



Department of Pediatrics

Faculty of Medicine, McGill University

Annual Report 2014

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INTRODUCTION

The major organizational challenge in 2014 for the Department of Pediatrics was planning and preparing for a complete physical relocation of its operations in 2015. This “once-in-a-century” move involved all segments of the Department in a collective and collaborative effort across disciplines and professions to achieve 'the move' with a minimum of disruption to ongoing activities and a maximum of safety for our patients and families. This exceptional challenge was associated with a substantive necessary effort that came on top of our 'regular' ongoing commitments to excellence in clinical service, teaching and research. We simply could not compromise our current efforts for gains down the road. Our patients, our learners, our scientific endeavors deserved both our full effort and our complete attention.

I am proud to say, as evidenced by this Annual Report, the accomplishments of 2014 stand well in isolation, even as the Department stood on the cusp of a monumental change that it spent an extraordinary effort readying itself for. The dedication and innate skills of our membership was very much apparent throughout the year. We continued to 'punch well above our weight', demonstrating excellence in multiple ways across our academic mission. We remain a key piece of local health care delivery with a vibrant national and international presence.

We also demonstrated that we are a dynamic organization committed to continual reflection, improvement and renewal. With the move into modern state of the art physical facilities we can be expected to continue our growth and the realization of our full potential. These are exciting times indeed.

RESEARCH & PUBLICATIONS

Our research efforts continue to garner significant external funding success despite a persistently challenging funding environment. This is particularly true for external peer-reviewed salary awards.

An updated list of Departmental publications will be available as of July 15, 2015 on:
<https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/research/publications>

Unfortunately due to continued administrative challenges within our MUHC-RI we are unable at this time to provide the details regarding the number and amount of peer reviewed operational awards pertaining to the Department of Pediatrics.

Research Seminars take place every week on Mondays at noon. An updated list of the seminars may be viewed on:
<http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/research>

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS – NEWLY FUNDED

Dr. Giosi Di Meglio and Dr. Julius Erdstein as Co-Investigators, received a CIHR grant totaling \$326,628 over 5 for a research project entitled “Examen des profils chez les patients présentant une anorexie mentale et réponses aux interventions: étude multicentrique”. This study is a joint project of all four university centers in Quebec.

Dr. Patricia Fontela received a Junior 1 *chercheur-boursier clinicien* career award from the FRQ-S.

Dr. Patricia Li received \$300,000 over 5 years from the CIHR for her research project entitled “Primary Care for Children: a Research Program Aimed at Improving Quality of Care”.

Dr. Annette Majnemer obtained a CIHR award of \$330,574 over 4 years for her project entitled: “PROMPT Identification of Cerebral Palsy: Primary-care of motor-impaired children: Physician Tools”.

Dr. Constantin Polychornakos obtained a CIHR award totaling \$369,478 over 8 years for his research entitled “Molecular Alternations in Type 1 Diabetes”.

Dr. Janusz Rak obtained a CIHR award totaling \$710,050 over 5 years for his project entitled: “Coagulation system effectors as regulators of tumor dormancy and therapeutic targets”.

Dr. Frank Rauch obtained a CIHR award totaling \$1,334,400 over 8 years for his research project entitled “Muscle-Bone Interactions in Canadians; a National Population-Based Study”.

Dr. Rima Rozen obtained a CIHR grant of \$955,186 over 5 years for her research project entitled “MTHFR and Multifactorial Diseases”.

Dr. Aimee Ryan, co-investigator obtained a CIHR grant totaling \$373,386 for a project entitled: “Facilitating engraftment of male germline stem cells: Toward developing a novel fertility restoration strategy for boys with cancer”.

Dr. Guillaume Sébire obtained a research grant of \$222,047 from the Heart & Stroke Foundation over 3 years for the research project entitled: “Rôle de la réponse inflammatoire maternofoetale dans la physiopathologie des accidents vasculaires cérébraux (AVC) périnataux”.

Dr. Pia Wintermark obtained a CIHR grant of \$441,372 over 4 years for the project entitled: “Brain and eyes in asphyxiated newborns: common ground for disease development and common novel target for treatment?”

Dr. Michael Zappitelli obtained a CIHR grant of \$438,118 over 3.5 years for his research project entitled “Understanding Blood Pressure and End Organ Damage in Adolescents”.

