

April 30, 2021

Hi Everyone!

After a one week pause I am continuing to highlight our Departmental promotions in this current academic year. Tomorrow the two promotions to Full Professor become official and can now be disclosed. This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Hema Patel** of our Division of General Pediatrics on her promotion to Professor.

I will use excerpts from my letter of support for Hema's promotion to highlight her accomplishments meriting this academic recognition.

"Dr. Patel completed her medical degree from the University of Western Ontario in 1990 followed by a residency in General Pediatrics at Dalhousie (FRCP 1994) and a Fellowship in Academic General Pediatrics at the Hospital for Sick Children. She also secured a MSc in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Toronto in 1996. She was recruited to the Department of Pediatrics at McGill in 1996 as an Assistant Professor (GFT-H [CAS]) with promotion to Associate Professor (GFT-H [CAS]) in 2005. At the hospital level, she was Medical Director of our Complex Care service from 2005 and Medical Director of our Medical Day Hospital from 2015. These Directorships were supplanted by her appointment as Director of the Division of General Pediatrics (the largest Division in Pediatrics with 40 assigned PEMs) in September 2020.



The key variable for promotion to Full Professor is international stature. Dr. Patel's field of focused scholarly pursuit and innovation for which she can be considered a nationally and internationally recognized leader is one that did not exist academically 15 years ago. This is pediatric complex care which focuses on an especially challenging segment of the pediatric population that is medically vulnerable and fragile. These children have substantial challenges in more than one organ system that necessitates frequent hospital visits, admissions and interventions. Pediatric complex care seeks to improve care through more seamless inter-disciplinary care delivery that emphasizes an attention to bio-psycho-social aspects and family context to improve overall quality of life, while reducing the burden of substantial illness. Dr. Patel's national and international recognition is evident through her leadership of provincial and national Task Forces (Quebec Hospital @Home and Canadian Pediatric Society [CPS]), being founding Chair of Complex Care sections at national (CPS) and international professional organizations (Pediatric Academic Societies), and her receipt of external program support funding (Operation Enfant Soleil-2013 and 2018). Her work in Complex Care has sought to inform standards of care practice for children experiencing medical complexity. She has received the Rotman Award (2006) for Pediatric Home Care Innovation from the HSC Foundation. She has also developed an innovative knowledge mobilization effort (complexcare@homeforchildren.com) that provides a web-based guide for families with children with complex care needs that is widely utilized by families and health professionals internationally. She has spoken as a plenary speaker on the topic of Complex Care at meetings of an international organization (American Academy of Cerebral Palsy & Developmental Medicine; International Palliative Care Conference) and been invited internationally to speak (Oman, Saudi Arabia, Qatar) on complex care. She has been an invited expert twice at the International Frail Young Workshop and has been a keynote speaker at the International Pediatric Chronic Care & Disability

Symposium. She served on an extended visit (2014) as a Visiting Professor in Complex Care to the renowned Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne. She has hosted representatives from Singapore and the National University of Singapore (Asia's #1 ranked medical school) seeking to establish their own Complex Care program by modelling it after that founded by Dr. Patel at McGill.

Hema secured external salary support from the FRQ-S from 2000-2008 at the Jr 1 and Jr 2 levels prior to the introduction of the Rem Recherche model of funding. Her research efforts contributed substantially to introducing evidence to support decision trees in common pediatric clinical conditions (eg bronchiolitis, infants with fever). Hema has also had wide impact in her advocacy for newborns born with substantial hearing impairment. Her advocacy work has led to provincial and national newborn hearing screening to advance timely diagnosis and improve outcome. For this she was the recipient of the Canadian Pediatric Society's Victor Marchessault Advocacy Award in 2012. For her clinical practice innovation and leadership, Dr. Patel has received this year's National Bank Award for Clinical Excellence and the 2020 Pediatric Chairs of Canada Clinician-Practitioner Leadership Award.

Dr. Patel has an extensive record of superior educational involvement. This was overtly recognized by the Faculty at the highest level internally in 2009 by her selection to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence. She has demonstrated educational innovation by being the founding supervisor of both our Academic General Pediatrics Fellowship and our Complex Care Fellowship Programs. Through these she has supervised 11 trainees at the Fellow level, and in a remarkably short time has attracted international trainees to McGill. She has fostered and overseen through the Royal College the development of a standardized national curriculum in pediatric complex care for pediatric PGME trainees throughout Canada. For 15 years she was a member of the Medical College of Canada Test Committee, serving as Vice-Chair for over a decade, overseeing a new blueprint for assuring the objective assessment of pediatric core competencies."

Given the foregoing, it was fitting that Hema be promoted to Professor. I will inform the Department about our second colleague promoted to this rank in next week's Departmental Acknowledgment.

Have a great weekend everyone!

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