

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

"I accept chaos. I'm not sure it accepts me"

Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

With stark and at times ominous headlines, the West African smoldering Ebola outbreak coupled with cases among health care providers in North America drive home the point of the 'global village'. Barriers to travel, migration, and information sharing renders the current 'distance' between two points on Earth effectively less and less. It has also increased our awareness of global health disparities and motivated some among us to stop talking and take action. For her action in formenting a Global Child Health Program at the MCH within the Department of Pediatrics, this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Jen Turnbull**. No doubt Jen shares the spotlight with Gillian Morantz on this initiative. I will focus on Jen as Gillian herself received a Departmental Acknowledgement just a few weeks ago for her ward attending duties.

Jen is a native of Ottawa and a medical graduate of Queen's in Kingston, who did her residency in pediatrics at Western in London, Ontario. She came to Montreal in 2008 to undertake her fellowship in Pediatric Emergency Medicine. Jen is now a staff attending in our Emergency Room and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Pediatrics.

Jen's interest in global health was evident early on; volunteering in rural clinics in Honduras as a medical student and organizing clinics for children from South East Asia while a pediatrics resident. She gave of herself in Haiti at a field hospital in the aftermath of the devastating 2010 earthquake. She has also served on the ground with Medecins Sans Frontieres in the tumultuous eastern Congo which has the unfortunate distinction of being the conflict with the most fatalities post-WWII (yet most of those in the West can neither find this place on the map nor understand the reasons behind the conflict itself). Clearly Jen is someone who consistently, with some aspect of endangering her own safety and comfort, done the walk for global health.

Jen and Gillian have put together an innovative Global Child Health curriculum that is meant to educate and prepare our post-graduate trainees for meaningful overseas electives that will expose them to the particularities of child health challenges in low resource settings around the globe. One particular opportunity that Jen has created through considerable effort is at the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire Kigali (CHUK) in Rwanda. Jen has fostered through her extensive on the ground work there a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with local hospital and university leadership that will enable training and teaching opportunities for our Faculty and resident staff. In their Global Health work, Jen and Gillian have been ably assisted by such individuals as Jean-Martin Laberge, Louise Auger, Martin Bitzan and Charles Larson amongst others.

Our Department has a long and distinguished history of international involvement. Under the leadership of Alan Ross, many of our senior staff participated in establishing pediatrics at the University of Nairobi in Kenya as part of a McGill-wide initiative. Its nice to see that the torch has been passed to a younger generation.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

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