

"To live outside the law you must be honest"
Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to our outgoing Chief residents **Caitlin Prendergast and Sam Freeman**.

The Chiefs, as they are commonly and collectively called, perform an essential and vital role within the successful functioning of our Department. They work to maintain the well-being and vitality of our pediatric housestaff who are in the trenches and on the front lines throughout where care is delivered. They work diligently to maintain academic activities and are the critical determinants of establishing call schedules. Illnesses and absences are a fact of life and can play last minute havoc with carefully elaborated schedules that must respect work rules and its up to the Chiefs to juggle things to fill in the holes. On more than one occasion plugging a hole will fall on their shoulders. They play a major role in organizing the annual resident retreat and are frequently called upon when the residents' perspective is required in a Departmental forum. They are also often the go-to person, together with the Program Directors, when a resident is struggling with an issue.

Caitlin has both her undergraduate and medical degrees from McGill. Its interesting to note that her undergraduate training includes minors in both political science and hispanic languages. She has done research with publications related to infectious disease and host resistance. She has also done community work in sexual health and gender identity. She has also excelled at volleyball and coached some local girl teams in the sport. Caitlin is off come July to do fellowship training in Emergency medicine at CHEO in Ottawa.

Sam is an Eli (Yale) where he did an undergraduate degree in Economics. He subsequently worked as the primary research assistant for the world leading Columbia University (Lions) economist Jeffrey Sachs in NYC. He then did a medical degree at Universite de Montreal (Carrabins) where-in he took a year off to be the Project manager on a Millennium Villages project directed at quality improvement in maternal health in sub-Saharan Africa. I took advantage of his economic background to have Sam write a paper on income inequality that I will be including in an upcoming monograph on Social Neurology that I am editing. It an impressive well-written paper. Next year Sam will doing an R4 year here in general pediatrics.

The year as Chief Resident is a transitional one in an individual's career trajectory. It gives a young physician still in training a taste for administrative responsibilities. We should be thankful for the terrific job Caitlin and Sam did. As we thank them we should welcome our incoming Chiefs, Marie-Helene Gagnon and Esli Osmanliu.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael

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