I am pretty sure that the last thing Departmental members want to read about as 2020 steamrolls to its welcomed conclusion is the very last thing I want to write about…….again. So let us not write about it nor read about it on this single occasion. So let us not even mention the word and give it even more space in our lives.

Like a thief and an unwelcomed intruder, it has taken enough from us already and we have even more of the journey ahead to traverse.

Rather I want to write about more positive entities that we have under our control. Entities that are particularly important now as we share collective concerns about wellness and vitality.

What I want and need to write about are: Recognition. Appreciation. Gratitude.

At first glance the words are linked and somewhat overlapping. But they are distinct, involving different values, actions, and outcomes. They are especially important in a socially constructed organization that brings together individuals focused on common goals. An organization such as ours.

Recognition is an overt acknowledgement of an achievement and accomplishment. It is usually associated with something that is tangibly specific. You don’t have to be a developmental pediatrician to know that we are hard-wired to crave recognition starting with our parents. It is a powerful motivator that shaped our behaviour, shifting us from an ‘id’ to ‘superego’ driven organism (Freud was right about some things). Striving for recognition can be a powerful motivator and receiving it makes us feel valued. It releases dopamine and the pleasure we feel from that causes us to seek more, energizing us and thus enhancing productivity and creativity. It connects us to the community that provides us with recognition, so it is prosocial facilitating connectedness and a sense of belonging as we are in any analysis social beings. To be meaningful and effective in the Pavlovian paradigm of positive reinforcement, recognition has to be timely and specific. And it must be genuine and truthful.

Appreciation is more subtle an attribution than recognition. It implies an awareness of someone’s intrinsic or inherent value, their qualities as a person. It is not about ‘what’ someone did or accomplished, but ‘who’ that someone is. Our values and qualities as persons are most evident not in the relatively rare sunburst of accomplishment, but in the daily quotient of what we do. Appreciation is obviously a more personal and indeed intimate act. It requires the time, effort and proximity to get to know or observe someone. A community, which is what a workplace is, provides this opportunity. Being appreciated is like being truly seen for who we are.
There is a certain joy in knowing that others are aware of our existence beyond the simple act of perception. Appreciation can be inspiring for both sender and receiver. It should not have formalized structures so that when given it is most genuine and heartfelt. Together with recognition, it operates at the penultimate Esteem level in Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs serving as a necessary step and fulcrum towards self-actualization.

Linked to recognition and appreciation is gratitude which is both the quality and the act of giving thanks. Typically it is given in reciprocity for an act of kindness from which we have benefitted. Gratitude implies being grateful for goodness in our life. There are several sequential steps in expressing gratitude. First we must recognize that there is goodness within our sphere. Second we need to identify the source of this goodness. And finally we need to directly express our personal thanks to this source. Expression can take many forms from spoken or written words of thanks, a smile or touch (within social limits), returning goodness, or paying it forward to others outside the specific circle of thanks. Gratitude, like goodness itself, should be selflessly given. It can strengthen existing bonds or create new ones.

Recognition, appreciation and gratitude all have the effect of creating joy and happiness. They engender wellness and wellbeing, which is what we need to actualize ourselves. They also come without costs. I would hope that our Department is one that practices and celebrates these values. I would like to think that these values are part of our recipe for success and cohesion in good and bad times.

As we look forward to some respite in the holidays and a more joyous and less disruptive year ahead, let us be grateful for what we have. Let us resolve to practice the simple kindness of recognition, appreciation and gratitude. It will go a long way to making the load lighter and the road ahead brighter. And the good news is that it is entirely under our control.

All the best for the holidays and for 2021.

Michael

Paeds Reads is our weekly e-newsletter that launched on September 6, 2019. Part of our Strategic Departmental Communications Plan initiatives, this e-newsletter is a virtual collected curated space for Departmental information, engagement and networking in support of all aspects of our academic mission; clinical service, education, research, innovation, advocacy and personal development.

https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/about/newsletter

Virtual Suggestion Box
Submit your constructive suggestions to our Department through our Virtual Suggestion Box at this link: http://freesuggestionbox.com/pub/yrweobj
Suggestions can include our organization and activities, any academic area in relation to our Strategic Plan and are entirely anonymous, unless an individual chooses to sign personally. Submissions will be forwarded to the Chief of Department, (Dr. Shevell) for consideration. You can find a tab linking to the Suggestion Box on our Departmental website: mcgill.ca/peds/
STAFF UPDATES

