

February 5, 2021

Hi Everyone.

This is Teacher Appreciation Week so not surprising that this week's Departmental Acknowledgment will have an 'education' theme. Specifically I want to highlight 4 members of the Department who have recently received an Education Award in the past few weeks; **Farhan Bhanji, David D'Arienzo, Laurie Plotnick & Robert Sternszus.**



Farhan, David and Laurie all received an inaugural Teaching Innovation Award from the Faculty of Health Sciences & Medicine. Farhan and Laurie as Faculty members and David as a Learner. Remarkably the Award each received was for a different project and each project was not focused on technology in this age of the virtual educational pivot.

Farhan, a Full Professor and member of our Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine, is no stranger to educational awards having been named (2014) to the Faculty Honour Roll for Educational Excellence and received (2016) the Pediatric Chairs of Canada Clinician-Educator Leadership Award. Since 2013 he has been the Royal College's Director of Assessment in the Office of Specialty Education. Farhan's Innovation Award concerns his *World Restart a Heart Day* which leverages extensive student participation to widely disseminate cardiac arrest resuscitation skills in the population to enable better survival until the EMS arrive. This effort naturally builds on Farhan's longstanding leadership of the educational component of the American Heart Association's public resuscitation efforts.

David is presently our Chief Resident; a challenging role at any time but doubly so in a pandemic. A graduate of McGill, David has impressed everyone with his work ethic, intelligence, organizational skills, and sartorial splendour. He is also noted to be a natural born teacher with junior trainees frequently commenting unbidden on his teaching skills. He has plans for an Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship with a focus on health care management and leadership training. I just regret that I won't be able to take credit for recruiting him back when the time comes. David's Innovation Award grows out of his concern for vulnerable populations, and as it should be in an academic setting, pairs clinical service and education. David, together with Geoff Dougherty and Julie Hebert, can take the credit for setting up a school-based clinic in an under-privileged area of Montreal that combines regular attendance by trainees as part of their Resident Continuity Clinic and access to pediatric care.

Laurie is an Associate Professor, Division Director of Pediatric Emergency Medicine and the Department's Associate Chair for Education. She too is a member of the Faculty's Honour Roll for

Educational Excellence. Laurie's Innovation Award is for the truly original and ground breaking Helen Karounis Agora Program (H-KAP) that has gained traction for dissemination outside the Department and has been recognized by the Royal College as a Leading Practice in their last Faculty wide accreditation effort at McGill. H-KAP is an example of the mutual power of inter-generational learning that harnesses the skills, wisdom and dedication of now retired members of the Department to continue their teaching efforts to the current generation of trainees. It's a winning innovation all around by all reports from both the Fellows who appreciate the opportunity to remain vital and involved and the Learners who appreciate the non-textbook pearls they pick up.

Rob is an Assistant Professor and member of our Division of General Pediatrics. An MDCM, I have had the privilege of watching his trajectory as trainee, Chief Resident and now junior Faculty. Rob has post-graduate training in health professions education and is an active member of the Institute for Health Sciences Education. He is an educational scholar pursuing several lines of educational enquiry and at the same time running as Program Director our core General Pediatrics Training Program that inter-digitates with all sectors of Departmental operations. Rob received a Canadian Association for Medical Education Certificate of Merit Award that is meant to promote, recognize and reward faculty committed to medical education. Rob is at a particularly early stage in his career for this recognition and joins a superstar roster of other Departmental members having received this Award; Saleem Razack, Ron Gottesman, Richard Gosselin, Preetha Krishnamoorthy, Laurie Plotnick and Ilana Bank. This foreshadows what will no doubt be an impactful and most productive career for Rob.

Please join me in congratulating Farhan, David, Laurie and Rob on this recognition in Teacher Appreciation Week. Education is a core business of an academic Department and there is no doubt that we are paying regular big dividends.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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