

Departmental Acknowledgement

"There are some people who, if they don't already know, you can't tell them"
Yogi Berra

Hi Everyone,

See one. Do one. Teach one.

This was the mantra of clinical medical education for generations since the days of Osler. It certainly was in my day as a learner when my first pleural biopsy done on a gravely ill patient on a medical service came back with a pathology report that noted.....normal liver.

Thankfully since then, there has been seminal advances in medical education and that is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Simulation Education**.

McGill has been quite fortunate in this realm. Noted local philanthropist, MCH patron and former McGill Chancellor Arnold Steinberg stepped up a while ago and funded the establishment of the Arnold and Blema Steinberg Simulation Centre for Medical Education. I have been envious on multiple occasions as my daughter Allison's medical education and pediatric training has benefitted enormously from regular participation in this Centre. Whether it be the MMI that occurs at the final stages of the admission process, learning about physicianship, professionalism and difficult situations (ie giving bad news, violent patients), practicing technical procedures such as lines and intubation, or improving the teamwork and outcomes of arrests, learners have the opportunity to be exposed to the art and craft that is medicine in a setting that is nurturing, fun and free of the potential to cause harm or discomfort to actual patients. Observation by instructors provide the means for constructive debriefing that has, as its focus, improvement and refinement. Recently, our Departmental Renewal Day, under the leadership of Emmett Francoeur, focused on improved communication and made use of actors at the Simulation Centre in a variety of contexts. Participants, including myself, benefitted enormously from this opportunity to become better mutual learners in our communication skills. We are also fortunate as a Department to have truly world leaders in simulation education amongst us in the likes of Ron Gottesman and Farhan Bhanji.

Good as the Simulation Centre is, one drawback is its location on Park Avenue, far removed from the Glen site. This also prevents utilization of some of the more recent advances in simulation education that includes simulation in-situ (where an arrest may actually occur) or as teams of health professionals who will actually be undertaking the proposed intervention. Efforts are now underway to rectify this as a local Simulation Centre will no doubt have terrific dividends and a major transversal cross-cutting effect on services delivered throughout our hospital. Such a locale would indeed dovetail nicely with our emphasis on innovation, patient safety, and family-centred care. Proximity will also increase use by both learners and Faculty and should improve the care we give and the outcomes experienced for children and their families. I have decided to make this a personal priority of my Office as Chair going forward.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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