

June 2, 2017

**“Research is formalized curiosity. It is poking and prying with a purpose.”
Zora Huston**

Hi Everyone

For the Faculty member for whom the focus is on research, nothing gets better than an external salary support award. Not only does this bear the sweet taste of peer recognition, it is a tangible validation of one's research program's successful efforts and an essential precondition to promotion, tenure and recognition at a national and international level. Our Department is blessed to have a large number of externally supported researchers for its size and this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Marie Brossard-Racine, Mary Ellen MacDonald, Maryam Oskoui and Janet Rennick**. All of these individuals were successful in the recently completed FRQ-S 2016-2017 salary support competition.

An occupational therapist by professional training, Marie Brossard-Racine secured her initial Chercheur-Boursier Jr 1 Award. Marie is an Associate Member of our Department with an appointment in the Division of Pediatric Neurology. Her research program uses advanced quantitative imaging techniques to further our understanding of the mechanisms of adverse neurodevelopmental outcomes in at-risk newborn populations with a particular focus on infants with congenital heart disease. Marie's MR techniques are paired with rigorous standardized outcome measures. Marie's PhD work was done here at the MCH and her post-doctoral fellowship at Children's National in DC. Her salary support award comes just weeks after the birth of her first child.

Mary Ellen MacDonald is a medical anthropologist by training. Affiliated as an Associate Member of our Department with a home base in our Division of General pediatrics, Mary Ellen's research work has focused on a variety of vulnerable pediatric populations including indigenous children, socially disadvantaged children and those receiving palliative care. Mary Ellen leads McGill's Qualitative Research group and brings a strong contextual and ethical framework and lens to her efforts. Mary Ellen was successful in receiving a Chercheur Boursier Jr2 Award.

Maryam Oskoui is Canada's first pediatric neuro-epidemiologist. A member of the Division of Pediatric Neurology, she serves on the Department's Executive Committee as Associate Chair (Research). Maryam's clinical and research expertise is directed towards neuro-motor disorders. She leads the Canadian Cerebral Palsy Registry and has made important observations regarding the phenotypic spectrum of this disorder, socio-economic determinants and the increasingly recognized role played by genetic factors in causation. She has also led the way in establishing evidence-based international guidelines for the care of children with spinal muscular atrophy and muscular dystrophy and been a key participant in the conduct of international clinical trials evaluating novel genetic based treatments for SMA that are paradigm shifters. Maryam received a Chercheur Boursier Clinicien Award at the Jr 2 level.

Janet Rennick is a nurse by health profession and leveraged her clinical experience as a PICU nurse to create a successful research program that evaluates the child and family's response to critical illness. The goal of Janet's work is to improve our knowledge of psychological outcomes after pediatric critical illness and correlate these outcomes with factors that are amenable to intervention and change. Janet is an Associate Member of our Department and is affiliated with the Division of Critical Care. She received a Chercheur Boursier Clinicien at the Senior level.

We can all take pride in the contributions of Marie, Mary Ellen, Maryam and Janet to our academic enterprise. They represent a diversity of research methodologies, clinical challenges, approaches and inter-disciplinarity that is increasingly a hallmark of research success. They are all in their own work adding to what we know about child health and disease. They are indeed poking and prying with a purpose.

Please join me in congratulating each of them on their important personal awards.

Have a great weekend!

Michael

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