

December 18, 2020

Hi Everyone.

To round out our series of Departmental Acknowledgments this month focusing on enduring excellence, I would like to single out **Michael Kramer** for truly stupendous excellence in the research domain over more than 40 years at McGill in our Department.

Coincidentally Michael was among the very first DAs I gave out in only the second month of my initial mandate way back in the Fall of 2011. Michael did his undergraduate degree at the University of Chicago followed by medical school and a pediatric residency at Yale University. He then became a Postdoctoral Fellow in Clinical Epidemiology as part of the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholar Program during which he published a first-author paper in the New England Journal of Medicine. Michael came north to McGill and the MCH in 1978 and fortunate for us he has remained here for his entire academic career.



Michael's work has largely focused on perinatal epidemiology and the identifying the determinants of healthy pregnancy outcomes and child health. He has fashioned a prodigious funding and publication record; over 500 peer reviewed publications and close to 30 books and monographs. He has been inducted into the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences. He has received numerous distinctions for his work including the Pediatric Chairs of Canada Clinician-Researcher Leadership Award, the Abraham Lillenfield Award for Excellence in Epidemiology from the American College of Epidemiology, the Sanofi Pasteur Research Award from the Canadian Pediatric Society, and the President's Award from the Society for Perinatal and Pediatric Epidemiologic Research. At McGill he is currently a Distinguished James McGill Professor and has received the Sessenwein Award from our Department.

Michael's work has prompted his involvement on multiple World Health Organization Task Forces and Advisory Committees. He has also given generously as an academic leader serving as Scientific Director for the Institute of Human Development, Child and Youth Health of the CIHR and Director of CORE (Centre for Outcome Research & Evaluation) of the RI-MUHC during the time frame that included the challenging move to the Glen and establishment of the CORE at 5252 de Maisonneuve.

Michael has mentored and supervised many in his career and this roster reads like a Who's Who of pediatric epidemiology. He is astute and unstinting in the advice he gives (I have frequently used him as a sounding board over the years) and he is honestly among the most erudite individuals I have encountered in my own journey through academia.

Michael will be retiring from his University appointment on January 1st. This will give him time to write more books (3 are already planned), continue his excellence in chamber music as a violinist, play tennis, and enjoy his soon to be 6 grandchildren. Please join me in thanking Michael for his enduring research excellence over the decades and wish him only health and good things in his upcoming retirement.

This will be the last DA of 2020-a year I am sure we all want to see the end of. Hopefully the new page of 2021 will be one that is much lighter on our psyches, bodies and community. May you have all have a restful and as happy a holiday as it can be in this moment of our history. Merry Christmas to those celebrating this holiday of hope.

The DA and Paeds Reads will resume January 15th.

Michael

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