

April 29th, 2022



Investment in medical education is both rewarding and fulfilling, but it also takes time and perseverance. Contributions to medical education that are both broad and deep are uncommon. Dr. Ilana Bank was recently recognized for her exceptional contributions to education with the Canadian Pediatric Society's Anna Jarvis Pediatric Emergency Medicine Teaching award. This award recognizes outstanding teaching at all levels, from undergraduate to continuing medical education, and beyond. Ilana, a nationally recognized expert in simulation and interactive learning, is also a leader in interprofessional education.

At the undergraduate level, Ilana has played a major role on the McGill Medical School Admissions Committee, having chaired the sub-committee on multiple mini-interviews since 2015. At the postgraduate level, she has been a key contributor to the training of both general pediatric residents and pediatric emergency medicine residents primarily through her work developing, organizing, and running simulations on a variety of topics. Ilana has served as Pediatric Director of Specialty Education at McGill's Steinberg Centre for Simulation and Interactive Learning since 2017. Also since 2017, she has served as the inaugural Director of the Montreal Children's Hospital Institute of Pediatric Simulation. In this role, she built an interprofessional team to lead simulation exercises across the hospital for interdisciplinary teams including residents, staff physicians, nurses, and respiratory therapists. Ilana has particular expertise in Crisis Resource Management, Disaster care, and care transitions in the acute care setting.

Ilana has effectively leveraged the educational value of the simulations she developed to improve patient safety and quality of care as well. Participants of her simulation exercises learn not only about the content of the simulation, but about the impact of simulation exercises on quality improvement. Extensive debrief sessions following her simulation exercises are designed to identify changes needed to improve patient care. Her disaster simulation exercises led to important changes to the disaster algorithm at the Montreal Children's Hospital. The simulations she developed on the theme of "arrival to disposition", following a critical patient's arrival to the ED and their trajectory through the hospital to the various care areas until their final disposition, highlighted the problems associated with transitions and led to improvements in care trajectories. The impact of Ilana's work is multi-fold, leading to improvements in care algorithms and policies that improve patient care and teaching participants valuable lessons about the multiple benefits of simulation. Ilana has continued to run simulation workshops virtually during the pandemic.

Ilana has also made major contributions to CME locally, nationally, and internationally. She taught a pediatric sedation workshop at the Canadian Pediatric Society in 2019 and both organized and taught a disaster simulation workshop at the 2017 international Simulation Summit. Ilana was a member of the TREKK PedsPac National Development Team (2015-2019) helping to develop protocols for non-pediatricians practicing in community hospitals. Not only does she regularly run training simulations herself on numerous topics relevant to pediatric emergency medicine, but she teaches others how to train using simulation both locally and nationally. She chaired the Canadian Pediatric Emergency

Medicine Simulation Working group until 2019, leading the development and revision of a national simulation curriculum for pediatric emergency medicine trainees. In this role she also led the creation of simulations for assessment in competence by design.

In addition to her impressive work in simulation and her numerous administrative roles in education, Ilana has supervised the research projects of numerous trainees. Ilana has 35 publications, 32 of which are focused on medical education. She has received 5 competitive grants as principal applicant and 4 as co-applicant to support educational work. She was named to the McGill Honour List for Educational Excellence in 2017 based on her outstanding contributions to medical education at McGill.

Please join me in congratulating Ilana on this very well-deserved award and in thanking her for her major contributions to pediatric medical education and to improving patient care at the MCH.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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