

October 7, 2016

“At the end of the day, money is just a proxy for votes. That is what makes politics so vulnerable to social media”

Sean Parker

Hi Everyone,

In this social media saturated age, it had to happen eventually. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement is prompted by a tweet and goes to **Robert Platt**. He tweeted the following on October 1st;



Robert Platt p @robertwplatt Oct 1
Exactly 20 years ago today I started @McGillU @McGillPeds @McGillEBOH. Can't see how it could have turned out any better than it did.

He let me and his 'Twitterverse' know that twenty years had passed since joining our Departmental community. Fitting that Robert, a math guy, would mark the number and use the algorithms and the connections of Twitter to convey the message. I was especially delighted to see in his message the personal joy he took in an extended affiliation with our University and the two Departments in the Faculty of Medicine (Pediatrics & Epidemiology, Biostatistics & Occupational Health) that he calls home.

A First Class Honours graduate in Math from McGill, Rob pursued a Master's in statistics at the University of Manitoba before heading to the Pacific Northwest and the University of Washington for an MSc and PhD in Biostatistics. His PhD was entitled "An Evaluation of Saddlepoint Approximations in the Generalized Linear Model" (\$5 to any member of the Department other than an epidemiologist who can explain to me what this is about). He joined the Department in 1996 and was appointed a Full Professor in 2011. Over this interval, he has done yeoman service on the RI's Biostatistical Consulting service providing methodological input to clinician investigators with ideas and data to ensure rigorous analysis and results that are valid and meaningful. His own work as an independent investigator has focused over the years on meta-analysis, causal inference based on observational data, perinatal epidemiology and now pharmacoepidemiology. He has held external salary support awards from the FRQ-S up to and including the Chercheur-National level. Indeed, he has recently been appointed to the University's first Chair in Pharmacoepidemiology. He has also served his peer community as President of the Biostatistics Section of the Statistical Society of Canada (they must have great fantasy sports leagues...) and as President of the Society of Pediatric and Perinatal Epidemiologic Research.

Twenty years is a long time to spend in one place in academia. Obviously, both Rob and our Department have been blessed by the association as I replied on Twitter.



Dept. of Pediatrics p @McGillPeds Oct 1
Dept. of Pediatrics Retweeted Robert Platt
@robertwplatt Looking forward to the next 20 years of remarkable productivity Thanks for choosing @mcgillpeds @mcgillmed @McGillEBOH

Happy Thanksgiving everyone and have a great long weekend!

Michael

Michael Shevell, MDCM, FRCPC, FCAHS
Chairman, Department of Pediatrics
Professor (with Tenure)
Departments of Pediatrics and Neurology/Neurosurgery
McGill University

Guyda Chair in Pediatrics

Pediatrician-in-Chief
Montreal Children's Hospital/
McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

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