

June 28, 2021

*A leader is one who knows the way, goes the way, and shows the way. —John Maxwell*

This week's Departmental Acknowledgement goes to Dr. Michael Shevell submitted by the Department of Pediatrics' Executive Committee (Mylene Dandavino, Patricia Fontela, Emmett Francoeur, Laurie Plotnick, Mitchell Shiller). On July 1st, Mike will be stepping down as the Chair of our Department, a position he has held for the last 10 years.

Michael oversaw the Department during a time of substantial changes; the move to the Glen, university and governmental budget limitations, reduced numbers of trainees, cuts in our PEMs, and the creation of a new OPD facility.

Under his tenure, he introduced new Internal Regulations that define our roles and responsibilities in achieving our common goals. He spearheaded the creation of our Department's first Mission / Vision / Values and Strategic Plan. It articulated who we are, what we do, and how we do it. Michael was dedicated to ensuring that the Strategic Plan resulted in actionable items which ensured that every year the Department continued to work towards our goals, adjusting to new challenges and fine-tuning the plan as we grew.

With that in mind, Michael formalized a distributive leadership model, created relevant portfolios and encouraged each of the Executive Committee members to take charge and grow our respective areas. He created an environment that allowed our Executive Committee meetings to have open and honest discussions aimed at looking for solutions to the most pressing and current issues, combined with plans for dealing with future challenges and ideas for growth for our Department. We have watched him deliberate and struggle on critical issues ("Maalox moments" as Michael calls them), seek counsel and make balanced and fair decisions taking into account the diverse perspectives within our Department.

Just as he has done for the Executive members, Michael has encouraged each of the Department members to grow in their respective careers and to develop new skills and expertise in clinical, research and academic endeavors. He has also taken a very active role advocating for our Department with the Faculty of Medicine, the MUHC and relevant governmental agencies.

Michael was able to do all of this because of who he is as a person. He has a strong sense of equity and fairness and a respect for those who are hardworking, diligent and creative. He has demonstrated these attributes consistently through his open door policy and very quick response to emails where no question or concern is too big or too small to answer so that departmental members are supported and matters are addressed swiftly. Of course, all of this accomplished with the unique "Mike" sense of humor.

We owe Michael a huge thanks for his tireless work over the last 10 years. We wish him nothing but success in his continued clinical and research career as well as his cherished roles as husband, father and grandfather.

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