

December 16, 2016

**“There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.
The other is as if everything is.”**

Albert Einstein

Hi Everyone,

For the last Departmental Acknowledgement of the year I usually try to think a bit outside the box. That is why this week's Acknowledgement goes to a group I had dinner with last week; the **MCH Affiliated Community Pediatricians**.

This diverse group represents the medical 'home' for many of the patients cared for at the MCH. They are the familiar face that parents and families turn to for guidance, assurance, continuity and most importantly that initial recognition that their precious child requires referral to what the hospital-based group of academic subspecialty physicians offer. In this era of Plan Cliniques and Clinical Networks these physicians are playing an increasing role in service delivery.

Yet this role is often under-appreciated and has challenges that are unnecessary which act as roadblocks to delivering our goal of high quality family centered care. Chief among these challenges are providing communication in a timely and comprehensive way that their patients have visited the MCH and obtained care. While automatic computer generated notification of an ER visit or admission or open access to the information contained in OASIS seem logical, bureaucratic barriers exist. Unfortunately, the collegiality of a phone call to a child's pediatrician or the professionalism of a written consultation is all too often missing.

Aside from these challenges, what I also heard from the 20 pediatricians in attendance was a willingness to be part of our community, to be partners in care and education. It's a partnership we should explore and actively embrace. To minimize barriers to care and to optimize what should be a mutually beneficial and synergistic relationship I have asked our Vice Chair Emmett Francoeur, a community-hospital hybrid, to assemble and head up a Task Force to explore actionable items that we, as a Department, can undertake. This Task Force will bring together key representatives from both the community and hospital milieu and are expected to report before next summer.

I am already looking forward to see what we can do to improve things.

As noted, this will be the last DA of 2016. Next week will see distribution of our Winter newsletter. I will resume the Acknowledgements on January 13th after a holiday hiatus.

I just want to close by wishing everyone Happy Holidays, Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah. All the best to you and your families for 2017.

Michael

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