

Departmental Acknowledgement

“I kinda live where I find myself”

Bob Dylan

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgment goes to Dr. Suzanne MacDonald of the Division of Adolescent Medicine. Like many of our cherished colleagues, Suzanne is a “lifer” at McGill but that has not constrained her activities and interests. She is in fact a true Montrealaise, having been born and raised in and around Montreal, while remaining involved in multiple community volunteering experiences, principally with developmentally needy youth. She has also been able to enrich her life by becoming fluent in French and Italian, with much knowledge of German, Serbo-Croatian, Russian and Spanish.

She is known to operate with “tenacious excellence”, energizing any clinical situation in which she finds herself, and challenging her colleagues to try and keep up with her. This commitment to evidence-informed clinical care is of course much appreciated by the many adolescents she has helped over the years, no matter what the issue. She can pretty well handle any question in her clinics, a real generalist in Adolescent Medicine, which leads to calls from many community physicians for everything from dysmenorrhea problems to breast size and identity struggles. Her compassion and nurturing attitude is known by her patients (including her many patients in the emergency department) but also by students at all levels since she is principally devoted to teaching excellence. Her generosity in teaching time is not only known in the hospital but also in community clinics, family physician gatherings, and our Medical School. Our PALS course has benefitted greatly from her participation over many years. One measure of her teaching ability is her receipt of the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award in 2009. Where does the energy for this hard-working, reliable, professional clinician come from? Could it be her Coca Cola at breakfast or from her Martial Arts workouts (demonstrations of which have been on display at several of our Renewal Days)?

Wherever this special lady derives her motivation and energy, it is highly appreciated by adolescents and students alike, and certainly by her colleagues. Her kindness to all is exemplary and we look forward to many more years of contributions from this pillar of the Adolescent Medicine Division.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Emmett

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