

"He not busy being born is busy dying"

Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

Our second quote master for the 2014-2015 year will be Bob Dylan, the poet laureate of the Boomer generation. The above quote prompts in an indirect way this week's Departmental Acknowledgement to Patti Li and Gillian Morantz, both of the Division of General Pediatrics.

I did my regular turn on the Peds Neuro service last week and could not help but be impressed by both Patti and Gillian as our paths regularly cross on a number of complex in-patients. They both demonstrated an almost Zen-like presence in the midst of their demanding ward attending duties. They seemed to always be at the nursing station and on the wards, as the hub of a wheel with multiple spokes that included students, residents, nursing staff, allied health professionals and consultant subspecialists. They masterfully juggled all the balls before them in the air, never dropping a one, putting the needs and the seemingly effortless (but actually requiring much effort and patience) co-ordinated care of hospitalized children and their families first. They did so while 'with child' themselves (hence the indirect quote prompt), each with also a young infant at home. In so doing, they provide a most important living role model to our trainees (female and male alike) that family and work are both doable even in the most difficult of work circumstances. A work-life balance is indeed attainable and so very vital for personal happiness and success.

Patti has already been feted in a prior (May 2013) Departmental Acknowledgement for her research prowess. A Chercheur-Boursier Clinicien awardee she has also received a New Investigator Salary Award from the CIHR. With a background in clinical epidemiology, Patti has focused on child health services delivery with a particular emphasis on community-based primary care. She is at the cutting edge of using objective methodology to critically evaluate how such services are delivered and their impact on child health outcomes. Through this, it can be hoped that policy will be better informed making the maximal utilization of our limited health care resources. As if her research and clinical efforts were not enough, for the past year Patti has done a masterful job of organizing and hosting the Department's Grand Rounds which are our major ongoing CME activity.

Gillian is a McGill MDCM grad and product of our training program who is focused on global health and social pediatrics. She has a distinguished academic track record with multiple awards and distinctions. She has also carried out clinical and research efforts in such exotic locales as Burkina Faso and Botswana. Together with similarly spirited colleagues (Jen Turnbull, Martin Bitzan amongst others) she has developed and vitalized a hospital-wide global health program that includes curriculum and emerging opportunities, including our recently concluded partnership that features both clinical and teaching components with the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Kigali in Rwanda. I have no doubt that these natal efforts in global health will gain traction and prominence that will be a source of collective participation and pride.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael