

Department of Pediatrics

NEWSLETTER



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Fall / Winter 2007

Report from the Chairman

This issue of the Newsletter provides a remarkable compilation of the widely recognized and diverse activities of members of the Department locally, provincially, nationally and internationally. Collectively you are a creative, industrious, and prolific group. It gives me great pleasure to be able to report on all of your accomplishments periodically throughout the year, and to be considered as your Chairman. Whether it is in the incredibly oversubscribed Emergency Department or intensive care units, the hospital clinics, the wards or SSU, you carry out your clinical responsibilities with energy and good grace under extremely trying circumstances. Adding in your "other" academic duties in teaching, research and administration creates a workload that may be overwhelming at times, with a constant feeling of being asked to "do more with less".

Assuredly, we are undergoing major events in our history as a department, with the need to ensure that members of the department are engaged and participate in the transitions that we are facing now, and those that will challenge us as we move to the final planning for and move to the Glen site – now a reality with a realistic timeline, as I recently reported in *Chez Nous* in my capacity as interim AAED for the MCH.

The coming of a New Year often sparks inner reflection and personal resolutions to be undertaken. It is opportune to take the holiday period to engage in activities one does not normally have time for during the busy academic year. Most importantly, it provides time to spend with your families and friends in your social construct, removed from the daily stresses of our health care environment (without a world of pagers, cell phones and Blackberries!). On behalf of the administrative staff of the Department, I wish you and your families a very happy and healthy holiday period and New Year.



STAFF UPDATES

Dr. Teresa Costa has been appointed to the position of Acting Director of the Medical Genetics Training Program, at McGill University, for the period of October 15, 2007 – September 30, 2008.

Dr. Dubravka Diksic has assumed leadership for the development and operationalization of the role of Clinical Pathway Coordinator for the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine.

Dr. Ciarán Duffy has stepped down as Program Director of the McGill Pediatric Rheumatology Residency Program, effective June 30, 2007.

Dr. Karen Duffy has been appointed as Program Director of the McGill Pediatric Rheumatology Residency Program, effective July 1, 2007.

Dr. Harvey Guyda has been reappointed Chair of the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, from June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2010.

Dr. Jane MacDonald has been appointed as Division Director of Pediatric Infectious Disease, effective November 30, 2007.

Dr. Saleem Razack will be stepping down, as Director of the Pediatric Residency Training Program of McGill University, as of June 1, 2008. We are all grateful to Saleem for his continuing leadership role in medical education.



RECRUITMENT

Dr. Deborah Bartholdi has been appointed as Assistant Professor, GFT(U), in the Departments of Human Genetics and Pediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, McGill University, and the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), effective November 5, 2007. Her primary appointment is in the *Department of Medical Genetics* of the McGill University Health Center (MUHC). Dr. Bartholdi completed residency training in Internal Medicine, General Hospital of Thurgau; in Neurology at University of Zurich and in Medical Genetics at University of Zurich. She completed a postgraduate course in Experimental Medicine and Biology (equivalent of M.S. in Medical Biology), University of Zurich, followed by a research fellowship at the Brain Research Institute, University of Zurich and a research fellowship at the Institute of Genetics and Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Strasbourg, France.

Dr. Alison Moore has been appointed as Assistant Professor, GFT(H), in the Departments of Neurology/Neurosurgery and Pediatrics at McGill University and The Montreal Children's Hospital of the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), effective *October 1, 2007*. Her primary appointment is in the *Division of Pediatric Neurology*. Dr. Moore completed residency training in Pediatrics at the University of Alberta and residency training in Child Neurology at McGill University. She also completed fellowship training in Neurorehabilitation at Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children in Dallas, Texas and fellowship training on motor neuron disease at McGill University Health Centre.

Dr. Michael Zappitelli has been appointed as Assistant Professor, GFT(H), in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and The Montreal Children's Hospital of the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), effective September 1, 2007. His primary appointment is in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology. Dr. Zappitelli completed post-graduate medical training in Pediatrics at both the University of Alberta and McGill University. He completed graduate studies in Epidemiology & Biostatistics at McGill University, followed by fellowship training in Pediatric Nephrology at McGill University. He then completed training in Pediatric Critical Care Nephrology and a Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship (funded by a KRESCENT post-doctoral fellowship) at Texas Children's Hospital, Renal Sector, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston.

