

“There are no straight backs, no symmetrical faces, many wry noses, and no even legs. We are a crooked and perverse generation.”

Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Loydie Jerome-Majewska** for her receiving this year's Haile T Debas Award of the Faculty of Medicine.

The Haile T. Debas prize was established in 2010. In order to promote equitable diversity at all levels in the Faculty of Medicine, this prize recognizes a Faculty member(s) of any gender or ethnicity who helps promote diversity; which could be by acting as role model(s), mentor(s), or by implementing new policies so as to increase underrepresented minorities in undergraduate or postgraduate training, faculty recruitment, retention and/or promotion.

The Award honours and recognizes the remarkable career of Haile T. Debas. Dr. Debas is a McGill MDCM Class of 1963 graduate. Originally from Eritrea, Dr. Debas went on to be a surgeon and prominent educator. He served as Chair of a Department of Surgery, Dean of a Faculty of Medicine and Chancellor of a University. All of these appointments were at UCSF. He received the Abraham Flexner Award of the American Association of Medical Colleges in 2004.

Loydie is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics. She is a basic scientist who addresses fundamental issues at the molecular level in embryology. Originally from Haiti, she joined her parents in New York. Early on she became passionate about both science and education. A graduate of Wesleyan University, she did her PhD at Columbia and a post-doctoral fellowship at Sloan-Kettering Memorial before venturing north to McGill in 2005.

I honestly find it unfortunate to have to write in 2014 that Loydie is one of our few persons of color who is a Faculty member. She is a passionate teacher who undertakes a substantial teaching load at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Loydie adroitly realizes that this places her in an important position to act as a role model to students from a variety of backgrounds. She does this with enthusiasm and seeks out mentoring opportunities that no doubt have a positive impact in facilitating and enabling advancement. Loydie was a member of the Executive Committee for implementation of the Faculty's new medical curriculum. Through this she was able to work to weave into the curriculum the maintenance of sustainable efforts to foster diversity. It is vitally important that our profession reflects the society we must serve.

Given the divisive "identity politics" that our province was forced to endure over the past year, it's refreshing to recognize the enormous positive values that diversity brings to our society. Canada is a nation of immigrants. Ultimately all Canadians come from "somewhere else". There is no going back (either in time or place), and honestly I don't think any of us would ever want to.

Have a great weekend everyone. Happy Easter.

Michael