

February 15, 2019

Hi Everyone,

The Department and hospital community suffered a great loss last week with the sudden and most unexpected death of Rick Haber while he was on holiday in Mexico. From my perspective this was way too soon and way too unfair for a man as gentle, kind and generous as Rick. He was a caring physician, dedicated teacher, cherished husband and father, a pillar of his faith and a trusted colleague and friend.

I have chosen to reprint my departmental Acknowledgement to Rick this week in honour of his memory. Ironically it was given deliberately two years ago February during his vacation in Mexico.

*This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Richard Haber** and is timed so that he gets it in the midst of his annual monthly Mexican siesta with the sun on his face and the sand between his toes.*

*One of the wry observations that Rick and I regularly share is noticing how often after 6 PM we both seem to be in our offices. Rick is a community-based pediatrician with a busy West Island practice who for many years has been a vital in-hospital presence in the Division of General Pediatrics. As Associate Division Director, he provides sage leadership and advice that is the fruit of his extensive experience in medicine. He heads up both the Resident Continuity Clinic (RCC) and the Pediatric Consultation Clinic (PCC). The former is a pedagogical milieu that provides for our General Pediatric trainees a continuity clinical setting that enables them over the years to follow their own patients, who are a combination of well-children and former admitted patients in the hospital with varying challenging issues. It is meant to simulate for the learner an office pediatric experience, which is a practice setting many will find themselves in upon graduation. The PCC is a clinical setting that offers specialty pediatric consultation expertise for primary physicians struggling with a challenging case in the pediatric age group. A third effort of enormous administrative effort by Rick is his leadership for many years of the pediatric component of training for McGill's Family Medicine residents. There are a substantial number of such residents and Rick does the herculean job of scheduling their clinical exposure on the wards and in clinics, as well as assembling their evaluations. In this way, Rick has a large impact on future care to children as increasingly such care will be provided by family medicine physicians.*

*Rick is a Renaissance man with undergraduate and graduate degrees (two) in philosophy and theology. He was in the first graduating class at McMaster Medical School that broke the mold for undergraduate medical training with a case-based approach that employed many pedagogical innovations that became the norm over the years (eg group learning). He did his pediatric training here, where he served as Chief Resident and then was a fellow in gastroenterology. He is an astute physician with a wonderful bedside manner who is a model of professionalism and physicianship. Over the past few years, with our offices now in close proximity, I have many a time dropped in on him, pulled a chair up and enjoyed many far ranging conversations. Sometimes I find it therapeutic and I am glad it's free and given with warmth and a smile.*

Have some thoughts of Rick and the example he lived this weekend.

Michael

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