

“Start at once a bedside library and spend the last half hour of the day in communion with the saints of humanity.”

Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone,

"Excellence" is defined as the "quality of being outstanding". Synonyms include 'pre-eminence' and 'distinction'. The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation has an annual Awards of Excellence program that enables our community to explicitly recognize excellence in various sectors amongst us. This week's Departmental Acknowledgment goes to three members of our Department who received an MCHF Award of Excellence earlier this month; **Sharon Abish, Maria Ramsay and Caroline Quach.**

Sharon received the Jean Coutu Medical Award of Excellence. Sharon received an Acknowledgement previously in July 2012. It was a most heartfelt one written by one of her colleagues that I refer the reader to. For myself I want to reiterate that all of us attendings have observed over the years (yes for Sharon its more than 20), Sharon's steadfast dedication to her patients to which she brings both a consummate level of clinical skill, compassion and the highest level of professionalism that has been awesome and unwavering. She seems to be always present and on top of her patients' multiple medical, psychological, and social needs. As a hematologist-oncologist her patient profile is one of complexity and chronicity that is enormously challenging for child, family and involved health professionals. Sharon always keeps matters in focus and has a remarkable ability to anticipate what will happen and plan accordingly. She has consistently stepped up her participation when staffing shortfalls in her Division has occurred, never asking "Why?" but rather "Why not?". While this Award is for clinical excellence, it is well known that she excels in the teaching domain as well and has served as an Osler Fellow to medical students. She is consistently an excellent role model for our learners by providing a tangible demonstration of what a dedicated physician can be.

Maria received the Global Montreal Professional Staff Award of Excellence. A psychologist by professional training, Maria has made her mark through innovation and leadership in an often overlooked area; infant feeding. More than a quarter century ago she established an inter-disciplinary hospital-based failure to thrive and feeding disorders clinic. This clinic was among the first of its kind and combined rigorous diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Combining mental health, rehabilitation and medical expertise, Maria sought to bring together complimentary expertise to address in an holistic way a complex problem that struck at the very fundamental root of the caregiver-child bond. Many children and families have been greatly assisted by Maria's persistence and innovation over the years. Much to her credit, with little in the way of formal support, Maria did attach a research and enquiry component to her clinical activities over the years.

Caroline received the Research Award of Excellence. Like Sharon, Caroline received a previous Acknowledgment in June 2013 to which the reader is referred to. Caroline is an external salary support Awardee from the FRQ-S with a research focus on the surveillance of vaccine preventable illness. In addition she has leveraged her key hospital role in infection control to also develop a research focus on nosocomial (ie hospital-acquired) infections. Her achievements in these areas has been recognized provincially and nationally. Not content to rest her laurels solely on her research productivity, Caroline has demonstrated true leadership in both undergraduate medical education at the basic science level in infectious disease and in the PHRESCA segment of the national Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist program. Caroline is the embodiment of the 'triple threat' (clinical, teaching, research) that is the bedrock of any solid and productive medical school clinical Department such as ours in Pediatrics.

Please join me in congratulating Sharon, Maria and Caroline on their well-deserved Awards of Excellence.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael