

**“There are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still”
Franklin D. Roosevelt**

Hi Everyone,

I know summer is over when I start composing the first Departmental Acknowledgement of the academic year, which traditionally goes out the first Friday after Labour Day. I hope everyone had a great summer and all are ready to get fully re-engaged in their segments of our academic mission. The careful reader will note that I have retired Dylan & Berra as my quote masters for the year and will give myself more free range this year.

Our first DA is prompted by a note from grateful parents and goes to **Laurent Legault**. No greater compliment can be given to a health professional than praise from a patient or their family. Here is what parents wrote about Laurent and it's high, well-earned praise indeed:

“We, the parents of a 7-year-old boy with special needs, can say:

Dr. Laurent Legault is proactive and always available to help. We are impressed by his passion for helping children and families and his natural instinct to resolve medical problems. We have observed on many occasions how he is responsive to us (parents), and how he always exhibits a pleasant dialogue with the parent/child. Also, we observed how he is very organized and methodical in his work.

His positive attitude combined with his passion for working with children and families makes it a pleasure to speak with such a professional doctor.

Dr. Laurent Legault is a great doctor and a humble person in the same time who knows how to develop a good relation with the child and parents. His door is always open to greet you with a smile and a proactive answer.”

Laurent is a member of the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and an Assistant Professor in the Department. He did his pediatric residency at Hôpital Ste-Justine as well as his subspecialty training. He joined our active staff in 1999 after a decade long stint at Hôpital Maisonneuve-Rosemont. Laurent served for a decade as Director of our Diabetes Clinic and the insulin pump program. He has also been a leader in pediatric obesity and weight reduction, establishing both hospital-based and community outreach programs on this now well-established 'epidemic' in child health that had significant long-term health consequences. He has become adept at health promotion practices, pursuing advanced level training on the topic and has been a national leader in collaborative clinical and research networks formed to address various aspects of this problem.

Coincidentally, I heard Laurent's name mentioned while doing a brief Visiting Professorship at the National University of Singapore in late August. I had meetings there with senior Departmental representatives to explore the possibility of clinical fellowship training here for their leading trainees. It seems Laurent had already beaten me to the punch and a Singaporean pediatrician, Yvonne Lim, was already here in Montreal doing a 6-month stint with Laurent. The NUS reps were quite pleased by how things were going for Yvonne and the future bodes well for us for hosting more trainees from the leading medical school in Asia.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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