The External Award list is updated yearly and may be consulted on the Department of Pediatrics website : <https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/mission/awards>

TEACHING & LEARNING

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL STUDENTS

Under the excellent leadership of Dr. Preetha Krishnamoorthy, the Department of Pediatrics continues to give two major courses to the undergraduate medical students. Drs. Preetha Krishnamoorthy, Najma Ahmed and Paul Rossy coordinate the Pediatrics component of the Comprehensive Health course (Transition to Clinical Practice). This is a pre-clerkship course consisting of lectures, small-group modules and 4 half-day pediatric outpatient clinics. The course is well received by students, but it has been a struggle to find sufficient clinical placements for the students. The second major UGME Departmental endeavour is the Pediatrics Clerkship. The Clerkship now runs for eight weeks. The hospital based CTU's (4 weeks) exposure have historically been excellent clinical experiences for students. They provide an educational experience that challenges the students, while allowing them to perfect their clinical skills and be intimately involved in the care of ill children. Alternative experiences have included Hematology-Oncology, Adolescent Medicine, Pediatric Consultation Clinic, Medical Day Hospital, Complex Care and Val d'Or. The two-week neonatal unit experience provides an academic environment with hands-on practical experience and extended nursery exposure to both normal and critically ill newborns. The two weeks in the ambulatory area has the potential to be superb but the experience is very “faculty supervisor” determined. When there are not enough ER shifts for students, they are placed in subspecialty outpatient clinics. There is a considerable amount of teaching given during the ambulatory two weeks.

With the implementation of an Integrated Clerkship starting July 27, 2015, the clerkship in Pediatrics will now be six weeks long, as a part of a the Women/Child Health block. Each student will be on the wards for two weeks, on a subspecialty service for two weeks and in the NICU for two weeks. There will be academic half-days shared with Obstetrics/Gynecology as well as continued daily lunchtime learning opportunities. We hope to embrace this change and provide a continued excellent, and improved, pediatric experience to our students.

PEDIATRIC RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM

The 2014/2015 academic year will be remembered as the year of the move to the new Glen site. The program directors and residents were highly implicated in the preparations, from planning the clinical teams for the day of the move to finding new locales for the resident Academic Half Day. The actual move itself was a great success, and we are proud of the dedication and involvement of our residents in this process. The transition to the new hospital has been smooth and a source of pride and optimism among the residents. However, decreased outpatient volumes and the relocation of clinics to external sites remain challenges to be overcome by the residency program. Other highlights of the past year include: the relatively seamless transition to the two new co-directors of the program; the continued close-knit and supportive dynamic among the group of residents, who welcomed 10 new first-year trainees on July 1 2014; a very successful annual resident retreat which focused on resident wellness and career building; improved stability in the administrative support of the program, which was granted a new part-time administrative position; effective resolution of learning environment difficulties in the MCH NICU (9C); and continued active involvement of our pediatric faculty in the educational activities of the program, including several new additions of enthusiastic faculty in various roles. With these accomplishments, the focus of the next academic year will be to continue in this positive light to ensure a smooth transition to the Competency-Based Education model.

FELLOWSHIP TRAINING PROGRAMS

Our international and local commitment to the training of first-rate academic candidates is evidenced by the Alan Ross Academic Fellowships supported through an endowment held for the Department of Pediatrics at McGill, which provides support for two fellows annually. This year, the Alan Ross Fellowship was awarded to Dr. Eirin Carolan in Endocrinology. The Clinical Fellowship program is additionally supported by donations from clinical earnings of all members of the Department and supports on average four fellows per year. In 2014, there were five Clinical Fellowships funded for local and international medical graduates as follows: Dr. Amit Dotan (Hematology/ Oncology), Dr. Joanna Merckx (Infectious Diseases), Dr. Naoual Khayr (Adolescent Medicine), Dr. Sara Long-Gagné, (Complex Care) and Dr. Angela Migowa (Rheumatology).

