

**"How does it feel, how does it feel to be without a home, like a complete
unknown, like a rolling stone"
Bob Dylan**

Hi Everyone,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Maria de Tiscar Cavalle-Garrido** for her receipt of the annual Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award at last month's Spring Fling.

This Award is given annually by the residents and fellows enrolled in the 4-5 year journey that is pediatrics or sub-specialty training to enable Royal College certification. It is given to the attending staff who, in the residents' opinion, has given the most to their education and formation as they rotate through their varied clinical experiences. It is an Award particularly prized by attendings and the roster of recipients does indeed read like a who's who of superb Departmental educators. It honors the long and dedicated service of Paige and Bernard Kaplan (a geneticist and nephrologist respectively) to our institution, particularly in the realm of post-graduate education.

Maria is an Assistant Professor and member of our Division of Pediatric Cardiology. Originally from Spain (and given her name, I suspect of aristocratic descent) she did medical school in her native Valencia. After completing pediatric training in Spain, she ventured to North America and more specifically the Hospital for Sick Children, where prior to repeating her pediatric residency she was a research fellow in echocardiography and cardiovascular research. Not surprisingly, she followed pediatric training at Sick Kids with a three-year fellowship in pediatric cardiology and additional sub-specialty training in echocardiography. To put this in perspective, her post-graduate training extended from 1989 till 2005! All for the privilege of practicing in Canada. After stints in Toronto area hospitals with pediatric services, Maria joined our staff in 2008.

Maria is highly respected as a clinician and professional. She is a dedicated and passionate teacher who can bring into the clinical situation for the learner the relevant but complex cardiac anatomy and physiology. As the basis of tertiary pediatric cardiology is congenital heart defects with its structural 'disorganization', a grasp of these fundamentals is essential to correct diagnosis and care. Our residents appreciate Maria's superb teaching skills, her demeanor and her continual role modelling of correct physicianship and professionalism in often difficult situations for children and their families. It is nice to see someone like Maria recognized overtly for her excellence. Please join me in congratulating her on this important award.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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