The following individual was appointed as Adjunct Professor:
- Richard Screiber, Gastroenterology (June 2020)
The following individuals were appointed as Faculty Lecturer:
- Kristen Lambrinakos-Raymond, Emergency Medicine (September 2020)
- Suzanne Malaab, General Pediatrics (September 2020)
The following individuals were appointed as Assistant Professor:
- Laurence Chapuy, Gastroenterology (October 2020)
- Matthew Donlan, General Pediatrics (September 2020)
- Helena Evangelou, General Pediatrics (September 2020)
- Amaryllis Ferrand, Neonatology (August 2020)
- Jarred Garfinkle, Neonatology (October 2020)
- Naomi Goloff, General Pediatrics-Palliative Care (December 2020)
- Stephanie Mourad, Hematology-Oncology (July 2020)
The following individual was appointed as Associate Professor:
- Robert Hum, General Pediatrics (August 2020)

Division Director renewal appointment:
- Terry Sigman, Gastroenterology Division (November 2020)

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

Congratulations to all!

Dr. Geneviève Bernard received the McGill University Maude Abbott prize which recognizes outstanding female faculty members who excel in Education, Research or Administration in the early stages of their career.

Dr. Mylène Dandavino, Dr. Tanya DiGenova and Dr. Robert Sternszus, received the PCC Covid Leadership Award for responding in a heroic way to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Dr. Ron Gottesman received the Royal College’s 2020 Mentor of the Year award for Region 4.

Dr. Nada Jabado received the UBC Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Cancer Research Prize.

Dr. Christine McCusker received the MCHF Award for Research Excellence.

Dr. Hema Patel received the MCHF Award for Medical Excellence and also received 2020 PCC Clinician Practitioner Leadership Award.

Dr. Chantal Poulin and surgical colleagues Jean-Pierre Farmer (Neurosurgery) and Thierry Benaroch (Orthopedics) received from the FMSQ the 2020 Prix d’excellence for Inter-Disciplinary Care for their longstanding involvement in the Spasticity Clinic.

Dr. Pramod Puligandla received the McGill Faculty of Medicine & Health Sciences inaugural Program Director Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dr. Alizadehfar Reza received the John Howard Toogood Award for Teaching, a national award for Allergy Programs across Canada.

Dr. Anne Marie Sbrocchi on her selection to the Faculty Honor Roll for Educational Excellence in August 2020. The following quote from a colleague aptly summarizes Annie’s excellence and aptitude for teaching:

“While many faculty excel as role models and in clinical teaching, Dr. Sbrocchi distinguishes herself in moving far beyond the benchmark; she has demonstrated expertise as a clinical innovator in education, creating and implementing new modalities for learning, particularly in the care of vulnerable children and adolescents.”
**RESEARCH FUNDING**

Dr. Jessica Duby (Neonatology) obtained a Connectivity Grant from Pampers Technology, enabling the development of a “virtual visiting” program for parents unable to visit the NICU, due to distance or other circumstances. Jessica will be working collaboratively with Nursing and the Northern Module team to develop this program.

Dr. Nada Jabado (Hematology-Oncology) was the recipient of two grants:
1) **CRS grant:** Understanding the impact of H3.3 G34 mutations in childhood brain tumours ($120,000)
2) **NIH P01 grant:** Role of Histone and Histone-like Mutations in the Oncogenesis of Human Cancers ($1,116,000)

Dr. Janusz Rak (Hematology-Oncology) was awarded:
1) the M14 - The McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity COVID-19 Research Funding (ECRF) program grant: Exosomal mimetics of COVID-19 as viral models and therapeutics. Principal Investigator (co-PI Donsic Choi, Maziar Divangahi); ($100,000)
2) the M14 - The McGill Interdisciplinary Initiative in Infection and Immunity Grant: Targeting oncosome educated neutrophil subsets to curtail breast cancer metastasis. Principal Investigator (second PI Peter Siegel) ($150,000).
3) **CRS Operating Grant** for project Exosomal representation of new vulnerabilities induced in glioma stem cells by therapy: Principal Investigator (co-PIs – Kevin Petrecca, Yasser Riazahtosseini) ($120,000).
4) The Kidney Foundation of Canada (KFOC), Program Kidney Health Research Grant Grant: Targeting cell intrinsic and extrinsic effects of branched-chain aminoacid metabolism in renal cell carcinoma: Principal Investigator (CoApplicants: Yasser Rianzalhosseini, Pouria Jandaghi); ($120,000).

Dr. Rima Rozen was the recipient of the CIHR award for project Supplementation of folic acid or methyltetrahydrofolate to reduce developmental anomalies in a new mouse model for the MTHFR 677C>T polymorphism ($845,326).

