

Department of Pediatrics

NEWSLETTER



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Winter 2006

Report from the Chairman

Government, Health Care & Our Department

Recent events serve to focus our attention on the significant role that the provincial government has in our daily lives and futures as health care practitioners. While the current conflict between our negotiators, the FMSQ, and the ministry has focused on monetary issues, at least in the media campaign and editorial commentary, the real issues relate to our ability to carry out our designated roles as health care professionals. We have undergone extensive undergraduate education during our medical studies, with significant government subsidies, especially in Quebec, followed by variable postgraduate training in many disciplines. Our careers have taken time to develop, often 5-10 years, and frequently at considerable personal or familial sacrifice. What do we hope to achieve when we are finished and feel that we are ready to start out on our first academic appointment? We hope to provide high quality patient care in an academic environment that fosters teaching and research. We have chosen to undertake this personal mission at the McGill University teaching hospitals.

What is the role of the Quebec government in this personal evolution? To begin with, the ministry has assumed a significant gate-keeping role at several junctures. It limits the number of medical students, and entry to core training and specialty training programs. On an annual basis, it limits the number of medical professionals that can be hired at CHU's, frequently ignoring the lengthy formative career path that requires individual long term planning, especially for two-professional families. Pending regulations will additionally limit our ability to renew our aging faculty, and constrain our ability to provide quality care 24/7 in an environment of increasing complexity and severity of illness. This will also limit our ability to continue the impressive outreach activities that we have all engaged in. It is counter intuitive to require existing staff to take on more and more responsibilities under the RUIS banner as we face diminishing staff numbers. Finally, and also importantly, the government provides the operating funds for our hospitals, and for the nurses and allied health professionals that we all depend upon. As Oliver Twist declared: We want "More!" of almost everything and must work together to make the necessary gains.

Despite the foreboding atmosphere of the current conflict, we must remind ourselves that the past 10 years

have seen unprecedented growth and development of our Department. Not only our numbers but also our personal incomes have had significant increases. We are doing more, sometimes with fewer resources than required. Despite the constraints, many clinical and academic programs have developed, flourished, and been recognized as outstanding at a provincial and national level. At the faculty level, the medical students, residents, and fellows, and the Faculty Development Office have recognized us for our educational excellence. This commitment to excellence in teaching has uniquely continued during the current strife, for which the Dean and I thank you. Our research programs have also steadily increased in number and quality, with a high mark level of externally funded investigators. We have much to be thankful for.

As former Dean Cruess clearly enunciated at last week's faculty meeting, this is not the first labour conflict between health care professionals and the Ministry, and it too will pass. We can hope that both sides can agree that we must restore normalcy to the situation as quickly as possible, so that we can get on with our duties, aspirations and achievements. When this is over, we must all work together as colleagues, and mutual respect is essential, no matter what personal decisions individuals take.

Staff Updates:

Dr. Dominic Chalut will step down as Division Director of Medical Emergency, effective December 31, 2006.

Dr. Sylviane Forget resigned as Program Director for Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition as of November 30, 2006.

Dr. Robert Hutcheon retired from his position of Associate Professor of Pediatrics at McGill University and of Active Attending Staff Pediatricians at The Montreal Children's Hospital, effective July 31, 2006. Dr. Hutcheon became a parish priest in Saskatchewan, as of August 1, 2006.

Dr. Rhoda Kagan resigned as Program Director of the McGill Pediatric Allergy-Immunology Residency Program and requested a 6-month leave of absence from The Montreal Children's Hospital and from McGill, effective October 29, 2006.

Dr. Bruce Mazer assumed the role as Interim Program Director of the McGill Pediatric Allergy-Immunology Residency Program, effective October 30, 2006.

Dr. Veronique Morinville accepted to take on the role of Program Director of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, as of December 1, 2006.

Dr. Rima Rozen will resign as Scientific Director of the MCH-RI to accept the position of Associate Vice-Principal (McGill Research and International Relations), effective February 1, 2007.

Medical Emergency Director Search Committee:

A search committee for the Director of the Division of **Medical Emergency**, chaired by Harvey Guyda, completed its deliberations and a recommendation has been tabled. Discussions with the nominee are continuing.

Scientific Director Research Institute Search Committee:

A search committee for the Associate Director, Pediatric Research/MUHC Deputy Scientific Director was struck. A first meeting will be held in December 2006. Please contact the Chair of this committee, Harvey Guyda, for further information or consult the MUHC-RI web page.

Recruitment:

Dr. Nabeel Ali has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, GFT (H) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as a staff physician in the Division of Newborn Medicine of the MUHC, effective September 1, 2006. Dr. Ali completed his residency training in Paediatrics and in Neonatal & Perinatal Medicine at CHU Sainte-Justine and a research fellowship in Neonatology at the University of Miami, Jackson Memorial Hospital, Miami, FL., USA.