REPLACEMENT _____

Dr. Chi-Minh Phi has been appointed for one year, as Assistant Professor, part-time, in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, effective October 1, 2007. His hospital appointment is as staff replacement within the Division of General Pediatrics – Northern Program and MER. Dr. Phi obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree at Dalhousie University in 1996, Halifax, and a Doctor of Medicine from Dalhousie University Medical School in 2000. He then completed post-doctoral training in Pediatrics at McGill University in 2007.

Please give a warm welcome to these new colleagues.



CONGRATULATIONS TO

Dr. Anne Sophie Carret for having been appointed as member of *Le Phare, Enfants et Familles* Board of Directors, representing the Montreal Children's Hospital, as of spring 2008.

Dr. F. Baltzer and **Dr. G. Di Meglio** for having been part of the Adolescent Medicine Accreditation Committee thanks to whom *Adolescent Medicine* has now become certified through the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and also recognized as the 63rd subspecialty discipline in Paediatrics.

Dr. Maala Bhatt for having been awarded support from the MUHC/MCH Research Institute during the most recent Pilot Project Competition for her project entitled "Improving Emergency Department treatment of Pediatric Lacerations with the use of Children's Songs as a Distraction Technique".

Dr. Harley Eisman for having been interviewed by Mike Finnerty on CBC Radio's Daybreak. Dr. Eisman commented on the decision in Canada and US to ban cough medicines for children under the age of six years old.

Dr. Serge Melançon for having been featured on the cover of the October 26 issue of *The Medical Post*. He was interviewed about a unique new treatment for the genetic disorder Hunter syndrome.

Dr. B. Pless for having been elected to Honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, effective March 29, 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS TO A TEAM FROM THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

At the annual awards ceremony of the Association des *Établissements de réadaptation en déficience physique du Québec*, held November 15th 2007 in Montreal, a team from The Montreal Children's Hospital in partnership with MAB-Mackay Rehab centre won the Grand Prize for innovation in clinical care for their Saliva Management Clinic. The team is led by Dr. **Sam Daniel** from ENT, with participating MCH staff including Dr. Duy Dat Vu and Dr. Stephane Schwartz from Dentistry, **Dr. Diane Munz** from Developmental Pediatrics, and Dr. Sofia Sahmkow in ENT research. This contest is open to rehab centres from all over Quebec; there were 29 entrants in all categories.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DIVISION OF PEDIATRIC RHEUMATOLOGY FOR A SUCCESSFUL SUMMER CAMP

The summer camp for children with arthritis and other rheumatological disorders was held for a fourth year in Saint-Alphonse de Rodriguez. 37 children and teenagers from across Quebec attended this one-week sleep-away camp, and the feedback has been extremely positive. This project was coordinated by **Dr. Sarah Campillo** and **Gillian Taylor**, rheumatology nurse, from the Division of Rheumatology, in collaboration with The Arthritis Society. They are currently preparing next year's camp.



THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

First Annual Robert H. Usher Lecture

The first annual Robert H. Usher Lecture was delivered by Dr. Peter Dunn, Professor Emeritus of Perinatal Medicine and Child Health, at the University of Bristol, in the UK. The lecture took place on October 17th in the Forbes-Cushing Amphitheatre at The Montreal Children's Hospital. The lecture series is named for the late Dr. Robert Usher. Dr. Dunn's lecture was entitled "A Baby is Born" and focused on the responsibilities of birth attendants to the newborn infant.

MER Expansion Projects

On October 22, Phase II of the MER expansion and renovation project got under way. The scope of this phase includes building additional exam rooms in the former ER Triage Waiting Room, as well as expanding the ER Asthma Treatment Centre.

McGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (MUHC)

Congratulations to:

The McGill University Health Centre named one of Canada's Top 100 Employers

Following a comprehensive audit and selection process that examined nation-wide best practices in recruitment and retention, the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC) was named one of Canada's Top 100 employers for 2008. The McGill University Health Centre was one of only three health sector institutions named to the list and one of only seven organizations named from Quebec.

The complete top 100 Canadian Employers list is published in the fall edition of MacLean's magazine.



McGILL UNIVERSITY

Congratulations to:

Dr. Harvey Guyda for having been reappointed Chair of the Department of Paediatrics, Faculty of Medicine, from June 1, 2007 to May 31, 2010.

Research Universities of the Year/Canada's Top 50 Research Universities

Research Infosource released its annual "Research Universities of the Year" and "Canada's Top 50 Research Universities" lists. **McGill** maintains its second position ranking in the Research Universities of the Year Medical/Doctoral category, following University of Toronto and has gone from 3rd to 4th in the category Top 50 Research Universities List which measures the sponsored research dollars, following University of Toronto, Université de Montréal and University of British Columbia.



