

“The higher education so much needed today is not given in the school, is not to be bought in the market place, but it has to be wrought out in each one of us for himself; it is the silent influence of character on character.”

- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement is a collective 'shout-out' to three Divisions; two in Pediatrics, the other in Pediatric Surgery. The reasons will become apparent shortly.

"When I was a resident" is a time worn phrase in academic medicine that sooner or later is uttered by every staff attending. It usually is a short-hand way to indicate that in the "golden old days" of that particular staff member, residents worked harder. For an old-timer like me, it means one in three call on the wards, PICU and NICU without any post call days. However, it can also communicate envy for a current system that does indeed recognize the needs of learners. One such example are "academic half days" that enable residents in a particular program to withdraw weekly from the realities of the daily clinical service that they are such an essential component of and engage in regular teaching sessions that are built around a defined curriculum and specific learning objectives rather than the 'on the fly' teaching that takes place during clinical service. I would have loved to have such a feature in my residency training.

Of course the pediatrics postgraduate training program has weekly academic half days. These take place every Tuesday afternoon. Largely organized by the Chief Residents, it attempts every 18 months to go through a cycle of key topics that covers the breadth of the specialty that is pediatrics. It is built around formal lectures and case presentations and requires the input of the diversity that is the academic staff of our Department. I asked the Chiefs from last year to highlight Divisions that "knocked it out of the park" with respect to their enthusiastic participation in these half days and they mentioned; **Hematology-Oncology, Neonatology and General Surgery.**

Apparently these Divisions collectively took their responsibility to teach in these half days seriously. Meticulous attention was given to scheduling, topic content and pedagogic rigor of their assigned sessions. Members of these Divisions' teaching did so enthusiastically and creatively. The residents recognized and valued these efforts enormously. The end result was a pedagogic experience that flowed bidirectionally, enriching both learners and teachers.

Clearly these Divisions did the walk of one of our key Departmental visions; 'the dynamic education of professionals involved in pediatric health that puts the needs of learners first'. While there was of course excellent and valued teaching generated from throughout the Divisional structure that is the Department and hospital, the key element noted by the residents for these three Divisions was its consistency internally within a particular Division. Clearly this is something that all of us can aspire to and are capable of.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael