

April 7, 2017

"Of all the books in the world, the best stories are found in the pages of a passport"

Anonymous

Hi Everyone,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to our departing Chief Residents **Marie-Helene Gagnon and Esli Osmanliu** for a job well done.

The Chief Residents are selected by their peers and the role has evolved over the years from that of what was essentially a PICU fellowship year a generation ago to one that is chiefly administrative. Essentially, the Chiefs serve as a vital link and liaison between the pediatric residents and the Program Directors and hospital clinical leaders. They also play a vital role in ensuring resident well-being and providing much needed peer support at a critical time in one's professional journey. Finally, and perhaps at a most existential level, they ensure that the duty rosters are filled in the context of the invariable, and to be expected, illnesses and leaves that pop up. Many of our most valued Departmental members served a stint as Chief Resident in their time.

Marie-Helene is from Chicoutimi and is very family oriented. She was a competitive diver at a high level and indeed left home at the age of 13 to train and compete. She did her medical school at McGill, which included two months of electives in Africa in Ghana and Burkina Faso. During her time as Chief Resident, she continually tweaked the call schedule to maximize coverage and many times, when coverage was short, Marie-Helene would pitch in herself beyond the work rules to do so. She also updated the resident academic half-day curriculum (together with Rob Sternszus). I will always fondly recall at last year's Staff-Resident BBQ at my place, her parents setting up a slow cooked BBQ pit on my driveway and roasting the biggest side of beef I ever saw. It is hard to believe that in cantankerous Westmount, we didn't get fined for that. Marie-Helene will be heading to Children's Hospital Boston, now that she has slipped through the Trump visa dragnet, for a fellowship in Cardiology.

Esli was born in Albania, a nation that was the next to-last Stalinist dictatorship (North Korea remains) and the poorest in Europe. He left with his family at 9 to come to Canada where he quickly adapted as he played both competitive hockey and tennis. Like Marie-Helene, he got his MDCM at McGill and during his time as a student participated in an exchange with Taiwan (this DA is reading like a globetrotting geography lesson). During his year as Chief, he produced a 'Resident Leadership Guide' to promote leadership skills and involvement in our resident staff. Esli is heading across the mountain to Hopital Ste-Justine for a fellowship in Emergency Medicine.

Let's thank both Marie-Helene and Esli for their time as Chief Residents and wish them the best on their future paths. Let's also welcome the incoming Chiefs, Aris Hadjinicolaou and Matthew Magyar.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Regards

Michael

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