

March 17, 2017

**“The ends you serve that are selfish will take you no further than yourself,
but the ends you serve that are for all, in common, will take you into eternity.”**

Marcus Garvey

Hi Everyone,

Last night at Holmes Hall, we celebrated formally the establishment of the **Nicolas Steinmetz and Gilles Julien Chair in Social Pediatrics in the Community** established through the generosity of donors acting through the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation. For being the inaugural holder of this Chair, this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Delphine Collin-Vezina**.

Delphine is a clinical psychologist by training and is presently the Director of the McGill Centre for Research on Children and Families, an Associate Professor in the School of Social Work at McGill and a holder of a CRC Tier II Chair in Child Welfare. Both well funded and well published as an independent investigator, Delphine utilizes both quantitative and qualitative methodologies to conduct community-based research that directly informs and impacts practices and policies to promote resilience and wellness in children and youth living in at-risk contexts. Her current research program aims to implement and assess an evidence-based, trauma-informed model of care in Canadian child protection systems to better address the complex needs of children and adolescents in placement with a particular emphasis on children experiencing sexual abuse or trauma. This program of research will provide a unique opportunity to influence decision-making in child protection services and to support front-line work, which holds significant promise to impact children and youth who, without appropriate services, are likely to continue falling behind their peers and growing up in the margins. Not surprisingly, Delphine's expertise has been frequently sought to influence policy making in child protection, reflecting an advocacy element to her academic work.

With the support of this Chair, Delphine will now be spending time in our Department teaching undergraduate and graduate trainees and conducting some of her research efforts. It is envisioned that collaboration with Departmental colleagues will be facilitated and enabled. She will also be spending some time on site at the Julien Foundation in Hochelaga-Maisonneuve evaluating efforts on the front lines of social pediatrics.

To my knowledge, this is Canada's first Chair in Social Pediatrics and reflects the pioneering work done in this area by the Department. Fittingly, the Chair's name honors the enormous contributions of Drs Nicolas Steinmetz and Gilles Julien, both Department members, to this field.

This is the seventh Chair (five endowed and two CRC) held within our Department and the third in my mandate. It is something to celebrate both as a personal achievement for Delphine and a collective one for our community.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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