

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

"Play it f*****g loud !"
Bob Dylan

Hi everyone,

The astute reader will note that Dylan has been quoted two weeks in a row (Berra will get an upcoming two in a row in return). I couldn't resist as I thought that the above quote serves as a friendly homage by myself to the guy I have always called, since we met as residents, "the smartest guy in the building": **Sam Shemie**.

Sam gets this week's Departmental Acknowledgement for his extended time as Medical Director of the hospital's ECMO Program from which he has just stepped down. For details of Sam's remarkable career trajectory I refer the reader to his previous Departmental Acknowledgement on January 10th of this year.

Sam undertook to create the MCH Extracorporeal Life Support (ECMO) program in late 2005. Sam was successful in forging a single dedicated group from two distinct previously "siloeed" programs in the NICU and PICU. Sam demonstrated considerable 'quarterbacking' skill in forging a team that relied on broad inter-disciplinary expertise. The group's expertise and skills had by necessity to be available at any time and continually strive to maintain a culture of commitment to excellence, quality and continual innovation. This group deals with the 'sickest' patients this institution will provide care to in the context of considerable family stress and high emotions. Thus there has to be not only technical excellence but also an unremitting compassion and sensitivity by all participants. As a frequent consultant in both our NICU and PICU I was always amazed (and somewhat overwhelmed) by the technical marvel and complexity that is ECMO care.

Since 2005, 41 children have undergone ECMO at the MCH. These are children who quite simply would have died otherwise. It is a testament to Sam and **all** the ECMO team members that 29 of these children are now alive as a result of their efforts. These children who owe their lives to the efforts of our ECMO team. Imagine how grateful the families must be for this gift. It truly is a substantial accomplishment that is a testament to our Mission and Values.

Please join me in thanking Sam for his efforts and congratulating him on the success for which he can be justifiably proud. I have no doubt that Sam will give the credit to the team.

Happy Halloween,

Michael

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