Dr. Wissam Shalish (Neonatology) and Dr. Guilherme Sant’Anna (Neonatology) received funding support of $2,000,000 from the Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation for the clinical innovation project More Hugs, No more Wires, Smart Pajamas aiming at developing wireless monitoring of biosignals and cardiorespiratory signals to deliver life-saving information ($6,500,000).

Dr. Myriam Srou (Neurology) was the recipient of a CIHR award for project The Physiological, molecular and genetic mechanisms underlying lateralization of motor control ($1,116,000).

Dr. Myriam Srou (Pediatric Neurology) and Dr. Robert Koenekeop (Department of Pediatric Surgery) for their success as co-PIs on a grant entitled Neurodevelopmental basis of nervous system disorders (NeuroBasis) awarded by the Canadian Foundation for Innovation.

**New Salary Support Awards:**

- **CIHR:** Nada Jabado CRC Tier I
- **FRQ-S:**
  - Jr 1 (Chercheur-Boursier Clinicien): Dr. Marc Beltempo (Neonatology), Dr. Ken Myers (Neurology), Dr. Jesse Papenburg (Microbiology-ID) – one year extension.
  - Jr 2 (Chercheur-Boursier Clinicien): Dr. Patricia Li (General Pediatrics)

Infectious disease. Neonatology (MCH). Neurology each have one (1) individual identified for an open PEM now undergoing the onboarding steps required prior to a formal announcement to the Departmental community.

**Recruitment Update**

With the formalization of the MSSS 21-25 PEM numbers the Department has the following recruitment opportunities currently (ie open non-jumelaged PEMs).

Critical Care 2
Emergency Medicine 1
Endocrinology 1
Gastroenterology 1
Hematology-Oncology 1
Microbiology 1
Neurology 1
Respiroiogy 1

**Infectious disease. Neonatology (MCH). Neurology each have one (1) individual identified for an open PEM now undergoing the onboarding steps required prior to a formal announcement to the Departmental community.**
2020 has certainly been an interesting year! In the summer, after saying goodbye to our departing residents at our first ever virtual Pediatrics Resident and Fellow Graduation Ceremony, we prepared to welcome our new resident cohort. With staggered arrivals from our visa-sponsored residents and the inability to deliver orientation and teaching in person, the program quickly adapted to deliver a high-yield Zoom ‘bootcamp’ and organize several Zoom social events to welcome everyone to the family.

As the academic year has progressed we have continued to work diligently on our identified strategic priorities. These include the successful transition to Competence-by-Design (CBD), the incorporation of a more comprehensive and inclusive career counseling program into our curriculum, the development of an integrated and EPA-based simulation curriculum, the enhancement of community pediatrics training and the development of a longitudinal curriculum focused on the teaching of mindfulness and compassion.

We would like to acknowledge our outstanding Chief Residents, David D’Arienzo and Rosie Dion and Site Chief Esther Vaugon, who have demonstrated tireless devotion to their resident colleagues and to the entire MCH community; our fantastic administrative team of Alessandra Tedeschi and Bobbie Carin; the dedicated members of all our committees whose engagement and teamwork are the driving force behind our program’s success; all our wonderful faculty colleagues who work with, teach and support our learners every day; and, of course, our amazing group of residents who more than ever, have been proactively working to ensure that our training program as is good as it can be in this very unusual time. We would also like to congratulate our APD, Dr. Elisa Ruano, on the birth of her beautiful son William.

2021 will no doubt bring its challenges. We will be hard at work preparing for the launch of CBD in July. We will also be continuing to think big as we aim to continue to improve residency education in spite of the many challenges imposed by COVID-19.

Wishing all of you and your families a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and happy new year!

---

**FACULTY FELLOWS EDUCATION**

- **Helen Karounis Agora Program (HKAP): Inter-Generational Learning**
  - Franziska Baltzer (Adolescent Medicine)
  - Claudette Bardin (General Pediatrics)
  - Marie-Josee Beland (Cardiology)
  - Manon Boutin (Emergency Medicine)
  - Robert Brouillette (Neonatology)
  - Patricia Forbes (General Pediatrics)
  - Dorothy Moore (Infectious Diseases)
  - Patricia Riley (Neonatology)
  - Bernard Rosenblatt (Neurology)
  - Blair Whittemore (Heme-Onc)
  - Sandra Woods (General Pediatrics)

