

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

"Behind every beautiful thing, there's some kind of pain"

Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

I am often asked how I select who or what to feature in the weekly Departmental Acknowledgement. Sometimes the choice is obvious; promotion, external grant or salary support award, or prize. Sometimes its prompted by something I observe during the course of my clinical duties. Sometimes its triggered by a piece of paper that crosses my desk. And often its prompted by a 'chance' encounter.

This week's Acknowledgement is prompted by such a chance encounter I had as I was entering our weekly Grand Rounds. Most importantly it was prompted by the joy I felt in seeing a familiar face after an extended absence. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Catherine Millar**.

Discretion does not permit me to reveal details, but Catherine was forced to take an extended medical leave that lasted over a year beginning in the Summer of 2013. Her medical challenge was such that I was concerned that she may not be able to rejoin us. Thus my spontaneous joy in seeing her hale and hearty and her usual 'oh so pleasant' self (she has a great smile).

Catherine is a "homer" like many of us. McGill MDCM, pediatric residency (including a stint as Chief Resident) and ICU fellowship at the MCH. She left for her initial academic post in Sherbrooke, however much to our benefit she returned to the Department and the MCH. Since returning she has done yeoman (or is it yeowoman?) clinical service. I am hard pressed not to find in her dossier a sector she has not been involved in over the years; PICU, MER, wards, short stay unit, Resident Continuity Clinic, complex care and palliative care.

I have had multiple opportunities as a consultant to interact with Catherine over the years. Her compassion, selfless dedication, quiet intelligence, integrity and consummate professionalism and physicianship has always impressed me irregardless of the location or the situation. In all regards she is a wonderful role model for learners at all levels, as well as to fellow attendings. Catherine embodies the very foundation of what a successful academic clinical Department simply must do; superb clinical service combined with a willingness to teach and seize teaching moments..

We often take our health for granted. Catherine's story reminds us that it can be tenuous indeed. Please join me in being grateful to welcome her back to what we all hope will be many many years of full participation in our varied activities.

Have a great long weekend everyone!

Michael

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