



Report from the Chairman

The spring season brings with it new growth and development in our external environment that contributes to a collective enhanced hopefulness for the future. As a department, we have faced numerous challenges over the past year, but there have been some remarkable achievements that we also need to recognize. In this report, I would like to focus on some of the many good things that you and your interdisciplinary teams have contributed to; some of these have been highlighted in this and previous issues of the Newsletter. We should all recognize our progress in a number of important clinical domains.

MUHC Redevelopment Plan

We are rapidly entering a very critical phase in the MUHC redevelopment plan. The final Technical and Functional Plans for the MUHC, including the new MCH, has been internally validated and will be submitted shortly to the two P3 consortia bidders. Dr Micheline Ste-Marie and Barbara Izzard, Interim Associate Director of Nursing (MCH), are finalizing individual assignments under their overall site coordination. The first planning interactions, limited to a few staff from the hospital, will begin shortly, and major activities with the consortia partners will occur in early fall. The current occupancy date of 2013 is within sight, at least for most of you!

MER, Critical Care and Ward Activities

All of the intensive care areas as well as the medical wards continue to be extremely busy with very ill children. As reported in the media, a recent example of a fantastic hospital-wide team response was the presentation of the 7 children who were saved by having been thrown out of a flaming apartment building by their mother. They all were transported to the MCH Emergency Department in the early morning hours. Six of the children were discharged rapidly following efficient coordinated treatment and allied support, while one child remained in the ICU for 20 days due to her burns. The whole family was followed by Social Service and Psychology; they are doing well in their new situation. Congratulations to all who participated in this well coordinated team response that led to a very successful outcome.

The PICU is currently only staffed with nursing for 8 to 9 beds, but it has been overcapacity and caring for 11 to 12 patients on a regular basis. The acuity of cases continues to be very high, and the need for the use of ECMO adds a considerable additional burden. Nevertheless, the PICU and ECMO team, led by Dr Sam Shemie, received an

acutely ill 16-year-old adolescent from Granby (transfer to HSJ was denied), with acute myocarditis on Sunday April 27th. She suffered cardiac arrest and was immediately placed on ECMO, a technology that we are able to offer that saved her life acutely, until other treatment modalities could be considered. Dr Shemie also orchestrated a three-hour transport of the patient and all of her life-saving equipment, involving 16 individuals and 12 hours of planning, via our antiquated elevators to obtain a head CT scan. Bravo to all!

With respect to MER activities, the total number of patients seen this year is up to a new peak of 72,000 which represents an incremental 3-5% annual increase since 2004-2005. The institution of the Fast Track System has proven to be very efficient and pleasing to our "clients", with a reduction in the departmental left-without-being-seen from 15% to 7%, and average length of stay under 4 hours. Although this system streamlines care for the minor cases, physician and nursing resources are still required to care for the category 1-3 patients. Harley continues to have numerous holes in the schedule, and we renew our request that all staff reflect on their ability to step up to the plate. The summer season will be particularly difficult, but we will have some relief in the fall as Philip Hedrei will be joining us full time, Suzanne Vaillancourt returns in September, with Naomi Paice and Jessica Stewart (on FC leave) joining us part time. Kerri Landry is expected in January 2009.

Update on MER Renovations

Completion of the renovations on the new asthma care area and fast track examining rooms is anticipated for some time in June. As phase three of the renovations wind down, planning will begin for phase four, which will see an overhaul of the main physician and nursing stations, as well as replacement of all the flooring. The final outcome will improve the ergonomic, increase confidentiality and decrease distances traveled.

Hematology-Oncology Accreditation

Following an accreditation process by the provincial *Direction de la lutte contre le cancer*, the MCH Hematology-Oncology Program received supra-regional status, level-4 designation, the highest that can be granted. This designation means that we met all of the standards put in place by the government in terms of holistic care, interdisciplinary approach, a high level of diagnostic and therapeutic modalities, long-term follow-up, teaching and clinical evaluative and fundamental research. The MCH program was the second program in the Province of Quebec to receive this designation, after Neuro-oncology at the MUHC. This is excellent news and will help us move

Forward in the Bone Marrow Transplantation dossier, which is moving forward, albeit slowly. Congratulations to all of the Hematology-Oncology team.

