

December 2, 2016

**“Wonder. Go on and wonder”
William Faulkner**

Hi Everyone,

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgement is suggested by David Zielinski (who just welcomed, with his wife Vicki, a new child into this world) who took the time to put forward **Adam Shapiro**.

What prompted David’s recommendation is Adam’s remarkable work in Primary Ciliary Dyskinesia (PCD) over a short time interval. Also known as Kartagener Syndrome or immotile cilia syndrome, PCD is a genetic disorder in which the main effect of immotile cilia is a failure to keep the lungs and sinuses clear of debris leading to a pile up of mucus, recurrent infections and a progressive compromise in lung function.

Adam’s accomplishment in PCD is an example of an old academic axiom/truism: “call yourself an expert and in five years you will be one”. What this means is that if one takes an interest in a particular challenging disorder and makes it a focus in one’s efforts, pretty soon patients are flocking to you and you only learn more. Building on an interest in PCD acquired during his pediatric pulmonology fellowship at UNC in Chapel Hill (Go Tar Heels!), Adam established the first Quebec PCD Clinic at the MCH when he returned to Montreal in 2011 where he had completed his MDCM in 2004. Adam has leveraged this interest in a rare but devastating disorder into a leading international role and profile. He serves as Medical Director of the PCD Foundation and received earlier this year this organization’s Director’s Award for outstanding service to the PCD community. He has led the drive for consensus clinical recommendations based on evidence for diagnosis and treatment and was first author of the American Thoracic Society’s Guidelines on PCD. He has multiple publications on PCD in peer-reviewed publications and plays a role in multiple collaborative research projects addressing varied aspects of diagnosis and treatment of PCD.

A transplanted Southerner, Adam’s Virginian drawl is a noticeable change to the flat cadence of ‘Canadian’ English and always reminds me of the carnivorous and primal delights of a BBQ.

Please join me in congratulating Adam on his awards, but more importantly for becoming an expert that makes a difference for patients.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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