

"A hero is someone who understands the responsibility that comes with his freedom"
Bob Dylan

Hi Everyone,

Try to guess who this Department of Pediatrics Superhero is.....



It's none other than **John Mitchell**, Division Director of Pediatric Endocrinology, to whom this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to.

John got the Superhero treatment from the provincial Morquio Syndrome community for his efforts in spearheading locally clinical trials directed at children with this 'orphan disease'. The comic is drawn by Montreal-based cartoonist Yanick Paquette who, when not drawing superhero MDs, can be found drawing such characters as Superman, Batman and WonderWoman for DC Comics.

Morquio syndrome is an autosomal recessive disorder due to a deficient enzyme that leads to excessive accumulation of mucopolysaccharides in the lysosomes of the cells. The clinical symptoms are predominantly orthopedic, cardiac and ophthalmologic in nature and early death often occurs. John's involvement was critical in demonstrating that Vimizim (which sounds like something from the comics), a synthetic enzyme that effectively replaces the original missing enzyme in this condition, can significantly improve outcomes and ameliorate the natural course of this devastating disease. This gives enormous hope and sustenance to affected children and their families.

Please have a look at this link to get the goods on John from a prior DA:
https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/files/peds/march_28_-_john_mitchell.pdf

As mentioned last week, it's sweet to get one's peers recognition. It's perhaps even sweeter to get kudos from one's patients as John did. Leaves me wondering if indeed he does leap over tall buildings on his rocket propelled skateboard....

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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