Neonatal MCH Nursing Practitioner Program

The MCH Neonatal Nursing Practitioner Program had received full accreditation further to the recommendations from the *Collège des médecins du Québec* and the *Ordre des infirmières et infirmiers du Québec*. We acknowledge the leadership role in this dossier taken by Richard Gosselin, with support from Sophie Nadeau, Jay-Marie Ferdinand and Ms. Linda Morneau (RN, NNP). Our two site directors, Keith Barrington and Thérèse Perreault, continue to provide their support to the NNP students as well as to the teachers.

Child Health Research

Several recent research achievements are highlighted in this issue. We will present a more comprehensive summary of this important aspect of the Department in an upcoming Newsletter.

Délégation du Burkina Faso

Johanne Desrochers and **Dr. Gary Pekeles** organized a highly successful visit by a délégation du Burkina Faso, led by the First Lady: Chantal Compaoré, and accompanied by Monique Mugawamariya, directrice générale de la Mobilisation enfants du monde.

« Le but de la rencontre fut d'établir un premier contact afin d'explorer le potentiel de collaboration future pour un projet de santé des enfants et des mères. Dans ce partenariat qui reste à explorer, les partenaires possibles seraient: L'Hôpital de Montréal pour enfants-CUSM, Mobilisation enfants du monde, l'Université McGill, l'Université de Ouagadougou, la clinique Suka ».



Staff Updates

Dr. Martin Bitzan has been appointed as Director of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology, effective July 1, 2008, for a term of 5 years.

Dr. Paul Goodyer will be stepping down as Director of the Division of Pediatric Nephrology, as of June 30, 2008, after 10 years in this leadership position to concentrate on his research programs. We thank him for numerous contributions on behalf of the Department.

Dr. Richard Gosselin has been appointed as Director of the Pediatric Residency Training Program, effective June 1, 2008, for a term of 5 years. He will be stepping down as Director of the McGill Neonatal Fellowship Training Program, effective May 31, 2008.

Dr. Jane McDonald has been appointed as Director of the Division of Pediatric Infectious Diseases in the Department of Pediatrics of The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, effective December 1st, 2007.

Dr. Terry Sigman has accepted the position as Interim Director of the Division of Pediatric Gastroenterology in the Department of Pediatrics of The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC, effective February 1, 2008.

Recruitment

Dr. Nancy Elise Braverman has accepted a position as Associate Professor, tenure-track, GFT (U)-Joint in the Departments of Human Genetics and Pediatrics at McGill University. Her hospital appointment is in the Department of Medical Genetics of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC), effective December 21, 2007. She completed her residency training in Pediatrics at Yale New Haven Hospital and at the Sinai Hospital of Baltimore, followed by fellowship training in Genetics at Johns Hopkins Medical Centre, where she has been on faculty. We welcome her to the research community.

Dr. Jae-Marie Ferdinand (Intra-Regional Transfer to the MCH-MUHC) has joined us as a full-time member on the 1st of April. **Dr. Ferdinand** completed her residency training in Pediatrics at McGill University, followed by fellowship training in Neonatology at Harvard University. She practiced as clinical assistant in Neonatology and as community based consultant pediatrician in Toronto. She most recently was a consultant Neonatologist at the Jewish General Hospital for 5 years. She will be working primarily in the domains of Child Protection and Child Development. She will also be assisting in the Emergency Department and the Short Stay Unit. The Department of Pediatrics extends a very warm welcome to Dr. Ferdinand.

Locum

Dr. Marie Claude Grégoire provided a welcomed locum for the Palliative Care Program in the Division of General Pediatrics, from February 22nd to March 4, 2008.



CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Dr. Nancy Braverman for having been elected to the Board of Directors of the Society for Inherited Metabolic Disorders, at their March 2008 Annual Meeting, in Asilomar, California.

Dr. Alice Chan-Yip for having been invited to participate as a panel speaker at the United Nations, New York, on December 12, 2007. The topic was: *United Nations Side Event: Early Nutrition, the Foundation for Healthy Living & Education for Children*. She has also been an invited speaker at the 3rd Asian Congress on Pediatric Nutrition, Beijing on October 25, 2007 and at a Workshop on Prevalent Nutritional Problems among Asian Children in Montreal, Shanghai Children's Hospital, on October 31, 2007.

