

February 19, 2021

Hi Everyone!

Core values and efforts of our academic community includes our efforts to be innovative in the clinical milieu. You never get anywhere by standing still and we can only improve the health of children and the value of the care we provide by thinking outside the box. I am a firm believer that those directly involved in care can provide innovative novel improvements and solutions for the challenges they encounter on an almost daily basis. The MSSA Innovation Fund seeks to empower our clinicians through competitive internal funding from our Practice Plan (MSSA) to systematically plan, implement and evaluate new practices that can make a difference. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Holly Agostino, Brett Burstein, Sara Long-Gagne, Francois Olivier, and Anne Marie Sbrocchi** the 2019-20 Innovation Fund Awardees who presented their projects at Departmental Grand Rounds on February 10th. This is an annual Grand Rounds that I particularly enjoy attending because it demonstrates not only the creativity and intelligence of our membership, but also demonstrates a terrific return on member investment. The presentation not only mediates knowledge translation within the Department, but is also a critical piece in the accountability of how funds are allocated and used within the Department.



Holly, a member of our Division of Adolescent Medicine presented her effort at factors precluding and enabling the creation of 'safe spaces' within the clinical milieu for adolescents to share their narratives. Brett, a FRQ-S Chercheur Boursier Clinicien and member of our Division of Emergency Medicine evaluated laboratory markers to create an algorithm to predict severe or invasive bacterial infection in febrile young infants. Sara, a member of the Division of General Pediatrics and a recent recruit to its leading Complex Care program, focused on developing a needs-based tool to correctly attribute health care resources to complexly ill children. Francois, a member of the MCH-Neonatology Division, worked with partners on the pediatric wards to formulate a better mechanism of summarizing the medical journey of fragile newborns upon their transfer from the NICU to the wards so that critical information does not fall between the cracks. Finally Anne Marie, another member of the Complex Care program in General Pediatrics, evaluated how home visits to families dealing with the challenges of caring for an often technology dependent child alter the perceptions of trainees. (<https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/clinicalinnovation>)

Not surprisingly each of these projects were challenged by the vagaries of the pandemic. Yet each of these investigators adapted and pivoted successfully; another mark of a Department with a depth of talent and resiliency! A particularly nice touch for me, in this admittedly very reflective portion of my mandate as it draws to its natural end, is that all came on board during my time as Chair-Chief. It's not a

secret but the best part of the job for me comes in the recruitment, promotion, mentoring and recognition through awards of our members.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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