

May 22, 2020

Hi Everyone,

With this week's Departmental Acknowledgement, I will be singling out Divisional leaders who have stepped down this Spring from their positions.

First up is **John Mitchell**. Currently an Associate Professor since 2012, John has served as Division Director of Endocrinology and Metabolism since 2013 and will be stepping down on June 30th. Older members of the Department may remember John as a genetic counsellor at the MCH in the early 90s. Despite my being the author of one of his letters of recommendation, he went on to medical school at UBC followed by residencies in Pediatrics and Endocrinology here at McGill and the MCH. John did his Fellowship training Down Under at the Westmead Hospital in Sydney. He returned to staff appointments at McGill and the MCH in 2004.



John has focused on metabolic 'orphan diseases' and has led pioneering work in enzyme replacement and gene therapy intervention trials. He has been a prolific author with an extensive engagement in external professional organizations. He is a leading authority on Morquio and Farber Diseases with multiple international speaking invitations and robust research funding. He has recently taken on co-leadership of the MUHC initiative in rare diseases.

John has quietly but effectively led his Division. He has carefully recruited with an eye to long term robustness and nurtured his younger members, while simultaneously giving his more senior members the space to continue to maintain excellence. He has advocated steadfastly on behalf of his staff and the patients they serve and as Chair/Chief he had my ear with his intelligence, demeanour and humour.

John can be proud of his time as Divisional leader and leaves a Division that is most certainly firing well on academic cylinders.

Please join me in thanking John for his administrative service and wishing his successor Laurent Legault all the best.

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)  
Follow Me on Twitter: @McGillPeds