Dr. Alice Chan-Yip for having participated in a research seminar at the Pediatric Department of the Emory University, Atlanta, GA, on March 18, 2008. The topic was the following: *World Wide Prevalence of Iron Deficiency Anemia, What are the options for Prevention Strategies?*

Dr. Ciarán Duffy for having co-chaired a highly successful international pediatric rheumatology meeting at Keystone, Colorado (March 1-5, 2008). The Keystone Pediatric Rheumatology Symposium was sponsored by the American College of Rheumatology. There were over 500 attendees from 27 countries. All of the physician staff members and fellows of the Division of Rheumatology at MCH of the MUHC presented abstracts. Of the total of 178 abstracts presented at the meeting, 18 (> 10% of the meeting abstracts) were submitted directly from, or contributed to, by staff, fellows, nursing and PT staff from the MCH Division of Pediatric Rheumatology. The meeting received outstanding reviews from participants.

Dr. Karen Watanabe Duffy for having attended and contributed to the Annual Rheumatology Residents weekend, held in Calgary, January 24-27, 2008. Her contribution included the organization and moderation of a session on ethics, addressing the resident's CAN MEDs role on ethics, the design of some OSCE stations, and the examination of all 12 pediatric rheumatology trainees on one of the OSCE stations.

Dr. Ron Gottesman for having an appointment as member of the Career Investigator Clinical Research Evaluation Committee for two years, effective November 1, 2007, by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSFHR).

Dr. Paul Goodyer for having been elected Co-Chair of the Research Council of the MUHC Research Institute.

Dr. Harvey Guyda for having been selected as the recipient of the 2008 Alan Ross Award, recently re-named in honor of our own late Chair of Pediatrics. Established in 1976, it is the highest award in Canadian Pediatrics and it is given annually by the Canadian Pediatric Society in recognition of excellence in research, education and advocacy for child health in Canada.

Dr. Annie Janvier for having successfully obtained her PhD on April 18, 2008, from the *Faculté des sciences biomédicales, Université de Montréal*. The title of the thesis is: "The moral difference between premature infants and neonates compared to older patients."

Dr. Michael Kramer (Health Outcomes Axis) for having received the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention 2007 award for knowledge advancement in the area of maternal health.

Dr. Larry Lands for having received the ALDO Award of Excellence in Research. This award is presented to a researcher whose initiatives have made unique and significant contributions to pediatric care.

Dr. Wendy MacDonald for having received the Award of Excellence in Leadership (Pfizer). This award is given to a leader for her lifetime contribution to The Montreal Children's Hospital, distinguished by outstanding dedication to patient care, unwavering commitment to furthering the pediatric education mission and strong leadership within the hospital and health care community.

Dr. Rosie Scuccimarri for having organized the Annual Meeting of the Quebec Pediatric Rheumatologists, which took place at The Montreal Children's Hospital, on May 2nd, 2008. This included a guest lecturer, Dr. Eglia Rabinovitch from Duke University, who spoke on "Uveitis on Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis". There were 50 attendees.

Dr. Sam Shemie for having been promoted to the rank of full professor, GFT-H, effective December 1, 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS:

Dr. Herbert Joseph Bonifacio and **Dr. Abdullah Al Sanea** for having been selected as Chief Resident in Pediatrics, from June 1, 2008 to May 31, 2009, inclusive. We look forward to working with them in their new capacity.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO THE DELIGHTED PARENTS

Dr. Preetha Krishnamoorthy on her baby girl (Mia), born on January 3, 2008.

Dr. Ilana Greenstone on her baby girl (Olivia), born on January 16, 2008.

Dr. Mylène Dandavino on her baby boy (Loic), born on January 17, 2008.

Dr. Brian Greenfield on his baby girl (Ema), born on February 8, 2008.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji on his baby boy (Alexandre), born on March 26, 2008.

Dr. Catherine Henin on her baby girl (Madeleine Ava), born on April 3, 2008.



THE MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF THE MUHC

MCH – CPDP Executive Committee

As the number of candidates meets the number of positions available, the nominees were therefore elected **by acclamation**.

