

January 23, 2015

"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else"

Yogi Berra

Hi Everyone,

Those who truly know me, know that I have a soft-spot for occupational therapists. And those who do know me, instantly know why.

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Anne-Marie Goyette** of our Division of General Pediatrics. For doing what comes naturally for her.

Anne-Marie started her career as a health professional as an occupational therapist. A graduate of McGill's School of Physical and Occupational Therapy (aka SPOT), she worked as a pediatric OT here at the MCH. She decided to switch tracks and moved over to a medical degree at UdeM followed by a residency in pediatrics at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa where she was Chief Resident. Medicine's (and pediatrics') gain was unfortunately occupational therapy's loss.

Not surprisingly for someone who was a pediatric OT at one point, she was most attracted to Developmental Pediatrics as a sub-specialty interest. After all, OTs concern themselves with function, activity and participation and focus on medically what physicians' label as impairment and disability. Occupational therapy's goal in a nutshell is trying to make the best of what you got.

Lucky for us, Anne-Marie returned to Montreal and the MCH to do her fellowship in Developmental Pediatrics with the dynamic duo of Emmett Francoeur and Shuvo Ghosh. She achieved sub-specialty certification from the Royal College in 2012. She also undertook a rather unique additional training that involved exposure to a variety of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) clinics in the rest of Canada. This disorder, the result of the as yet unquantified maternal consumption of alcohol during a critical timeframe in fetal development, results not in a single disorder but a heterogeneous spectrum of neurological and developmental challenges that includes global developmental delay, intellectual disability, behavioural challenges and autistic features. Diagnosis can be difficult and management certainly is complicated by the socio-cultural matrix against which the disorder occurs.

Anne-Marie formally joined our staff in 2013 in the Developmental Pediatrics Group. She is active in all of the activities of the group and in particular the assessment of children with possible FASD. With her OT background, she brings a rather unique set of expertise and skills to the medical role. She also does shifts in the ER. Those who know Anne-Marie and encounter her in practice readily pick-up on her easy-going affable manner and quick smile. This quickly puts children and parents at ease in what are stressful situations. She is both patient and thorough. She is a natural.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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