MUHC RESEARCH INSTITUTE NEWS

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

OPERATING GRANTS

Dr. Bruce Mazer has received a grant of \$205,209 for a two-year term from Bayer Health Care in partnership with the Canadian Blood Services in support of "Anti-inflammatory effects of Intravenous Immune Globulin: Induction of T regulatory cells and SOCS."

Dr. Larry Lands, in collaboration with co-principal investigators Drs. Danuta Radzioch and Elias Matouk of McGill University, has received \$144,844 for a one-year term from the CIHR for the project entitled "Fenretinide -

a novel therapy for lung disease and osteoporosis associated with Cystic Fibrosis".

Dr. Sam Shemie has received a grant valued at \$202,121 from the Max Bell Foundation for a three-year term in support of "Brain death as a reportable vital statistic in Canada".

Dr. Kathleen Glass is a member of a team of investigators, lead by Dr. Laurence Kirmayer of McGill U., who have received a three-year CIHR grant valued at \$1.76 million in support of a "National Network for Aboriginal Mental Health Research". In addition, **Dr. Glass** joins principal investigators Drs. Neil Andersson and George Sioui of the U. of Ottawa and Dr. Ann Macaulay of McGill U. and several colleagues from across Canada in receiving \$1.76 million from the CIHR for a three-year term in support of "Anisnabwe Kenendazone: building from the Ottawa ACADRE".



HONOURS AND AWARDS

Four trainees at the Montreal Children's Hospital have received "**Prizes of Excellence**" from the Foundation for Research into Children's Diseases in recognition of their outstanding contributions to pediatric research in Quebec as follows:

Dr. Quiqi Qu, whose post-doctoral research program is supervised by Dr. Constantin Polychronakos, has received the Post-doctoral Fellow prize for his work on Type 1 diabetes.

Ms. Jennifer Hutcheon, whose doctoral program in Epidemiology and Biostatistics is supervised by Dr. Robert Platt, has received a Graduate Student prize for her work concerned with fetal growth and pregnancy outcomes.

Dr. Michael Kramer who will be receiving on December 13, 2007, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention 2007 Award for knowledge advancement in the area of maternal child health.

Ms Inga Murawski has received a Graduate Student prize in recognition of her work related to vesicoureteric reflux, a pediatric urinary tract disorder. Ms. Murawski's doctoral studies in Human Genetics are supervised by Dr. Indra Gupta.

Ms. Laura Pickell, a doctoral student in the Dept. of Human Genetics, received a Graduate student prize for her research on the role of folic acid supplementation in early pregnancy. Ms. Pickell's program is supervised by Dr. Rima Rozen.

Dr. Annette Majnemer was appointed co-editor of *Physical & Occupational Therapy in Pediatrics*, a specialty pediatrics rehabilitation journal.

1000 FEMMES MONTRÉAL

The photographs of **Dr. Rima Rozen**, former Scientific Director of the MUHC-RI, and **Mrs. Gretta Chambers**, Chair of the MCH Research Institute's Advisory Committee, appeared in *1000 femmes Montréal*, a photographic presentation which honoured Montreal women who embody contemporary Quebec society. The exhibit appeared at Galerie SAS from May 16th to June 16th and then at the Vieux Port from June 25th to October 14th.



NOTABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Cardiac Surgery Mission to Beijing

Dr. Farhan Bhanji went on a cardiac surgery mission to Beijing Children's Hospital from August 11th to August 25th. He reported that a total of 21 surgeries were performed over 2 weeks and noted a fairly receptive ICU team in terms of learning acquisition.



Department of Pediatrics Global Child Health Travelling Fellowship

Dr. Louise Auger was awarded the **Department of Pediatrics Global Child Health Travelling Fellowship for 2007**. From May 8 to June 10, 2007, she 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 was coordinated through the International Health Section of the Canadian Pediatric Society. Her report follows:

"My trip to Uganda, known as the Pearl of Africa, was an unforgettable experience. Mbarara is a town of 70,000 inhabitants located 260 km Southwest of Kampala near the Equator. English is the official language of work although there are some 45 different languages spoken in the country. Health indicators in Uganda are quite poor, the life expectancy being 49 years while child mortality (death below 5 years) remains quite high at 140 per 1000 live births.