FACULTY HONOR ROLE FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

- Dr. Farhan Bhanji was named to the Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence (2013-2014) in recognition of his contributions to teaching in the Faculty of Medicine.
- Dr. Chris Karatzios was awarded the Osler Award from the Faculty of Medicine MDCM graduating class of 2014.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- The two prize-winners of the MCH Annual Research Day were doctoral student Amanda Baumholz in Dr. Aimee Ryan's Developmental Biology Laboratory who delivered a talk on "The Claudin Family of Tight Junction Proteins is Required for Neural Tube Closure." and Adam Fontebasso, an MD/PhD student in **Dr. Nada Jabado's** Brain Tumour Research Laboratory, who spoke on "The Mutational Landscape of Pediatric High-Grade Gliomas."
- McGill medical student Camille Vallée-Gravel, supervised jointly by Drs. Pia Wintermark (Neonatology) and Pierre Lachapelle (Ophthalmology) represented McGill University at the 6th Canadian National Medical Student Research Symposium held in Winnipeg, June 10-12, 2014. Camille was awarded the Hilton J. McKeown Award (first prize) for outstanding poster presentation at the McGill Faculty of Medicine Summer 2013 Research day for her study: "Use of Sildenafil in the Context of Retinopathy of Prematurity".
- McGill medical student Octavian Dobrescu a McGill supervised by Drs. Pia Wintermark (Neonatology) represented McGill University at the 6th Canadian National Medical Student Research Symposium held in Winnipeg, June 10-12, 2014. Octavian was awarded the Hilton J. McKeown Award (second prize) for outstanding poster presentation at the McGill Faculty of Medicine Summer 2013 Research day for her study: Impact of Neonatal Hypoxic-Ischemic Encephalopathy on Cerebellum".

GRAND ROUNDS

Grand Rounds take place every Wednesday morning from 8-9 am in D 182 from September to June. Physician staff and residents are requested to attend. In 2014, the Department of Pediatrics held 15 Special Lectureships including the Ross Lectureship, Scriver Lectureship, Hillman Lectureship and the Goldbloom Lectureship; 16 Visiting Speaker Rounds and 12 Local Speaker Rounds. An updated list of Pediatric Grand Rounds may be viewed on:

<http://www.mcgill.ca/peds/activities>

INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY

◆ GLOBAL HEALTH

Dr. Jennifer Turnbull was awarded the Global Child Health Fund Fellowship in 2014. In her role as interim coordinator of the Global Child Health Program representing the 20 member committee at the MCH, she travelled to Kigali, Rwanda. She visited *the Department of Pediatrics at the Centre hospitalier universitaire de Kigali (CHUK)* and met members of their staff. Solid partnerships were strengthened with Dr. Turnbull's visit and as a result, we are pleased to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to foster an exchange of Continuing Professional Development activities between McGill's Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Pediatrics, University Teaching Hospital of Kigali (CHUK), Rwanda was formally signed on July 16, 2014. CHUK was represented by Dr. Lisine Tuyisenge, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics in Kigali, who visited us during the summer. This MOU will see members of our Faculty and residents spend time on the ground in Kigali in educational, clinical and hopefully eventually research pursuits.

MILESTONES

The restrictions placed on foreign medical graduates, as well as continued restrictions in MSSS manpower allotments in the teaching hospital milieu, has significantly impacted upon our ability to recruit. Clinical income provides the majority of the total income for all Paediatricians and Pediatric specialists in the Department. The total base budget allocation from the Faculty remains unchanged from 2011. Despite this, the Department has been able to secure a total of 104 new staff appointments (80% female) over the past decade in the following categories:

YEAR	CAS	GFT(U)	FT	PT	TOTAL
2005	2		2	1	5
2006	8	1	1	1	11
2007	9	2		2	13
2008	5			3	8
2009	6			6	12
2010	9			10	19
2011	5		1		6
2012	8			3	11
2013	9		2		11
2014	2	1	1	4	8
	63	4	7	30	104

In 2014, the Department consisted of the following 279 staff members [22 GFT(U), 138 CAS, 10 FT, 96 PT, 7 Honorary and 6 Emeritus].

NEW HIRES

Dr. Sara Ahronheim accepted a position as Adjunct Professor in the Department of Pediatrics, McGill University, effective July 1, 2014.

Dr. Marc Beltempo accepted a position as Full-Time Assistant Professor Clinical (Contract Academic Staff) in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University and as staff physician within the MCH-MUHC Division of Neonatology, effective July 1, 2014.

Dr. Guillaume Sébire accepted a position as Full-Time Professor GFT (U), Tenure Track, in the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Neurology and Neurosurgery, Faculty of Medicine, effective February 1, 2014. Dr. Sébire was also appointed the Dodds Professor of Pediatrics.

PROMOTIONS

Dr. Richard Gosselin was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (Clinical) Contract Academic Staff, effective January 1, 2014.

Dr. Nada Jabado was promoted to the rank of Full Professor with tenure as of June 1, 2014.