Dr. Helen Bui has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, GFT (H) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as a staff physician in the Division of Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism, effective September 1, 2006. Dr. Bui completed fellowship training in Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism at CHU Sainte-Justine and a research fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology and Metabolism at Hospital for Sick Children. Dr. Bui is also a Master of Science, Institute of Medical Science, University of Toronto.

Dr. Romain Mandell has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, GFT (H) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as a staff physician in the Division of Newborn Medicine effective September 1, 2006. Dr. Mandell completed fellowship training in Newborn Medicine at Hôpital Ste-Justine – CHUM. Dr. Mandell also obtained a MSc in Biomedical Science in 2005 from the Université de Montréal.

Dr. Dominique Panet-Raymond has accepted a position as Adjunct Professor, GFT (H) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as a staff physician in the Division of General Pediatrics at The Montreal Children's Hospital (Associé Status) of the MUHC, effective November 1, 2006. Dr. Panet-

Raymond completed a Pediatric residency and Pediatric Neurology Training at McGill University.

Dr. Jessica Stewart has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, GFT (H) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as a staff physician in the Division of Pediatric Medical Emergency at The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, effective October 1, 2006. Dr. Stewart completed her pediatric residency training at McGill University (2004); during the period of 2004-2005 she was Chief Pediatric Medical Resident. She also completed a Fellowship program in Pediatric Emergency Medicine at the MCH, McGill University-MUHC (2004-2006). Dr. Stewart is expected to complete her formation complémentaire in 2008-2009.

Please give a warm welcome to all these outstanding individuals.



Congratulations to:

Dr. Geoffrey Dougherty for having been appointed as a member of a Health Canada Board of Review for Baby Walkers, established by the Minister of Health Canada, Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch.

Dr. Francine Ducharme for having received a **Certificate of Appreciation** from the Canadian Program of Pediatric Surveillance.

Dr. Eric Fombonne for having been awarded the Career Scientist Award "Prix d'excellence 2006", by the Foundation for Research into Children's Diseases, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the field of Child Health Research.

Dr. Emmett Francoeur for being inducted in the McGill University Quarter Club, at the 39th Annual Reception, held on September 28, 2006 at Redpath Hall.

Dr. Ronald Gottesman for having been selected as one of McGill's three nominees for the CAME Certificate of Merit Award for contribution in the field of education.

Dr. Harvey Guyda for having been invited to join the Editorial Board of Paediatrics & Child Health for one year.

Dr. Brian Greenfield for having been elected to the status of "**Distinguished Fellow**" by the American Psychiatric Association.

Dr. Gilles Julien, president of the "*Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale*", for having been elected Fellow by Ashoka International, a human service group that supports unique opportunities for collaboration and learning among Ashoka Fellows and their peers around the world.

Dr. Klaus Minde for having been appointed as the World Affairs Editor of the Journal of Development and Behavioral Pediatrics. This journal is aimed to provide both an outreach to the pediatric community, beyond North America and Europe, and also facilitates publications from other countries in the Journal.

Dr. Klaus Minde for having received the Paul D. Steinhauer Advocacy Award, by the Canadian Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. This award is given in testament of work done as an exceptional advocate for children, adolescents and their families at the regional, national and international level.

Dr. Gary Pেকেles for having been reelected as a member on the McGill Board of Governors, to a 3-year term from 2007 to 2010 inclusive.

Dr. Gary Pেকেles for being awarded the first Department of Pediatrics Global Child Health Travelling Fellowship. He visited the Mbarara University of Science and Technology (MUST) in Uganda to teach undergraduate and postgraduate students in clinical and small group settings. This project is coordinated through the International Health Section of the Canadian Pediatric Society.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos for being inducted into the McGill University Quarter Club, at the 39th Annual Reception, September 28, 2006 at the Redpath Hall.

Dr. Saleem Razack for being selected as one of McGill's three nominees for the CAME Certificate of Merit Award for contribution in the field of education.

Dr. Rima Rozen for being named a - Jewish Women in Medicine - Honoree of the Temple Emmanuel Synagogue in Montreal.

Dr. Sam Shemie for being named as the inaugural recipient of the Bertram Loeb Chair in Organ and Tissue Donation at the University of Ottawa. The Chair will concentrate on rigorous academic investigation and research in areas relevant to the ethical, social, and public policy dimensions of organ and tissue donation. The Chair was established by a major gift of \$1 million from the Bertram Loeb Organ-issue Donation Institute. Dr. Shemie will continue his current appointment in the Department of Pediatrics and McGill University.

