

May 6th, 2022



While this week's 'acknowledgee' would rarely be described as quiet and unassuming, it is unlikely that members of the department know of all her incredible accomplishments and contributions. Dr. Christine McCusker is often very vocal when advocating for others, but does not advertise her own accomplishments, which are extensive. It is impossible to pick a domain in which Christine excels the most. Clinically, not only does she carry a heavy clinical load, but she is responsible for numerous clinical innovations. She developed and directs the first subcutaneous immunoglobulin treatment program for immunodeficiencies. She also leads the Transdisciplinary Centre for Biologic Therapies. Christine has also made a proposal to the MSSS for funding for oral desensitization of infants and toddlers

to prevent food allergies. Christine is also a devoted and outstanding educator. Last year, she had 92 contact hours of teaching at the undergraduate and graduate level. This is exceptional. In 2020, she was awarded the Transition to Clinical Practice Award for Excellence in Teaching, by the students. Christine is also an excellent researcher. She holds PI funding from the U.S. Department of Defence as well as from several foundations to support her basic immunology lab. She participates on multiple grant review panels. Importantly, Christine can always be relied upon to contribute to internal grant reviews for colleagues, and has played a key mentorship role to many new and mid-career investigators in the department.

If excellence in clinical care, education, and research are not enough, Christine also excels administratively. As Division Director for the Division of Allergy, Immunology and Dermatology, she has been particularly active in the past year. One of the most important roles of a Division Director is to advocate for resources for their division and to support and advocate for the individual members of their division. As you all know, critical staffing shortages in Dermatology have presented unprecedented challenges in recent months. Christine has been tireless in her efforts to support our dermatologist and to obtain badly needed nursing and administrative support. This willingness to continue the 'good fight' under very challenging conditions speaks to Christine's empathy, strong leadership skills, and clear-eyed sense of justice. Please join me in thanking Christine for her consistent leadership and advocacy during this very difficult period, and congratulating her on her numerous other accomplishments.

Have a great weekend.

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