The elected members forming the 2008-2009 Executive Committee are:

Dr. Earl Rubin, Chair
Dr. Shirley Blaichman
Dr. John-Paul Capolicchio
Dr. David Mitchell
Dr. Gary Pekeles
Dr. Pramod S. Puligandla
Dr. Ted Tewfik

The CPDP Chair's mandate (Dr. Earl Rubin) was renewed for a period of two years, i.e. 2008-2009 and 2009-2010.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE IACS TEAM

Congratulations to the IACS Team for having organized the first RUIS Outreach Workshop on Pediatric Intravenous Access, supported by the Rotman Award for Pediatric Innovation on April 28, 2008, held at the McGill Stimulation Centre.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GENERAL PEDIATRICS DIVISION

Congratulations for a successful Weekend Getaway & Symposium "Current & Future Challenges in Physician Education", on April 12th and 13th, 2008, at Fairmont Le Château Montebello.

Rated as an overall success, the weekend proved to be a very productive meeting and enjoyable social event for all members and guests of the Division of General Pediatrics.

GENERAL NEWS FROM THE DIVISION OF GENERAL PEDIATRICS

- ❖ A multidisciplinary task force has been established to review the Child Protection Program.
- ❖ The "Technology Dependent Rooms" opened on 7-C-2, on October 29, 2007.

A *satellite clinic* has been established to manage orphan patients requiring enteral feeding led by Dr. Patricia Forbes, Dr. Michelle Pepin and the IACS Team.

The MSSS has guaranteed financing of \$1.1 million for the MUHC Telehealth for the National Program for Home Ventilatory Assistance (NPHVA).

PEDIATRICIAN ON THE AIR

Dr. Benjamin Burko is the *Pediatrician on the Air* for the nationally syndicated radio show "Parent Talk Radio" <http://www.liandrea.com/parent-talk-radio.html>



MINI MED - It's back!

Registration has begun for the 4th edition of Mini-Med School at The Children's

The Montreal Children's Hospital of the MUHC is hosting its fourth edition of **Mini-Med School at The Children's**. This year the English series features **Drs. Jacqueta Trasler, David Mitchell**, Robert Koenekoop, **Evelyn Constantin, Mark Anthony Anselmo**. French speakers are: Drs. **Caroline Quash, Elene Khalil, Thérèse Perreault, Nada Jabado**, Chantal Martel.

This year, the Minister of Health, Dr. Couillard has provided the MCH a grant to help sponsor this event.



THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (MUHC)

NOTICEABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

Cardiologists and Cardiovascular Surgeons, McGill University Health Centre (MUHC)

On December 17th, 2007, a team led by Dr. Martucci with significant support from **Drs. A. Dancea**, Lachapelle, Buithieu and Goyer as well as Dr. Rodes from the Hopital Laval in Québec City, performed the first percutaneous aortic valve implantation at the MUHC. The patients who underwent the procedure were two elderly patients with severe aortic stenosis and for whom all conventional measures have been exhausted. They now have a chance to live more comfortably and able to have an opportunity to spend one more Christmas with their family and loved ones. A highly dedicated team of professionals was able to make their lives better at least for the time being.

This is a remarkable achievement for the MUHC. The ability to transcend Division and Departmental boundaries and put together a multi-disciplinary team to achieve these interventions is what the MUHC stands for. It also shows what we can achieve when we keep within our sights that the most important thing we do is to improve our patients' lives.



The MUHC/MCH RESEARCH INSTITUTE

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS:

Dr. Franco Carnevale, in collaboration with principal investigator Dr. Sylvie Fortin of l'Hôpital Ste-Justine and several colleagues from the U. de Montréal, has received a grant valued at \$390,171 for a three-year term from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) in support of "*Pratiques cliniques hospitalières et pluralisme urbain: L'arrimage d'une pédiatrie à la diversité de son milieu, PHASE II.*"

Dr. Evelyn Constantin has received both a Chercheur-boursier clinicien junior I career award and an establishment grant from the FRSQ in support of her research entitled "*Évaluation de la variabilité du rythme cardiaque comme outil diagnostic chez les enfants présentant des apnées obstructive du sommeil.*"

Dr. Lily Hechtman has received support for a five-year term valued at \$860,687 from the U.S National Institutes of Mental Health for "Follow-up of the multimodal treatment study of children with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder." This most recent award will provide Dr. Hechtman with 25 years of continuous NIMH support of her research.