Dr. Nicolas Steinmetz for being appointed as Director General for *La Fondation pour la promotion de la pédiatrie sociale*, an organization created in 2005, for the development and support of social pediatrics initiatives and for children's advocacy.

NOTICEABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

First Annual Resident Research Day

Congratulations to Chief Resident/PICU Fellow, **Dr. Samara Zavalkoff**, who received the award for best presentation at the Inaugural Pediatric Residents' Research Forum. Thank you to all of the resident participants

(**Michael Mendelson, Daniel Brody, Herbert "Joey" Bonifacio, and Mylene Dandavino**) and the judges (**Dr.'s Andrew Macki, Beth Foster, and Harvey Guyda**).

The Division of General Pediatrics - Pediatric Palliative Care

The Oxford Textbook of Palliative Care for Children won first prize in the "New Edited Book retailing at £75 or over" at the Royal Society of Medicine Book Awards. Congratulations to **Dr. Stephen Liben** who is one of the authors.

"The Evolution of Freestanding Children's Hospitals in Canada" – Pediatrics & Child Health

Dr. Antonia Stang is the author of the article entitled "The Evolution of Freestanding Children's Hospitals in Canada". Dr. Arvind Joshi is the co-author. Congratulations to both Dr. Stang and Dr. Joshi.

"Hamilton Goes National"

Dick Hamilton took one first and two third prizes for his pickles at the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. A limited sample of his 2006 vintage were on sale at the Auxiliary Bazaar.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO ...

Dr. Caroline Quach-Thanh on her baby boy (Philippe-Antoine), born on October 25, 2006.

Dr. Bruce Mazer on the engagement of his son Elan to Naomi Goldberger. A May 2007 wedding is planned.

Dr. Laura Russell and her spouse, **Dr. David Fleiszcer** for having formed a team of two and walked 60 km over 2 days for the Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

Dr. Joe Nemeth who competed in the *Montreal International Triathlon* last September for the first time. He finished in the middle of the pack... and only needed to be resuscitated two times!!



Appointments:

Dr. Rima Rozen was appointed to the position of Associate Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations), effective February 1, 2007.

Dr. Rozen, a James McGill professor, will be working with the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) and the Vice-Principal (Health Affairs), as well as the deans, to advance unified research policies and practices, research collaboration and research impact with the hospitals, and to advance the quality, impact and synergies of life sciences and biomedical sciences research across the university and with our hospital research institutes. In order to effectively serve the interests of the university, our affiliated hospital network and the larger community served by McGill, there will be a direct reporting line to the Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) and a subsidiary reporting line to Dr. Richard Levin, Vice-Principal (Health Affairs) and Dean of Medicine.

THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (MUHC)

Congratulations to:

Dr. Frederick Andermann who was appointed Officer of the Order of Canada. Dr. Andermann received this honour in recognition of his significant work in the diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy. With his wife Eva, a neurogeneticist, he identified a rare and incurable neurological disorder found in families in the Saguenay and Charlevoix regions of Quebec. In addition, Dr. Andermann has had an impact internationally, through leadership in medical organizations and by training medical fellows from over 20 countries who returned home to establish epilepsy centres. Dr. Andermann is the Director of the epilepsy clinic at MNH, Vice-President of the International League against epilepsy and a professor of neurology and pediatrics at McGill University. He was invested as a Member of the Order of Quebec three years ago.



THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

New Associate Director of Nursing

Susan Drouin has been appointed Associate Director of Nursing Services for The Montreal Children's Hospital. Ms. Drouin is the MUHC Associate Director of Nursing, Women's Health Mission. She started her new role at The Children's on August 22, as well as continuing her supervision of nursing for Women's Health.

Ms. Drouin is returning to The MCH where she was previously Nurse Manager of The Children's Medicine, Isolation Unit and Burn Unit from 1990-1991. She went on to hold a number of positions at The MCH's including Nurse Manager, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Neonatal Follow-up Clinic and Nurse Manager of Ambulatory Services.



MUHC RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS

MUHC – Research Institute Scientific Director

Dr. Vassilios Papadopoulos was appointed as the new Director of the Research Institute of the MUHC. Dr. Papadopoulos has an international reputation as a scientist and a proven track record of leadership in biomedical research and administration. He comes to the MUHC from Georgetown University Medical Center in Washington, DC, where he served as Associate Vice-President and Director of the Biomedical Graduate Research Organization. In this role, he coordinated the research of basic science

and clinical departments, strengthened existing research program and enhanced the clinical and trans-lational research efforts of the Georgetown Center.

Dr. Papadopoulos will assume his new role officially on July 1, 2007.



MCH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

External Funding Results

Dr. Nada Jabado has received a new grant of \$120,000 from the Cancer Research Society for a term of two years in support of "Functional significance of dysregulated YB-1 overexpression in the oncogenesis of pediatric high grade astrocytomas".

