

"All I can be is me-whomever that is"  
Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Earl Rubin**, a fellow Wagar High grad from the disco era (if you remember it, you unfortunately lived it).

I always think of Earl as "(FRCP) cubed" as he has undergone and survived the rigors of three different Royal College Specialty programs and exams; Pediatrics, Infectious Diseases and Medical Microbiology. Earl is a member of the Department's Division of Infectious Diseases and does triple duty not only in ID but also in the microbiology labs and as a pediatric ward attending. As a fellow consultant for the past quarter-century, one thing that has always impressed me about Earl is his command of the relevant recent medical literature. He has a remarkable ability to cite with accuracy and authority the most recent studies pertaining to a clinical situation always keeping on top of what has been a rapidly changing spectrum of diagnostic tests and available therapeutic agents.

Earl has made a particular impact in medical education. Early in his career with us he received the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Award from the resident staff. For 15 years, he worked diligently and with great effect managing the numerous Family Medicine residents that rotate through the MCH to gain the pediatric exposure necessary to take care of infants, children and youth. This is no easy matter when they have but two months of such pediatric experience. He has served on both the Infectious Disease and Medical Microbiology specialty committees of the Royal College and indeed did a turn as Chair of the Medical Microbiology Examination Board. This is impressive for any child health practitioner when a specialty covers both the pediatric and adult world.

Earl has also devoted himself to the "life" of this institution putting in a lot of hours into various hospital committees including the Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists at the MCH (both as a member and Chair) and on the equivalent Central Executive Committee that is MUHC wide. This has been accompanied by a stint on the MCH Board (the Council for Services to Children and Adolescents) and a current seat on the Board of the MUHC as a physician representative. These are not trivial commitments and indeed on each, Earl has served as a passionate and consistent voice for the primacy of the quality of medical care as being the prime driver for decision-making. Sometimes Earl has been one of few such clear voices.

A final area of Earl's contribution is his frequent organization of hospital social events. For many years, he has teamed with Preetha to put on a fun Spring Fling Party that involves dressing up, dinner and dancing (or what passes for it when performed by middle-aged male physicians) at which the contributions of residents can be lauded and feted and as community we can 'let our hair down' (not much for Earl or I) and simply have some well-deserved fun.

It's folks like Earl that knit together a community like ours. Sometimes we need to stop and pay notice.

Have a great weekend everyone,

Michael

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