

January 7, 2022

The first DA of 2022 was submitted by Dr. Adam Bretholtz from the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine, acknowledging the very important contributions of Dr. Brian Greenfield and the entire emergency mental health team. The text below comes from Adam:

*"Dear Colleagues,*

*During the pandemic, a whole host of new stressors exacerbated our already strained mental health support systems. Before the holidays, during exam season, the ED experienced yet another spike of mental health visits.*

*It is within this context that I wanted to acknowledge our incredible emergency department mental health team, and in particular Dr. Brian Greenfield, for their empathetic dedication -- giving from their heart through the daily grind, day in and day out, for our kids.*

*Mental health support in the pediatric ED is something that our hospital does particularly well -- in fact, in my opinion, perhaps the best in Canada, because of the amazing team Brian has put together over the years. The mental health team's commitment to supporting patients and their families without preconception or bureaucracy sets us apart, is a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do, and is a source of pride for all of us.*

*Unfortunately, the journey through our provincial mental healthcare system can be complicated and frustrating to families and health care workers alike. Navigating access to mental health care and the systems meant to help families and patients address painful issues is yet another challenge. The process can be daunting, unfair and discouraging. There can also be significant social factors that need to be addressed that can be extremely emotional and difficult for all those involved.*

*As care providers we always need to remember that these children, although often clinically well, are "bleeding" on the inside and need our help. As well, these patients can be volatile, a risk to themselves and others, but like any other child or teen, are still at risk for any organic cause of disease, which can be all too easy to overlook.*

*I would like to encourage us all to thank our mental health team for their dedication to our vulnerable patients and families in crisis and for the professionalism, kindness and expertise that they bring."*

Well said, Adam.

Given the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, it is unlikely that the accompanying mental health pandemic is likely to abate anytime soon. We are all grateful for the support of such a devoted mental health service.



Have a great weekend.

Beth Foster, MD, MSCE, FRCPC

Professor of Pediatrics

Chair, Dept. of Pediatrics McGill University

Pediatrician-in-Chief, Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC

Harvey Guyda Chair in Pediatrics