

February 3, 2017

**“Freedom is the freedom to say that two plus two make four.
If that is granted, all else follows.”**

Eric Blair (George Orwell)

Hi Everyone,

In a perfect world, some roles within a hospital structure would not be needed. By definition, these roles are often thankless and more often than not flies under the proverbial radar. For entering his tenth year (!) as the hospital's Medical Examiner, **Dominic Chalut** receives this week's Departmental Acknowledgement.

Dominic received his medical degree at Universite de Montreal, followed by his pediatric residency (including a year as Chief Resident) at the Montreal Children's Hospital. He then followed this with fellowship training in emergency training here that was capped by a year at Children's Hospital Boston where he acquired a highly special expertise in medical toxicology. Fortunately, he returned to Montreal, McGill and the MCH where he has remained since.

Presently an Associate Professor in the Department. Dominic is part of the core Emergency Medicine staff where he has always impressed me as a supremely calm physician amongst what can at times be 'organized' chaos who is on top of his game. When I am on service and one of my residents tells me we have a consult from Dominic, I know that the i's have been dotted and the t's crossed and I can look forward to an appropriate and often challenging consultation experience. Dominic has been the Emergency Medicine Fellowship Program Director and from 2002-2007, its Division Director. His reputation amongst his peers is such that he is on the Royal College Pediatric Emergency Medicine Subspecialty Board.

In recognition for his intelligence and ability to handle difficult situations without losing his cool, Dominic was appointed the MCH's Medical Examiner a decade ago. This role implicates Dominic as the point person in evaluating complaints of unprofessional behaviour or less than quality care. He needs to investigate these matters by rigorously ascertaining the facts, reconciling perspectives (which can often widely differ), respecting process that is fair and respects rights and be adherent to preserving confidentiality like a priest in a confessional. These situations, as you can imagine, are extremely difficult, yet what has impressed me over my time as Chair is that no one involved ever questions Dominic's integrity and impartiality. He is dedicated to truth and fairness and both of these qualities can often be beyond absolute objectivity. He gets my admiration as he is doing a 'job' that I know is tough with little in the way of the typical tangible rewards that drives much of human activity these days.

Please join me in thanking Dominic for doing a 'thankless' task

Have a great weekend everyone!

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)