Hi Everyone

This week’s Departmental Acknowledgment goes to the third member of our Departmental community recently promoted to Associate Professor; Myriam Srour. As a member of our Division of Pediatric Neurology, Myriam has a joint appointment (Pediatrics [primary] and Neurology-Neurosurgery) and is simultaneously promoted in both Departments.

Myriam is a 2001 MDCM graduate of McGill who completed her residency in pediatric neurology in 2007 with Royal College certification. She then undertook a fellowship in Neurogenetics at Universite de Montreal, which included PhD studies, under the co-supervision of world leading neuro-geneticists Jacques Michaud and Guy Rouleau. Myriam received her PhD in 2015. Myriam was appointed as a Part-Time Assistant Professor in 2010 in the Department of Pediatrics and Neurology-Surgery (Division of Pediatric Neurology) to accommodate her PhD studies. In 2015 with receipt of her PhD, she was switched to a Full-Time academic appointment.

Myriam is highly valued educator and role model for professionalism and physicianship for learners. Comments from learners and their evaluations on one45 highlight this. In 2017 she received the Teaching Award from the Department of Neurology & Neurosurgery. Her commitment to education is evident by her engagement as Program Director for Pediatric Neurology from 2014-2018. During this phase she was responsible for addressing prior deficiencies noted by a Royal College accreditation review. This was done to Myriam’s credit successfully to a complete extent. She has also since 2015 been Fellowship Director for Neurogenetics in which she has formulated a robust program successful in attracting international trainees. Innovation in education by Myriam is evident by her implementing and co-ordinating since 2010 the Montebello Pediatric Neurology Education retreat which involves trainees from McGill, Universite de Montreal, University of Ottawa and Dalhousie. The retreat focuses on a specific topic area of pediatric clinical neuroscience and includes practical training on OSCEs to improve Royal College examination performance. Through her research efforts she has supervised graduate students (MSc & PhD) as well as medical trainees at the UGME, PGME and Fellowship levels. Her students have consistently garnered personal support awards and achieved publication (27 since 2015).

Myriam has a clinician-investigator profile. Her research focuses on the molecular basis of brain development, cortical malformations and the early lateralization of motor control. Her research has important clinical relevance with improving our understanding of intellectual disability, epilepsy and midline cerebral development. Her training was supported by FRQ-S (Health Professional) and CIHR (Clinician Scientist) Awards. She has received FRQ-S salary awards at the Jr1 (2015-2019) and Jr2 (2019-2023) levels both on initial application. She has authored 63 peer-reviewed publications in relevant high IF journals, 42 of these since her transition in 2015 to a FT Assistant Professor appointment. Twenty seven of these publications are first authored by a learner she is supervising. She has successfully competitively secured as a PI operating grants from the CIHC-HSC New Investigator Program, CIHR, the Savoy Foundation and the MCHF New Directions in Research Program.
Myriam has also established a nationally unique Brain Malformations Clinic at the Montreal Children’s Hospital that has already enrolled more than 600 patients. Through this, Myriam is enabling a comprehensive clinical phenotype and research biobank that will facilitate mechanistic, intervention and outcome studies paired with her research focus. In addition she has written four invited book chapters appearing in high profile neurology textbooks that are indicative of her emerging national and international profile and eminence in her chosen field.

As an attending in Pediatric Neurology, former Division Director, and now Chair-Chief of her home academic Department it is personally gratifying to observe Myriam’s steady progress and success as a student, resident, colleague and Departmental member over the years. Please join me in congratulating her on her promotion.

Have a great weekend everyone.

Michael

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