

November 19, 2021

As many of you are aware, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit has been particularly busy in the past couple of months. The unprecedented volume of severe RSV cases has kept the PICU full or nearly full on most days. Despite this, the PICU has continued to accomplish amazing things in what is often a physically, intellectually, and emotionally challenging setting.

The DA this week comes from Dr. Tiscar Cavalle, who felt compelled to highlight the work of her colleagues in the PICU:

*"I would like to acknowledge our **Pediatric Critical Care Medicine** colleagues for how they excel at providing family-centered end-of-life care.*

*Unfortunately, one of my complex congenital heart disease patients passed away recently in the PICU after a long hospitalization. Near the end, the parents were extremely fatigued, but obviously wanted to spend the time they had left by their child's side. The day before the death, I came to PICU to visit the family and was amazed by what I saw. There were two side-by-side ICU beds in the room, and both exhausted parents were sleeping, one on each side of their child. Prior to their departure, these parents were very explicit as to how appreciative they were for how the PICU managed their child's care, and for the opportunity to spend that precious, extra time with their child.*

*Although this family's experience was the trigger for this acknowledgment of our PICU colleagues, clearly, this situation was not an exception. This was just one example of the PICU's approach to families going through the loss a child.*

*While I noted that I was "amazed", I was not "surprised" to witness this exemplary family-centred care. The level of compassion for patients and families that our PICU physicians, residents, and nurses display in end-of-life situations, no matter how busy or overwhelmed the Unit may be, is inspiring. I have witnessed it consistently over my years at the Montreal Children's Hospital. I know our families are grateful and so am I."*

Well said. Have a good weekend.

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