fellowship in the then emerging field of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine. She completed her fellowship training down the 401 at Sick Kids before taking an attending staff position in our Department in the early 90's where she has remained till the present day.

Mary has participated over the years in multiple clinical settings and programs. These have included a long stint in our PICU, the Technology Dependent Unit and current responsibilities in both the cardiology OPD sector and the Palliative Care team. I have had the good fortune to interact as an attending with Mary on multiple occasions over the years and I have always been impressed with her calmness, clinical acumen, comprehensive understanding of the current literature, and laser like focus on the child and family. Her skill set and personality makes her a natural for what are consistently demanding, challenging and complex situations that have the potential for high stress. She has also given of herself generously to the hospital community through extensive administrative responsibilities including a long stint on the Clinical Ethics Committee and as Chair of our CPDP.

Stephen wrote the following about Mary and honestly it bears reprinting because I don't think it can be said any better:

"I have known Mary Decell for many years as we both worked in the PICU years ago. For years after the PICU Mary has been quietly caring for the patients with chronic complex illness in the TDR. These very sick children and their families require a high level of sensitivity from their caregivers and Mary has led the TDR team with kindness compassion and wisdom. Mary embodies the careful and meticulous physician we all aspire to be, and the quality of her handwriting is so unique that it deserves to have a special font name to match! (Perhaps it could be simply called "Decell"?). Over the past while Mary has taken on the additional responsibility of working in palliative care. I now have the opportunity to work shoulder to shoulder with Mary with these children and their families and I am grateful for the opportunity. When "Mary is on the case" then one can be certain that what needs to get done will get done with a high level of competence and sensitivity. We are all so fortunate that this former Texan has come to call the MCH her home."

Stephen's words are heartfelt and can be echoed by many members of the MCH family. It is upon a bedrock and foundation of superb clinical care that the success of our Department and hospital is built and its people like Mary who continually build and reinforce this foundation.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael