"Baseball is ninety percent mental and the other half is physical"

Yogi Berra

Hi Everyone,

An academic 'triple-threat' implies someone who excels in all three domains of the traditional academic mission: clinical service, teaching and research. They are among our MVPs and any Chair is grateful for their membership in their Department. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to one of our triple-threats, **Guilherme Sant'Anna**.

A Brazilian native (Rio de Janeiro), Guilherme did his university and medical degrees in Brazil, as well as the bulk of his post-graduate training in neonatology. Guilherme came north to Montreal, McGill and the MCH for both his PhD in respiratory physiology and a formal fellowship in neonatal and perinatal medicine. His initial academic posting was at McMaster's in Hamilton, before he returned to Montreal with an appointment as an Associate Professor in our Department and a position as an attending in our Division of Neonatology in 2009.

Guilherme’s clinical skills are universally recognized. As a consultant and frequent visitor to the NICU when I am on service, I have always been impressed by his dedication, passion and energy for the frail newborns under his care. I have also been particularly impressed by his encyclopedic knowledge of the relevant literature when it comes to citing the evidence regarding diagnostic and treatment decisions in neonatal medicine. Guilherme is also well-recognized as a valued teacher to our trainees both at the resident and fellowship level. He received the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Award in 2011 from the residents and was again nominated for this Award this past year. Particularly impressive is his regular supervision of clinical trainees on multiple varied research projects. A mark of success in this domain is both the consistent publication records of these trainees and their receipt of Awards for their research efforts.

Despite not having any ‘formal’ protected time, Guilherme has excelled in research efforts, demonstrating that the motivated clinician, even in the most challenging clinical environment, can carry out research. His research efforts have focused on furthering our understanding of the control of breathing in such clinically encountered contexts in the NICU as prematurity, hypoxia and altered temperature (eg cooling). Guilherme is a co-PI on a CIHR grant presently and is supervising 5 graduate students, one of whom is a fellow neonatologist Wissam Shalish, whose FRQ-S PhD salary Award was ranked #1 in its competition. Guilherme has a steady publication record which has accelerated recently with 30 publications in the past 3 years, the majority as Senior Author. He has worked to set up an international research consortium involving colleagues at Wayne State University in Detroit and Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He has also successfully implicated the MCH as the sole Quebec site for an international RCT to evaluate the effectiveness of nebulized surfactant in RDS, which will heavily implicate our pediatric Centre for Innovative Medicine which is a unique MUHC located resource. Quite frankly the breadth and extent of Guilherme's research efforts is most impressive from my perspective. Together, with other young researchers in our Division of Neonatology, it is one of my pleasures in my first mandate as Chair to see a research culture take root and gain its wings within this Division. It’s a credit to the entire Division and its leadership for enabling this and should serve as an example to all Divisions within the Department.

A final note about Guilherme. He is passionate about football (soccer) and the Brazilian national team. I have resolved with this Acknowledgement to finally stop needling him about the mass ‘fugue’ attack suffered by his team in last year's World Cup against the eventual Champion Germany. He has well-earned this reprieve with his outstanding performance.
Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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