

December 17, 2021



This last DA of 2021 acknowledges the decades-long substantial contributions of Dr. **Emmett Francoeur** on the occasion of his retirement from his active hospital engagement. I asked Drs. Mike Shevell and Shuvo Ghosh for their help with this one since they have worked with Emmett so closely. What follows is a compilation of their contributions. There is a lot to say about Dr. Francoeur. So, fasten your seatbelts... but do read on.

It is bittersweet to finally come to the moment when Emmett Francoeur ends his time as Head of the Child Development Program at the Montréal Children's Hospital. Sweet, because he has earned this moment and it has been a long time coming, but bitter, because it is always difficult to lose someone of his stature and level of participation in so much of the MCH's history.

Described by Dr. Shevell as a 'pediatrician's pediatrician', he is universally admired for his natural ability to put children at ease in the clinical setting and his amazing clinical acumen. Emmett is a lifelong McGillian, having completed medical school and his paediatrics residency here, in addition to being the first-ever Developmental Paediatrics fellow under Dr. Ron Barr (the founder of Child Development as a program at the MCH). Emmett became Head the Child Development Program in 2002 and has served this function for the past 19 years. For over four decades, he has successfully combined an active community-based practice with a dedicated and regular presence in the hospital as a developmental and behavioural pediatrician. He also served as the Developmental Paediatrics Subspecialty Residency Program Director from its inception in 2007 until summer 2021 and remains a valued instructor and teacher to medical students, residents, and fellows, as well as colleagues of every stripe.

His consistent contributions to the hospital and Department are remarkable. Emmett participated on numerous committees including Paediatric Ethics, Patient Safety, and Quality Improvement/Assurance, among others. He also served from 2011 to 2021 as Executive Associate Chair of the Department of Paediatrics during Dr. Mike Shevell's time as Chair, consistently providing wise counsel on every major decision or initiative. Emmett's calm, quiet, and soothing approach is admired by many.

Emmett has also served the broader child health community. A former President of the Canadian Pediatric Society, he has received the APQ's Prix Letondel and the Pediatric Chairs of Canada Clinician Practitioner Leadership Award. He is a consultant for the Azraeli Center for Autism Research, and a consultant partner to the Giant Steps School, and the Yaldei Developmental Centre.

In addition to his clinical skills, we will miss Emmett's sense of humour, and his genuine kindness. Many will also recall his singing prowess, not to mention his talents as a ballroom dancer (which were put to good use raising funds for the MCH Foundation several years ago).

Emmett leaves very big shoes to fill but has served as an exemplary role model. Fortunately, he does not intend to retire from medicine, simply to shift to another phase of his career with more focus on his community-based patients. So, we can rest easy knowing his clinical wisdom will remain available to us if needed! Further, Emmett will continue to serve as a role model as an H-KAP Fellow, contributing to the ongoing learning of trainees within the Department for years to come.

Emmett: thank you for everything, for your friendship, for your guidance, and for your support. The Child Development Program, the Division of General Pediatrics, and the Department of Pediatrics won't be the same without you. Until soon!

The DA will take a brief pause for the next 2 weeks, returning on Jan. 7. Have a great weekend and a wonderful holiday! Happy 2022!

Have a wonderful weekend.

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