

November 4, 2016

**"Knowledge in the end is based on acknowledgement"
Ludwig Wittgenstein**

Hi Everyone,

National awards given to a Departmental member are to be especially savored as these represent a recognition of excellence and accomplishment that reaches far beyond our walls. That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Farhan Bhanji**.

On October 22 in Halifax, I had the pleasure of presenting Farhan and joining him as he received the 2016 Pediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC) Clinician-Educator Leadership Award. One of three annual awards (the others are in research and practice) given by the PCC, Farhan is the fourth member of the Department to receive this particular Award in education since its inception in 2007 joining Wendy MacDonald, Saleem Razack and Ron Gottesman. Michael Kramer and Constantin Polychronakos have received the PCC Clinician-Research Leadership Award and Emmett Francoeur, the one in practice. Our Department, one of 17 across Canada, has received 7 of the 30 National Awards thus far granted by the PCC! This is why a common refrain by myself is that we punch well above our weight.

Attached below is an excerpt from my letter of nomination for Farhan which provided the manifold reasons for his recognition.

Farhan is presently an Associate Professor in the Department and doubly certified in both Paediatric Emergency Medicine and Paediatric Critical Care Medicine. Due to his considerable on-site commitments at the Royal College in Ottawa, Farhan presently restricts his medical practice to an attending role in our intensive unit where he devotes many long hours to caring for our most critically ill and technology dependent children. It is at the bedside, in the noble tradition of Osler, that Farhan's innate skill and enthusiasm for the medical educator role is first and readily apparent. Farhan always seeks to find the 'teaching moment' that rewards the learner in a busy, demanding, and emotionally stressful clinical context with a pearl of science, knowledge or wisdom that can then be grafted into the learner in a hard-wired way that is particularly enduring and relevant. Farhan's teaching skill has been recognized by our residents with his receipt of the Paige and Bernard Kaplan Annual Teaching Award (2007) and by the University with his induction into the prestigious Faculty Honour Role for Educational Excellence (2014).

From an early stage in his academic career, Farhan has consistently assumed positions of leadership locally, nationally and internationally in the educational domain. He was among the first physicians to undergo formal post-graduate training in education. Farhan graduated with honours from the Master of Science Program in Health Professions Education from the University of Maastricht in the Netherlands (2008). In a foreshadowing of his future pursuits, his thesis focused on a rigorous evaluation of the assessment of physician learning. Locally, Farhan served as a Program Director for our Emergency Medicine Fellowship program (2007-2013) and as Fellowship Director for the Faculty's Postgraduate Fellowship in Health Sciences education that includes physicians from all specialties (2011-present). He is a longstanding member (2006-present) of the Faculty's Centre for Medical Education that is both a strategic educational 'think-tank' and a forum for the academic evaluation of medical education and Faculty development efforts. Indeed, Farhan has secured external operating grants in medical education and published extensively on the topic of educational assessment and curriculum development. Farhan's skill in education was recognized by being awarded the inaugural Richard and Sylvia Cruess Scholar Award in Medical Education (2011).

At a national level, rare for a paediatrician, Farhan has assumed a leadership role at the Royal College that transcends the discipline of paediatrics. Effectively, he has been

seconded to the Royal College for roughly 50% of his time currently. Initially his focus was as a Clinician Educator focusing on CanMEDS roles and Faculty Development, but since 2013, Farhan is now the Associate Director for Assessment in the Office of Specialty Education. Farhan has the daunting task of overseeing specialty assessment in all 69 specialties certified by the Royal College. As if that was not enough of a challenge, he has the even more daunting task of overseeing the introduction of the new paradigm of competency based education as a metric of post-graduate training trajectory and eventual certification. In these roles, Farhan impacts every specialist trained and certified (and to be trained and certified) in Canada at a national level.

At an international level, Farhan is a leader in two fields. First is Simulation Education where he is pioneering the role of teams in simulation training coupled with in-situ simulation experiences that best approximates the 'real-world' situation. A second area of quite remarkable impact on a daily basis that is a considerable leveraging of his expertise, Farhan is the Chair of the Education Science and Products Subcommittee of Emergency Cardiovascular Care of the American Heart Association. In this role, he oversees the educational component of the AHA's resuscitation programs that trains 15 million (that is not an error!) individuals each year in 'out of hospital' resuscitation techniques. He has played a similar role with the Heart and Stroke Foundation of Canada and as present co-Chair of the International Liaison Committee on Resuscitation. Thus Farhan is actively shaping how resuscitation after cardiac arrest is both undertaken and taught. For these efforts, at an international level, Farhan has been recognized with a Fellowship by the American Heart Association and a Visiting Professorship in Medical Education at Gifu University in Japan (2013).

As his Chair, I am remarkably proud of what Farhan has accomplished in education as a leader. He has done so on his own initiative propelled by a natural skill and intelligence tempered by an innate drive that is fired by a personal passion for what he does. He embodies the very best of our educational culture and serves as a role model to his peers and younger physicians of what can be accomplished.

Please join me in congratulating Farhan on this tremendous personal accomplishment.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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