

May 7, 2021

Hi Everyone!

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to **Guilherme Sant'Anna** on the occasion of his promotion to Full Professor.

Guilherme received his medical degree and initial specialty and subspecialty training in pediatrics and neonatology in his native Brazil. He also received a PhD in respiratory physiology, which included work at McGill in 2002. From 2002-2004 he undertook a Fellowship in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine at McGill and received Royal College FRCP certification in Pediatrics and Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine in 2004 and 2005. His initial academic appointment was at McMaster University in Hamilton from 2005-2009 and in 2009 he was recruited to McGill as an Associate Professor (CAS).



As an expert in respiratory control in premature infants and the parameters to enable successful extubation, and the use of hypothermia in term intrapartum asphyxia to improve outcomes (these are both paramount clinical challenges in our Neonatal Intensive Care Units), Guilherme has an extensive and widely distributed record of invited international presentations. These include since his recruitment in 2009, 25 invited presentations to his native Brazil (the leading medical nation in South America), 17 to the USA and 12 to other nations including Thailand, Ireland, Lebanon and Oman. This is roughly an average of 5 invited annual presentations annually. In addition, he is a frequent user of interactive electronic media to widely disseminate to an international audience his expertise with participation in 14 webinars and 17 interactive workshops. This modality will only be a more prominent means of knowledge mobilization in our post-COVID academic environment. I would also note his novel use of social media to advance neonatal care and outcomes remotely. Dr. Sant'Anna has created and led a Portuguese-language Brazil-based Facebook page (Neonatologica Brasil) that reaches 18,000 health professionals involved in neonatal care. Not surprisingly, leveraging on this he is the lead on a Brazilian Ministry of Health sponsored neonatology website. With a population of 210 million, a youthful demographic and substantial regional economic disparity, the burden of neonatal disorders is high and Guilherme's impact significant. In a more traditional metric of international recognition, Guilherme sits on the Editorial Boards of BMC Pediatrics and the Journal of Perinatal and Neonatal Medicine.

Guilherme's research is focused on respiratory control in both extremely premature infants and severely asphyxiated term newborns. He seeks to identify parameters accessible to clinicians that will enable timely and successful extubation, a critical clinical event. He has also been prominent in the development and implementation of bubble CPAP, an alternative to invasive ventilatory support. Guilherme with his arrival at McGill successfully created an isolette adjacent portable respiratory physiology laboratory. Though never directly provided with research protection (he was too late in his career trajectory arriving at McGill to apply to the FRQ-S) he has 62 peer reviewed publications (3 as first author and 49 as senior author) and 9 invited papers or book chapters. He has current funding for his research from Fondation des Etoiles and MILA, the latter for work with artificial intelligence applications. This leverages his development of APEX, an automated predictor of extubation readiness that is widely utilized, to include a knowledge of outcomes to refine algorithmic accuracy utilizing machine learning.

Guilherme has an extensive record of superior educational involvement. He has supervised 8 graduate students (5 MSc and 3 PhD) who have received external awards and support for their work. He is a highly regarded teacher in our NICU of PGME trainees as evident by his receipt of the Department of Pediatrics Teaching Award in 2011 (over 150 Faculty eligible). He is also a highly sought out mentor for our subspecialty Fellows in Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine, especially those embarking on a research oriented career track.

Contributing across the breadth of the academic mission there are a multitude of reasons for Guilherme to be promoted to Full Professor. Please join me in congratulating him on this important personal academic milestone.

Both of our Professor promotions go to CAS Faculty. Once again this highlights that our academic community values contributions beyond that pertaining to research at this level. The key as always is innovation, impact and international reach.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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