

May 14, 2021

Hi Everyone!

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to a true Departmental 'larger than life' legend who I affectionately refer to as our very own Eveready Bunny; **Apostolos (Apo) Papageorgiou**. The specific prompt for the DA (not that I needed one) is that Apo will be stepping down as Director of the Jewish General Hospital NICU on July 1<sup>st</sup> after a remarkable 45 year tenure as its Director. Yes you read that right; 45 years.



Apo was born in the port city of Velos on the coast of Thessaly. Velos also claims the mythical Jason of the Golden Fleece and the Argonauts as its native son. Educated in Paris at the Sorbonne in science and medicine, Apo did his initial post-graduate training at Ste Jeanne D'Arc Hospital (it closed in 1996) in Montreal before returning to do his compulsory military duty in Greece in 1967-1968; a difficult time which coincided with the regime of the Greek colonels (read about it if you don't know what I am referring to). He returned to Montreal in 1969, fortuitously joining our Department to do his residency in pediatrics at the same moment that Mary Ellen Avery, a giant in the field of neonatology, came to Montreal from Hopkins to be Chair and Chief of the Department from 1969-74. Under the mentorship of Avery and local Neonatology Chief Leo Stern, it didn't take much for Apo to do a Fellowship in neonatal and perinatal medicine. As Apo tells it, Avery sent him to the JGH to be Chief of Neonatology for one year to get the place in order before he planned to return to Greece.

As mentioned above Apo has served as Chief of Neonatology at the JGH for 44 more years. He also added neonatology at St Mary's Hospital, as well the role of Pediatrician-in-Chief at both of these hospitals beginning in 1986. He even served as Acting Chief of Obstetrics & Gynecology (!) at the JGH from 1995-2002.

Apo made his mark in neonatology, especially markedly improving the survival and outcomes in the extremely low birth weight infant. He can take his place amongst the generation of leading neonatologists who has revolutionized the care of prematurely born infants. His expertise is recognized by his lead authorship in multiple editions of Avery's Textbook of Neonatology of the chapter on the extremely low birth weight infant. An inveterate traveller, Apo's CV has 55 pages covering invited presentations throughout the world numbering close to 500 in total. There really isn't a world region omitted that he hasn't brought knowledge and practice acumen to.

Apo was also a local standout teacher. He received the inaugural Osler Award from the graduating MDCM class in 1987, AND the inaugural Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award from our Department in 1988.

His contributions to his chosen field has merited two Honorary Doctorates (University of Athens and the University of Thessaly) multiple societal awards (including the Prix Letondal from the APQ) and the Queen Elizabeth Diamond Jubilee Medal. He has also never forgotten his roots and has been a

passionate participant in the local Hellenic community. For many years was the pediatrician of choice for Montreal's Greek community.

Please join me in thanking Apo for his enormous contributions over the decades. As the Eveready Bunny takes a well-deserved break from his administrative responsibilities let's wish him health and happiness.

Have a great weekend everyone!

Michael

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