May 19, 2017

“Philanthropy is the rent you pay for success”

Mel Hoppenheim

Hi Everyone,

A few months into my first mandate as Chair, I heard a long time US Chair utter a phrase that has stuck with me ever since: “Philanthropy is the future of academic medicine”. Basically we can expect no further funding beyond the basics from the university or government, so we need to connect with donors to support our dreams to make health care innovative and better for the children and families we serve.

That is why this week’s Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Paul Rossy. A community-based physician who does some clinical associate time in our NICU, Paul has emerged as a dynamo fundraiser for our NICU. Building on connections, he has made contact with donors and made the case for them to provide tangible and substantive support. Donations secured by Paul in the last year have crossed the $1 million threshold and has provided support for the breast milk feeding program for the NICU. This is not merely ‘bells and whistles’, but has been shown to reduce morbidity and improve outcomes across the board for newborns hospitalized in a NICU.

With support for this program secured, Paul has moved on to raising funds to enable the purchase of HERO monitors that will enable both the early detection of neonatal sepsis and the remote monitoring of vitals through SmartPhone Apps. In support of this effort, Paul staged a recent concert at the Corona Theatre centered around the release of his recent album “Goodbye Sings the Wind”. Many members of our donor and hospital community were present to lend their support as well. Once again an expected pay-off in reduced morbidity and improved outcomes can be expected through Paul’s efforts once the HERO monitors are obtained.

We can all learn from Paul and make our own efforts to engage with donors to foster support for our hospital. The dividends and return on the investment of our time will be more than worth it.

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)