

October 9, 2020

Hi everyone,

This week's DA is for **Jae-Marie Ferdinand** and is another given upon the retirement of one of our valued members. This is one tinged with personal regret as Jae-Marie and I were pediatric residents together in another era (sorry Jae-Marie).

Jae-Marie received her medical degree from the University of Toronto before coming to Montreal for her residency in Pediatrics at McGill and the MCH. This was followed by sub-specialty training in neonatology at both Harvard (Boston Children's) and the University of Toronto (Hospital for Sick Children). This was followed by over a decade in a hybrid practice that included such activities as NICU attending, neonatal follow-up and community-based pediatrics all in the greater Toronto area. Fortunately for us, Jae-Marie decided to return to Montreal in 2003. She became part of the neonatal group at the JGH and St Mary's Hospital, and in 2008 she transferred her clinical activities to the RVH and back to the MCH, eventually joining the Division of General Pediatrics.



Over her last years of clinical practice at the MCH Jae-Marie became increasingly involved in efforts in Social Pediatrics. What really impressed me over the years as Chair was the breadth of her clinical activities and the challenging populations she had chosen to focus her efforts on. She participated in our child abuse/protection service and did pediatric outreach in the Portage Mother-Child Program and at the Batshaw Youth Centre. Portage is a residential facility for young mothers undergoing rehabilitation for substance abuse issues and the Batshaw's efforts are directed at both children for whom their physical, psychological and social security is at risk and juveniles involved in the criminal justice system. She also played a leadership role in directing our Social Pediatrics training program. This program rather creatively exposes our PGME trainees to a diverse spectrum of community engagements that illustrate the profound influence that social determinants can have on child and family health and well-being. At McGill she led the Widening Participation Committee that undertook multiple efforts, both community and university based, to foster entry into the health professions of under-represented segments of the population. Jae-Marie has conceptualized, fostered, implemented and nurtured a number of innovative programmatic efforts. These have included a neonatal developmental care program at the JGH, literacy promotion efforts at the Batshaw, our social pediatrics training program and curricula, and the pediatric presence at Portage. All of her clinical and innovative efforts highlight her passion for making a difference in vulnerable populations.

Not surprisingly rather than simply being static, Jae-Marie spent the past two years on a LOA pursuing a Master's degree in Public Policy at George Washington University.

Please join me in wishing Jae-Marie only the best in the post MCH and McGill segment of her professional journey.

Also, Happy Thanksgiving long weekend to all! Take some time to pause and remember all the good things you have to be thankful for.

Michael

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