

September 23, 2016

**“If an expert says it can't be done, get another expert”
David Ben-Gurion**

Hi Everyone,

One of the unadulterated joys of being a Faculty member in an academic health setting is to observe the successful trajectory through the early stages of a career of a former trainee. The pleasure one feels is akin to a degree to what a parent feels (without the extended monetary responsibility). Watching a young person achieve 'lift-off' is just so satisfying. One such former trainee that I am taking delight in these days, though I honestly can take no responsibility for his success other than being willing to bring him on staff, is this week's Departmental Acknowledgement recipient, **Robert Sternszus**.

A native Montrealer and McGill MDCM grad, Rob completed his residency in General Pediatrics here at the MCH before undertaking formal advanced training in education. A natural, passionate teacher who relates easily to everyone, Rob undertook and completed a MA in Educational Psychology in the Faculty of Education at McGill. To support this, he received both a prestigious Royal College Fellowship for Studies in Medical Education and the Jonathan Campbell Meakins and Family Memorial Fellowship. Both of these competitive awards are meant to recognize existing educational excellence and to foster its professionalization and academic development. Rob is amongst those in the Faculty across a variety of disciplines who are evaluating, critiquing, innovating and measuring educational efforts in the health professions to improve the learning experience with the ultimate goal to create empowered successful life-long learners.

Though early in his career as Faculty, Rob is already emerging as a natural leader. He is the Director of the Transition to Clerkship course in UGME impacting on all of McGill's MDCM students at an important point in their professional journey. He has led workshops in inter-professional education, not a buzzword but an essential paradigm now and moving forward, as well as in the resident's role as teacher. Rob has also brought forward and put into place a Departmental Task Force now underway that will reconcile our missions of clinical service and training in the setting of declining resident numbers that effectively preclude us from continuing with the status quo.

Rob's passion and skills for academic education is being nurtured by his being a Core Member of the Faculty's Centre for Medical Education where he is supported as a designated Stevenson Faculty Scholar. Our Department has a long and deep history with the Centre and one can see this involvement as essential for our success as medical educators.

With his track record, I am just going to enjoy watching Rob for years to come.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael

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