

Departmental Acknowledgement

“If you don’t know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else.”

Yogi Berra

Hi everyone,

The Children’s move this month stirs up a lot of emotions: nostalgia, excitement, and a whole lot of anxiety. We have faced a perfect storm of changes in recent years, many unexpected. This week’s departmental acknowledgement goes to **Michael Shevell** for his phenomenal leadership through this exciting and difficult time in the history of the Children’s.

Michael loves quotes, perhaps even more than snow globes. One of the first wall hangings in his office on C-4 was a simple frame of three quotes that capture well his vision on leadership. Spoiler alert: none are from Yogi Berra.

« The growth and development of people is the highest calling of leadership. »

Harvey S. Firestone

“Leadership is much more an art, a belief, a condition of the heart, than a set of things to do. The visible signs of artful leadership are expressed, ultimately, in its practice.”

Max Depree

“It is the responsibility of leadership to provide opportunity, and it is the responsibility of individuals to contribute.”

William Pollard

Below, please find what a member of the Executive wrote about Michael.

“It is hard to imagine a more challenging time for our hospital. In the last few years, we have had to deal in short order with the Plan Clinique, cuts in our PEM’s, two rounds of significant budget cuts and a historic move to new facilities. Combined, these issues will fundamentally change the way we deliver care to our patients. Despite this, Mike has always kept his eye on maintaining our tripartite mission; clinical, education and research.

He has modernized our governance by developing a new Mission Vision and Values for our Department. He has introduced new Internal Regulations that define our responsibilities and how we are to work together toward our common goals. He has created a system of distributed leadership to share the workload and to tap the extensive resources that lie in our Department. He has spearheaded the development

of our OPD facility, spending many weekends and evenings meeting with the relevant parties (medical, administrative, legal, and financial) to bring this to fruition.

He balances his role as Physician-in-Chief with his continued clinical neurology practice and active research career. All performed with a good sense of humor and what seems a never-ending supply of Yogi Berra quotes.

While the challenges facing us may seem daunting, it is sometimes helpful to look back at what we have accomplished so far. It is a lot. I think we can all be thankful that Mike has been there to bring us this far.”

Please join me in taking a moment to be thankful.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Maryam Oskoui, MD, MSc, FRCPC
Assistant Professor, Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology & Neurosurgery
McGill University
Associate Director, Division of Pediatric Neurology
Montreal Children's Hospital