The Toto Ward, the Pediatric Ward, had a bed capacity of 50 although there were as many as 150 patients at one time. There were three Units, Critical, Acute and Chronic: there was often 3 children or 6 babies per bed; the beds had most rails missing; sheets and pillows were not provided; parents slept on the floor. The Ward had no mosquito nets and there were holes in all the window screens to facilitate transfer of objects (as well as mosquitoes!) through the windows to the outside. The general conditions of the Ward were very unsanitary. Most sinks didn't work and there was no soap to wash hands.

Limited investigations were available during my stay. Malaria smears could be done during the day only and not during weekends (because the sole technician locked up the microscope). HIV testing was available and offered routinely to patients and parents. There were no ventilators or even glucometers or O2 saturation monitors. The CBC, CBG and X-ray machines were broken and patients had to pay to do these tests privately. (A CXR cost about CDN \$10). We could spin a Hematocrit. Blood culture bottles were not always available. IV supplies and medications were limited in scope and quantities.

There were 2 interns who worked 24-hour shifts every other day and helped out with Ward work the next day. There was generally 12-18, with up to 24, admissions per day. The intern and one resident were responsible to admit all the patients, perform all procedures including drawing blood work and starting IV's as well as taking care of the admitted patients. Nurses would only give medications. All measurements and vital signs had to be done by the doctors because of nursing shortages.

The death rate of children was shockingly high. There were no monitoring equipment and many children were found to have died during the night. It was a "good day" when only one child died. Most deaths would not have happened had the children been in Canada. Deaths were mostly not recorded because of Uganda law requiring autopsies and special transport of the bodies, which the parents could not afford so they were undeclared.

More than half of the patients were HIV positive or HIV exposed. The majority of admissions were for complications of malaria, pneumonia, diarrhea and dehydration, meningitis, neonatal sepsis and severe marasmus and kwashiorkor. The chronic Ward consisted mainly of children suffering from malnutrition, chronic infections, Burkitt's lymphoma, other cancers and nephrosis. At first, I underestimated the age of all children by months to years because of the chronic malnutrition, stunted growth and delayed development of most children.

Only one meal was served, at around 1 PM and only to adults. Two large pots were placed outside the Ward, containing starchy "matoke" (made from bananas), sweet potato, and rarely beans. There was not enough food for all of them. Those who could not afford to buy food outside went hungry. Only children with severe malnutrition were provided a little food, consisting of millet porridge and WHO high-energy milk 3 times per day (the required vitamins could not be added because they were out of stock).

HIV/AIDS remains a major problem despite the seemingly successful campaign Uganda has carried out. Most women we tested who were newly diagnosed refused to inform their partners for fear of abandonment. Men were reluctant to wear condoms and often went outside the home for extended periods for job seeking. Women have an average of 6-7 children, one of the highest fertility rate in the world and they lose about ¼ of them. Sadly, children with HIV/AIDS are often not given care and sometimes even food because resources

are so limited and kept for the healthier children who have a better chance of survival to adulthood.

The students and residents were very keen to learn and kept me quite busy. I truly admire their industry despite the challenging conditions they face without ever complaining. I found the Ugandan people to be most resilient in the face of adversity. I felt welcomed among the doctors as well as the patients. I went there to teach, however I also learned much about not only the diseases I saw but also about the strength and courage of a truly remarkable nation.

I fell in love with Uganda, a country of exquisite natural beauty, and with its gentle and friendly people. Given the opportunity, I definitely would return to Mbarara. Although many times were very painful to me emotionally, the thought that perhaps my presence made a difference, albeit a tiny one, and it was worth it.

Thank you for allowing me to make my small contribution to the students, residents and small patients at Mbarara University Pediatrics Department”.



IN MEMORIUM

Our condolences go out to:

Our condolences go out to **Dr. Stephanie Reiter** on the loss of her father, William Ralph Reiter, on September 26, 2007.

Our condolences go out to **Dr. Karen Duffy** on the loss of her mother, Molly Nobuko Watanabe, on October 21, 2007.

Our condolences go out to **Dr. Ruth Russell** on the loss of her father, Leslie Russell, on November 11, 2007 in British Columbia.

**PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDAS
TO ATTEND:**

**DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
BI-ANNUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, May 14th, 2008
8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.**

**Meeting to begin at precisely 8 a.m. with
Dean R. Levin**

Breakfast will served at 7:30 a.m.

Forbes Cushing Amphitheatre – D 182

**ATTENDANCE IS STRONGLY
RECOMMENDED**