Dr. Ciaran Duffy, in collaboration with principal investigator Dr. Allan Rosenberg of the U. of Saskatchewan and several co-applicants from across Canada, has received a new grant of \$635,455 from the CIHR for a term of five years in support of "Biologically-based outcome predictors in juvenile idiopathic arthritis".

Events

The 30th annual Telethon sponsored by the Foundation for Research into Children's Diseases was telecast on CFCF-12 and on Télévision Quatre Saisons on December 2 and 3, 2006. While the final results are not confirmed, the total pledged is an impressive \$4.5 million. The Research Institute thanks the production teams at CFCF-12 and TQS for a superb event. We are also grateful to the Foundation for Research into Children's Diseases, whose hard work in spearheading this event for three decades, has raised over \$50 million in support of child health research in Quebec.

Research Institute Productivity Data

The 2005-2006 term has been very productive for the Research Community at the Children's. Peer-reviewed funding stands at \$8.14 million while the Institute's overall budget for research has reached \$11.9 million. During this term there were 51 externally peer-reviewed investigators conducting research at the MCH, who in 2005-2006, averaged \$159,625 each in external grant and salary awards. There were 21 investigators at the Children's in receipt of external competitive salary awards, representing a total value of \$1.2 million. During this term MCH affiliated investigators trained 106 graduate students and research and post-doctoral fellows, and in 2005 produced 320 publications of which 205 were peer-reviewed articles.

www.mother-child.org

Researchers in the department are urged to visit www.mother-child.org, the evolving, secure interactive website for the Mother Child Health International Research Network. The website, established under the aegis of the world's scientific academies is coordinated by Dick Hamilton and Claude Roy. We hope that McGill researchers and our Université de Montréal colleagues will take leading roles in stimulating the growth and development of the site. To participate fully, it is necessary to take a few minutes to register on the site and to involve yourself in a user-friendly weblog system to generate discussion and in some cases collaboration with colleagues overseas.

The primary aim of this project is to develop a dynamic virtual global research institute, linking scientists in high and low-income countries. We expect that it will provide new contacts, new ideas and new opportunities to those who participate from all regions of the world.



Where are they now ?

"Retirement" Plus

Dr Charles Scriver, although officially "retired", continues his high level academic output. He and his colleagues are recipients of a NIH translational grant involving one of his long-standing interests, phenylketonuria or PKU. His group maintains a relational locus-specific mutation database (www.pahdb.mcgill.ca) and participates in the new Human Variome Project database. As senior editor, Dr Scriver has transformed the *Metabolic and Molecular Bases of Inherited Disease* into an online publication that has over one quarter million page views per month. With a corporate partner, a large clinical trial has demonstrated that some patients with PKU respond to therapy with a specific water-soluble diffusible chemical *chaperone*.

Dr Scriver is responsible for two other significant achievements. The Scriver Family MD/PhD scholars program, under the auspices of the CIHR and the Canadian Gene Cure Foundation, strives to restore the clinician-scientist community in Canada. The Annual Charles Scriver Lectureship in the Department of Pediatrics was instituted through the great generosity of Dr Scriver. In his spare time Dr Scriver continues to teach at home and abroad.

We congratulate Dr Scriver and his wife, Zipper, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. To quote Charles: "behind all of the above, there has been an extraordinary woman!"

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. John Munro Elder died on Tuesday, November 14, 2006, at the Royal Victoria Hospital, at age of eighty-two. **Dr. Elder** graduated from McGill Medical School in 1951 and, after specializing in Pediatrics, entered private practice in 1956.

Among his many positions and achievements, **Dr. Elder** was medical director of the Mackay Centre (handicapped children), founding director of the Montreal Children's Hospital's Adolescent Clinic, director of the Montreal General Hospital Newborn Nursery, a board member of Camp Amy Molson and on the staff of the Children's Service Centre. He is past president of the Canadian Pediatric Society. His dedication to youth extended to the educational community, and he served several years as a commissioner for the Westmount Protestant School Board. **Dr. Elder** retired in 1997.

The funeral took place on Friday, November 17, 2006 at the chapel of Wray Walton Wray. Donations may be sent to the Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation or charities connected with the above-mentioned organizations.

Our condolences go out to:

Dr. Sam Shemie on the loss of his father, Mr. David Shemie, on November 3, 2006, at age 85.

PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDAS TO ATTEND:

DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS BI-ANNUAL MEETING

WEDNESDAY, December 13, 2006

7:30 a.m. Refreshments

8:00 a.m. Meeting to begin

FORBES-CUSHING AMPHITHEATER
(D-182)

ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED