

\*\*\*To all the members of the Department of Pediatrics on behalf of Dr.  
Michael Shevell\*\*\*

"The future aint what it used to be"  
Yogi Berra

Hi Everyone,

Its gives me particular pleasure to give this week's Departmental Acknowledgement to a fellow pediatric intern (yes that is what we were called back in the day) from the 'fabulous' 1984-1985 cohort and goes to **Jae-Marie Ferdinand**. Jae-Marie gets the nod this week not for some spectacular recent accomplishment, but for what she does so well and so diligently 24/7.

Jae-Marie received her medical degree from the University of Toronto before coming to Montreal for her residency in Pediatrics at McGill and the MCH. This was followed by sub-specialty training in neonatology at both Harvard (Boston Children's) and the University of Toronto (Hospital for Sick Children). This was followed by over a decade in a hybrid practice that included such activities as NICU attending, neonatal follow-up and community-based pediatrics all in the greater Toronto area. Fortunately for us, Jae-Marie decided to return to Montreal in 2003. She became part of the neonatal group at the JGH and St Mary's Hospital and in 2008 she transferred her clinical activities to the RVH and back to the MCH. She is based in the Division of General Pediatrics.

Jae-Marie naturally has an easy going, self-effacing way about her that may lead some to overlook her and indeed under-estimate her. She is however a superb clinician, universally respected educator, valued team player and someone with a knack for clinical innovation. What really impresses me is both the breadth of her clinical activities and the challenging populations she has chosen to focus her efforts on. Currently Jae-Marie attends in the RVH NICU and as a neonatal back-up in the MCH NICU. She is an attending in the Emergency Room, the Short Stay Unit and the Medical Day Hospital. She participates in our child abuse/protection service and does pediatric outreach in the Portage Mother-Child Program and at the Batshaw. Portage is a residential facility for young mothers undergoing rehabilitation for substance abuse issues and the Batshaw's efforts are directed at both children for whom their physical, psychological and social security is at risk and juveniles involved in the criminal justice system. She also has an ongoing involvement in our neonatal follow-up program. As an educator, perhaps her most seminal Departmental involvement is directing our Social Pediatrics training program. This program rather creatively exposes our PGME trainees to a diverse spectrum of community engagements that illustrate the profound influence that social determinants can have on child and family health and well-being. At McGill she leads the Widening Participation Committee that undertakes multiple efforts, both community and university based, to foster entry into the health professions of under-represented segments of the population.

Jae-Marie has conceptualized, fostered, implemented and nurtured a number of innovative programmatic efforts. These have included a neonatal developmental care program at the JGH, literacy promotion efforts at the Batshaw, our social pediatrics training program and curricula, and the pediatric presence at Portage. All of her clinical and innovative efforts highlight her passion for making a difference in vulnerable populations. It aint easy and it takes loads of patience and time, but I for one am pleased that there are dedicated physicians like Jae-Marie in our Department to make this much needed effort for at-risk children in our community.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FAAN, FANA

Chairman, Department of Pediatrics  
Professor (with Tenure)  
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery  
McGill University

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief  
Montreal Children's Hospital  
McGill University Health Centre