

“Courage and cheerfulness will not only carry you over the rough places in life, but will enable you to bring comfort and help to the weak-hearted and will console you in the sad hours”

- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

We are all aware of recent tremendous pressures on the operating budgets of health care institutions in Quebec. The MUHC is no exception to this pressure and indeed has been exceptionally hard hit. Budgetary reductions always have a human face and indeed valued members of our hospital community will lose their jobs or be placed in a position to take an earlier than expected retirement in an effort to cut costs. Our colleagues and partners in the nursing profession, as salaried hospital employees, have been particularly hard hit and this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to one such affected nurse, **Gillian Taylor**. An Acknowledgement for Gillian was suggested by Claire Leblanc, our Division Director for Rheumatology. While I have never worked directly with Gillian, our paths have crossed over a few shared patients over the years and I could not help but notice her quiet dedication to both providing the highest quality of care and to her profession and to her efforts on behalf of our model of inter-disciplinary collaborative shared care for children with chronic and complex disorders.

I have reprinted below what Claire wrote about Gillian as it is obviously heartfelt.

"The Division of Rheumatology is undergoing an enormous change this spring. Our clinical nurse specialist Gillian Taylor is retiring after 26 years of dedicated service. Through her values of honesty, integrity and respect for others, she has had a significant impact on the lives of hundreds of children and families. Gillian has likewise influenced the care delivered by many health care professionals over the years.

Gillian is an advocate for families who have a child living with juvenile idiopathic arthritis (JIA). Ten years ago, she worked with Dr. Sarah Campillo to develop a summer camp for children with JIA so they could meet other affected children and not feel so alone with their disease. This has been a highlight for our patients and their families.

The general public does not always understand childhood arthritis. Gillian has advocated for our patients in the school system so that they can continue to excel academically. She provides letters for schoolteachers and principals to educate them about rheumatic diseases and specific limitations some patients may have. She is currently working on a video by children with JIA, explaining what it is like to have arthritis in school.

We will never forget what Gillian has brought to the Division of Rheumatology. We wish her a fun filled worry-free retirement, but hope she continues to partake in activities to promote wellness among children with rheumatic diseases."

We will all miss Gillian and other nurses and members of our team that we have been forced to let go. We wish them only the best in their paths forward.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

