

October 28, 2016

**"Curves are the essence of my work because  
they are the essence of Brazil, pure and simple"**

**Oscar Niemeyer**

Hi Everyone,

It's exceedingly difficult at this time to get an external operating grant. So, successful grant requests need to be celebrated. That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Patricia Fontela**.

Originally from Brazil, where she completed her medical studies and paediatric training in Porto Alegre, Patricia became an attending specialist in critical care in Brazil before venturing to Montreal and the Children's for her Paediatric Critical Care Fellowship. This was followed by research, under the supervision of Departmental members Robert Platt and Caroline Quach, culminating in her being awarded a PhD in 2011. Patricia joined our staff in 2012 both as an attending physician in the PICU and an Assistant Professor.

Building on her PhD studies, Patricia's research focuses on the surveillance and risk factors for infection in paediatric critical care. Infection is a major complication in this population of vulnerable children, setting back recovery and adding considerable morbidity. Patricia's granting success, from the New Investigator Program of CIHR (IHDCYH) & HSCF that prompted this DA, is titled "Evolution of Infection Markers in Children with Severe Bacterial Infections". In this project, Patricia is systematically evaluating potential biomarkers as guideposts to tailor antibiotic treatment in critically ill children.

In addition to her operational granting success, Patricia holds, since 2013, a prestigious Career Development Personal Award from the Canadian Child Health Clinician Scientist Program. She is known throughout the Department as a thoughtful dedicated clinician and patient and thorough teacher at the bedside in the PICU.

Please join me in congratulating Patricia on her personal accomplishment.

Have a great weekend and Happy Halloween!

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)

Follow Me on Twitter: @McGillPeds