Dr. Loydie Jerome-Majewska was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure in 2014.

Dr. Frank Rauch was promoted to the rank of Full Professor (Clinical) Contract Academic Staff, effective March 1, 2014.

Dr. Michele Zappitelli was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (Clinical) Contract Academic Staff, effective January 1, 2014.

APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Reza Alizadehfar was appointed Program Director of the Pediatric Allergy and Immunology Residency Training program, as of July 1st, 2014.

Dr. Robert Barnes was appointed Associate Director of Professional Services for the MCH-MUHC.

Dr. Mary Decell was appointed as the new Chair of the MCH Medical Evaluation Committee, as of July 1st 2014.

Dr. Chris Karatzios' appointment was transferred from the Division of Pediatric Emergency Medicine to the Division of Infectious Disease, effective July 1, 2014.

Dr. David Mitchell was appointed, as Director, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Division, as of March 1, 2014.

Dr. Christine Sabapathy was appointed as Interim Program Director of the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Residency Training program, as of September 1st, 2014.

Dr. Guillaume Sébire was appointed, as Director Pediatric Neurology Division.

HONOURS, AWARDS & PRIZES

Dr. Sharon Abish was awarded the 2014 Jean Coutu Medical Award of Excellence by the MCH Foundation.

Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan obtained \$35,000 funding in the RI-MUHC & MERCK 2014 Research Competition for his application *LAACTAM study*.

Dr. Benjamin Burko was appointed to the Dean's (McGill Faculty of Medicine), Faculty Advisory Board. Dr. Burko was also awarded the McGill David Johnston Award for Fundraising, on May 8, 2014.

Dr. Olivier Drouin was selected to receive a Resident Research Grant from AAP for his research project entitled, "Investigating the role of information framing on physical activity counseling among youth".

Dr. Sasha Dubrovsky was awarded the 2014 Top Pediatric Abstract category at the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians (CAEP).

Dr. Ron Gottesman received the Allen Spanier Lecture/Award from the *Société des intensivistes* du Québec (SIQ). Dr. Gottesman was also appointed as the next chair of the Specialty Committee in Critical Care Medicine (2014-2016), by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada.

Dr. Preetha Krishnamoorthy received the 2014 Introduction to Clinical Medicine (ICM) Pediatrics Teaching Award.

Dr. Loydie Jerome-Majewska was selected as the recipient of the 2014 Haile T. Debas Prize by the Honours and Awards Committee of the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Apo Papageorgiou was awarded the title of "*Doctor Honoris Causa*" by the University of Thessaly, the highest recognition offered by the Faculty.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos was elected to Fellowship of the Royal Society of Canada for his work in the genetics of diabetes.

Drs. C. Poulin and B. Rosenblatt received \$80,000 from the *Fondation Enfant Soleil* to provide services to the *Outaouais* Children through teleneurology/EEG.

Dr. Caroline Quach was awarded the 2014 Research Award of Excellence by the MCH Foundation.

Dr. Caroline Quach was honored by the SHEA member category of *Fellow of SHEA* for her seven or more years of service and commitment to SHEA. Dr. Quach was also appointed as Vice-Chair of the National Advisory Committee on Immunization.

Dr. Maria Ramsay was awarded the 2014 Global Montreal Professional Staff Award of Excellence by the MCH Foundation.

Dr. Saleem Razack was awarded the 2014 Paediatric Chairs of Canada Academic Leadership Clinician Educator Award.

Janet Rennick was awarded the Prix Florence from the Fondation de l'Ordre des infirmières et des infirmiers du Québec (OIIQ).

Dr. Paul Rossy was awarded the year's Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award.

Dr. Sébire was awarded the 2014-2015 Jonathan Ballon Award of Excellence from the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Quebec

Dr. Rosie Scuccimarri was appointed as Chair of the Pediatric Section, Canadian Rheumatology Association.

Dr. Michael Shevell was elected to the Executive Board of the International Child Neurology Association.

Dr. Michael Shevell was the recipient of the 2014 Hower Award from the Child Neurology Society. The Hower Award annually honors an outstanding teacher and scholar who has made an exceptional national and international contributions to the field of child neurology over a career and who have devoted a high level of service to the Society.

Dr. Michael Shevell was selected as a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences.

Dr. Blair Whittemore was the recipient of the 2014 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Montreal Children's Hospital.

