

Departmental Acknowledgement

"If the world was perfect, it wouldn't be"
Yogi Berra

Hi Everyone,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement is a 'two-for-one' and goes to **Terry Sigman** coinciding with my announcement of her appointment as Division Director of Pediatric Gastroenterology for a 5-year term commencing December 1st, 2015.

Terry is your proverbial McGill lifer. A product of a well-known Montreal medical family (her Dad is a general surgeon and both of her siblings are physicians [her sister Karen is a member of our Division of Allergy, Immunology & Dermatology]), Terry did a BSc in psychology, followed by an MDCM, both at McGill. She then subsequently entered our pediatrics residency program and chose to sub-specialize in gastroenterology with a 3-year fellowship in that field, with a particular interest in inflammatory bowel disease. Her academic studies are replete with multiple entrance scholarships, designation as a Faculty or University scholar, book prizes and even a graduation medal in Ob-Gyn.

Terry was recruited to our Division of GI joining our attending and academic staff in 1997. Many junior colleagues may not be aware, but GI was one of our Divisions in the early years of the 21st century under considerable clinical stress due to a lack of subspecialty personnel. Terry was thus compelled at an early stage in her career to shoulder a considerable level of clinical and administrative service. She stepped up to the plate and did so, making selfless contributions to our community at the expense of personal academic gain. Beginning in 2002, she became Director of Endoscopy and only stepped down from this post to become an Interim Director of Pediatric GI in 2008, a position for which she was renewed in 2010. This latter post she has retained to the present time.

As a clinician, Terry has continued to provide stellar care to patients with IBD (for which she has received the Carl Goresky Memorial Award) and has also developed over time an expertise in celiac disease. As an educator, she has focused her efforts on UGME. She is now in her second term as an Osler Fellow (class of 2013 and 2017) and often gives small group sessions to medical students on aspects of professionalism, physicianship and communication. She has also devoted considerable time and personal efforts to managing her Division and its varied clinical interests and technical responsibilities.

In her presentation to the Review Committee, I was particularly impressed by Terry's thoroughness and her level of self-reflection and insight. She did not shy away from discussing challenges as well as opportunities. In my first mandate, Terry's ability to be 'calm in a storm' and focus on the end game, which is really about our patients, has been a most redeeming feature that I have noted in her leadership skills. The External Reviews of her mandate as Division Director were quite positive and the Review Committee was unanimous in its recommendation to appoint her Division Director on a permanent basis.

Please join me in congratulating Terry on this personal accomplishment. I look forward to working with her as part of the Department's leadership team.

With Terry's appointment, I have completed reviews or selections in all (16) of the Divisions of the Department save one (Emergency Medicine) and this is scheduled to take place in February. While this is a considerable administrative undertaking, it is a most necessary one and adheres to our Departmental values of accountability, transparency and innovation. It has also enabled me to learn much about our Department and its inner workings.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor (with Tenure)
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery
McGill University

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief
Montreal Children's Hospital/
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

Follow Me on Twitter: @McGillPeds