

June 5, 2020

Hi Everyone,

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Therese Perreault** who stepped down from the Directorship of the Division of Neonatology at the MCH-MUHC on March 1st. A little-known factoid is that Therese received the very first DA when I started this 'tradition' shortly after becoming Chair/Chief in November 2011.



Therese received her medical degree and pediatric training at UdeM and Hopital Ste Justine. She then went on to do her neonatal training at Baylor and Texas Children's Hospital before heading to Toronto for a post-graduate degree in physiology.

Therese was then recruited to the MCH and McGill where she has remained for her entire academic career. She hit the full cycle of FRQ-S salary support awards (Junior 1, Junior 2 and Senior) with a research program focused on the pathogenesis of pulmonary hypertension using an animal model (newborn piglet) that she developed. Systematically Therese evaluated the effects of multiple modulators on this important and complex problem in neonatal medicine.

Therese became Division Director of the MCH Neonatal group in 2003 and in 2012, in anticipation of the move to the Glen in 2015, she became the MUHC Neonatology Division Director combining the MCH and RVH sites. Combining the two was not as easy as it looks on paper, as Therese was tasked to bring two very different cultures together. It was not always smooth sailing, but Therese through force of will persevered and oversaw our move to the Glen and to the immense and cutting-edge physical space that is our NICU on B6S.

Deftly navigating multiple challenges Therese has forged a Division that is a reflection of her values and commitments to evidence-based quality care that contributes mightily to the research and education components of our academic mission. Therese has recruited adroitly (Gabriel Altit, Marc Beltempo, Jessica Duby, Jarred Garfinkle, Elizabeth Hailu, Francois Olivier, Katryn Paquette, Michelle Ryan, Guilherme Sant'anna, Wissam Shalish, Pia Wintermark) and has created a research and educational force in a sector that is critical and transversal in pediatric academic tertiary care. She can be proud of what she has accomplished. If that wasn't enough Therese led the way to establish a Departmental partnership in newborn medicine with the CHUK in Kigali, Rwanda that includes an international fellowship opportunity.

The one thing I expect from my Division Directors is that they are effective advocates for their people and patients. Therese has been an advocate, forceful when she needed to be with clear goals of excellence always front and centre. She never hesitated to 'drop by' my office if she felt the issue at hand needed a face-to-face to move things forward. Not surprisingly she is a Black Belt in Lean Six Sigma and as I like to say about folks who get things done; "don't get between her and the buffet table". This is a high compliment from myself.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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