

Departmental Acknowledgement

"Act the way you'd like to be and soon you'll be the way you'd like to act"
Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

I am actually going to get flak for this week's Departmental Acknowledgement as the person named does not want to be highlighted. However, in good conscience, I feel it is most deserving and simply needs to be done. This week's Acknowledgement goes to **Sylvie Lafleur** (aka "the new Sylvie") who is my Administrative Assistant in the Chair's office.

Sylvie stepped in last Fall to replace the legendary Sylvie Sahyoun. She did so flawlessly at a time of multiple operational and personnel issues. She has managed to keep up with my "ritalin deficient" workplace modus vivendi and my somewhat notorious constant fast pace and lack of patience. There is a never ending stream of meetings and tasks to be managed often arising near-simultaneously. The demands are not made easier by my continued clinical and research involvement and admittedly heavy travel schedule. Sylvie started at Ground Zero and very quickly learned about process, rhythms and personalities. She is an amazingly quick learner. She has also done so with good humor, grace and a constant pleasantness which is essential as she is the initial 'face' of the Office for those who come in contact with it. She has also learned that it's the personal touch that is so critical to our Departmental culture that enables us to continue to exert ourselves in difficult times.

Sylvie has worked at the MUHC (and its predecessors) since 1985 in such varied domains as psychiatry, child psychiatry and Human Resources. She took a short break from the MUHC to work in hospital environments at the CSSS des Sommets in Ste-Agathe and then at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont. But she came back to the MUHC as she feels "at home". A dedicated mom of three, she has a handle on work-life balance. Her innate efficiency enables her to pack a lot of work into the time spent here.

Sylvie did not want me to announce her appointment to the Department last Fall. I listened to her then. This Acknowledgment is a way for me to get around this restraint.

Please join me in welcoming Sylvie to our Departmental family.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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