

June 16, 2017

**“Knowledge is in the end based on acknowledgement.”
Ludwig Wittgenstein**

Hi Everyone

There is nothing sweeter in academia than peer recognition for a body of work that constitutes one's career efforts. That is why this week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Larry Lands** on the occasion of his receiving the Pediatric Respiriology Lifetime Award from the Canadian Thoracic Society (CTS). David Zieleinski put forward Larry for this award and had the honor of introducing Larry at the CTS recent annual meeting in Winnipeg. I have reproduced Dave's introductory speech on this occasion below.

"I am very proud to introduce this year's recipient of the Life-time Achievement award in Pediatric Respiriology. The Recipient is supposed to meet at least one of the criteria:

- 1. Distinguished clinical service and dedication to patient care*
- 2. Significant contribution to clinical or basic science research in the field of pediatric respiriology*
- 3. Dedication to the education of pediatric respiratory fellows or students*
- 4. Significant contribution to academic pediatric respiriology in Canada, including the Canadian Thoracic Society or Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation*

I think it goes without saying that this year's winner, Dr. Larry Lands is clearly deserving of this award as he has excelled at all levels including research, education, leadership and clinical involvement."

As a bit of a background, Larry did his clinical training at the Montreal Children's Hospital before starting his clinical practice at Maisonneuve Rosemont Hospital. After a few years his drive for academics led him to undertake a PhD at McMaster University focusing on factors affecting maximal exercise performance in cystic fibrosis. before he returned to his home at the MCH and McGill in 1992 where he has remained ever since.

Academically he has an outstanding track record near the top of this country in our field. He has well over 150 peer reviewed publications, numerous book chapters and has been consistently receiving grants. I am not going to review his entire CV as we could be here all night but I would like to mention Larry has been involved in leadership at multiple national and international respiratory societies, has been an invited lecturer all over the world has and continues to sit on multiple editorial boards and grant review committees. After reading everything he does, it actually now makes sense why sometimes we cannot find him anywhere.

Education-wise Larry has been a committed teacher over his career. He was a long time Pediatric Respiriology training program director at McGill and is the current fellowship director for the Pediatric Respiriology Research Fellowship. He has been running our weekly fellows physiology course and had been giving regular ventilator physiology lectures for ICU trainees. He has also supervised many Masters and PhD students.

Larry has been a Leader here at the Canadian Thoracic Society since our pediatric group made this our national organization in 2008 and is currently serves on the CTS Board of Directors and is the Chair of the Society's Research Committee.

Where, at least for me, Larry really stands out is the leadership and mentorship he has always provided to our group. His leadership has led most of us to take on significant leadership positions in national and International organizations and to succeed in our clinical and academic pursuits. Around our Division, Larry is often referred to as 'Dad'. He takes that role seriously allowing us to develop and spread our wings at our own pace, giving us the freedom we need and advice when we need it. He has always been there more as a mentor and then as our boss. Now there may be some rumors that occasionally Larry may have a temper, but I stress these are just rumors which have never been substantiated. That said we always know Larry has our best interests at heart and will always stand up for us. More so then Dad, Larry is more like our Big Brother and we really appreciate him for that."

Not only did Larry receive this major honor from a national society of his peers, but his long time advocacy efforts paid off just this month with the announcement that Quebec will now offer universal newborn screening for cystic fibrosis. The test will be a biochemical one which will be followed by detailed molecular diagnosis. Early diagnosis will no doubt lead to improve outcomes for the children. Sadly Quebec is the last jurisdiction in North America to offer this screening and only does so because of the relentless lobbying that was a partnership between the lay CF community and academics like Larry.

Please join me in congratulating Larry on his personal honor but also on his advocacy success which makes a difference.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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