Dr. Loydie Jerome-Majewska has received a grant from the National Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada for a five-year term valued at \$160,000 in support of “Protein trafficking during placental development: the role of TMED2.” In addition, Dr. Jerome-Majewska has received a three-year grant of \$211,480 from the Fonds québécois de la recherche sur la nature et les technologies for « La fonction de l'épissage alternatif dans le développement des mammifères. »

Dr. Bruce Mazer, in collaboration with co-principal investigator Qutayba Hamid, has received \$75,000 from the Allergies, Genes and Environment Network for a one-year term in support of “Non-invasive biomarkers.”

Drs. Michael Kramer and Robert Platt, in collaboration with principal investigator Dr. Erica Moodie and Dr. Samy Suissa of McGill U, have been funded by the CIHR for three years in the amount of \$285,177 for the project “Statistical methods for causal inference in longitudinal studies with non-compliance and missing data.”

Dr. Larry Lands has received a grant of \$230,314 from the Hospital for Sick Children Foundation over a two-year period in support of “Modified whey protein supplementation in murine models of pediatric inflammatory disorders.”

Dr. Robert Platt has been awarded the Chercheur-boursier senior career award by the FRSQ.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos has received a grant of \$150,000 for a three-year term from Québec's Ministère du Développement économique, de l'Innovation et de l'Exportation in support of the project “Nouvelle approche thérapeutique pour la prévention du diabète type 1.”

Dr. Frank Rauch has received a Chercheur-boursier clinician junior 2 salary award from the FRSQ.

Dr. Janusz Rak has received a three-year grant of \$390,000 from the National Cancer Institutes of Canada in support of “The role of oncogene-containing microvesicles in tumor angiogenesis”.

Dr. Rima Rozen has received a grant of \$172,000 over a two-year term from the CIHR in support of “Trifunctional folate-metabolizing enzyme MTHFD1: Impact on birth defects and cancer.”

Dr. Jacquetta Trasler, in collaboration with several colleagues and principal investigator Dr. Shi Wu Wen of Ottawa U, has received \$972,140 from the CIHR over a five-year term in support of “A pre-conception cohort to study preeclampsia etiology, early biomarkers, and cardiovascular risk after childbirth”.

Dr. Ernest Seidman, in collaboration with principal investigator Dr. Devendra Amre and several colleagues at Hôpital Ste-Justine, has received a three-year grant from the CIHR valued at \$420,500 in support of “Investigation of genetic markers that determine susceptibility and clinical phenotypes of inflammatory bowel diseases. In addition Dr. Seidman has been awarded a grant of \$50,000 from the National Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada for a two-year term in support of ‘In vitro studies on the molecular mechanisms underlying the anti-carcinogenic properties of carnitine and butyrate in colo cancer cells’.”



Opinion Article published in the National Review of Medicine

Why I'm staying in Canada? (By Dr. Shuvo Ghosh)

The Opinion by Dr. Dino Ramzi (“Why I’m staying in the US”, October 30, Vol 4, No 19) left me bewildered. Over six years ago, I came to Quebec to do my fellowship training at McGill – from Maryland, where Dr. Ramzi now lives. Montreal presented the same system that Dr. Ramzi left behind, but my experience has been different. Thus, I’ve chosen to stay.

I was born and raised in the States, and grew up in a family of physicians. In no other country is healthcare treated so politically as in the USA. Alternate plans are constantly touted, but ultimately trumped by the bottom line. Health insurance officials with no science background whatsoever – but sometimes making 10 times more than physicians – often make decisions about treatment and patient management. All this leaves tens of millions without access, funding or insurance for healthcare.

I’m sure Quebec certainly could benefit from the return of Dr. Ramzi and others like him. And when those doctors say they’re working really hard in the US and weren’t put on this earth to enjoy the lifestyle, it becomes obvious: what’s the point of earning more money if there’s no time to enjoy it? Without doubt, our health system has many longstanding problems that absolutely have to be fixed. The remedies must come, because the demand is growing. But still, Canada’s universal model is the world’s truly moral one, with hope for solutions, in a country whose resources, currency, environmental focus, cultural competence and moderate socialism are ascendant. It’s hard to find a better place to be right now.

Dr. Shuvo Ghosh, Montreal, Quebec.



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



**DEPARTMENT OF PEDIATRICS
RETREAT 2008**

Tuesday, May 20th, 2008

7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.