- **Goldbloom Fellows: Community Preceptorship**
  - Silvana Barone (General Pediatrics)
  - Shirley Blaichman (General Pediatrics)
  - Estelle Chetrit (General Pediatrics)
  - Geoff Dougherty (General Pediatrics)
  - Julie Hebert (General Pediatrics)
  - Maya Leitner (Adolescent Medicine)
  - Diane Munz (General Pediatrics)
  - Marcel Sévere (General Pediatrics)
  - Edmund Shahin (General Pediatrics)
**Pediatric Medical Grand Rounds**

**September 2020**
09 21st Annual Alan Ross Lecture: Precision Medicine Strategies for Medulloblastoma. Dr. Scott Pomeroy (Harvard Medical School, Boston Children’s Hospital)
16 22nd Annual Alan Ross Lecture: Pediatric Education Based Scholarship, Through the Looking Glass…. Past, Present and Future. Dr. Ronald Gottesman (McGill University)
23 33rd Annual Saul Usher Lecture: Marfan Syndrome and Related Disorders: Learning When to Worry. Dr. Shaine Morris (Bayer College Medicine, Texas Children’s Hospital)
30 Redefining Severe Cutaneous Reactions in Children. Dr. Michele Ramien (University of Calgary, Alberta Children’s Hospital)

**October 2020**
07 New York City Experience with COVID-19: From Hospital Adaptations to Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children. Dr. Eva Cheung (Columbia University Medical Center)
14 Alice Chan-Yip Lectureship in Integrative and Psychosomatic Medicine: The Canadian Model of Community Social Pediatric: New Paradigm of Care for Children Issued from an Impoverished Milieu. Dr. Gilles Julien (McGill University)
21 Women in Leadership Awardees: Leading, Learning & Living as Leaders: Report from the 2019 Women in Leadership Bursary recipients. Dr. Holly Agostino, Dr. Mylene Dandavino, Dr. Meranda Nakhla, Dr. Samara Zavalkoff (McGill University)
29 The Lorraine and Dominique Belcourt Symposium: Biliary Atresia: Best Strategies to “De Liver” Care for Newborns. Dr. Richard Schreiber (University of British Columbia, BC Children’s Hospital)

**November 2020**
04 Gene(omic) Therapies for Hemoglobin Disorders. Dr. Mark C. Walers (UCSF Benioff Children’s Hospital Oakland)
11 Robert H. Usher Lectureship: Alchemy 101: Transforming Quality into Dollars into Quality. Dr. John A. F. Zupancic (Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center)
18 Department of Pediatrics Town Hall Meeting (McGill)
25 Patient Safety – QI as a Driver in Joy of Work. Dr. Chris Hayes (University of Toronto, Trillium Health Partners)

**December 2020**
02 Preston Robb Neuroscience Lecture: Neuroimaging Insights into MS and MOG-related Disorders in Children. Dr. Brenda Banwell (University of Pennsylvania, The Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia)
09 Jordan, Joyce and Justice: Decolonizing Healthcare for Indigenous Children and Youth. Dr. Raven Dumont-Maurice, Dr. Samir Shaheen-Hussain, Dr. Kent Saylor, Dr. Saleem Razack (McGill University/MUHC)
16 Global Health Work at the Montreal Children’s Hospital: Experiences from Haiti and Ethiopia. Dr. Philippe Lamer (McGill University), Dr. Virginie Clavel (McGill University), Elissa Remmer (RN).

**Departmental Acknowledgements**

**September 2020**
11 Dr. François Olivier
18 Dr. Emmett Francoeur
25 Dr. Claire Leblanc

**October 2020**
02 Dr. Franziska Baltzer
09 Dr. Jae-Marie Ferdinand
16 Dr. Julius Erdstein
23 Dr. Adrian Dancea
30 Dr. Christine McCusker

**November 2020**
06 Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina
13 Dr. Marc Beltempo
20 Dr. Ken Myers
27 Dr. Patricia Li

**December 2020**
04 Dr. Mary Decell +
Dr. Catherine Millar
11 Dr. David Mitchell
18 Dr. Michael Kramer

To read past acknowledgements, please visit: www.mcgill.ca/peds/mission/acknowledgements
Trainee Bursary Funding Recipients

2021-2022 Department of Pediatrics Funded Trainees

Medical Service Staff Association Pediatric Trainee Contribution Fund
Ketty Altenor, Pediatric Nephrology
Tracey Dyer, Pediatric Endocrinology
Chady El Tawil, Pediatric Emergency Medicine
Ghassan Maalouf, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine
Marina Mir-Parramon, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
Grace Ng, Clinical Complex Care Fellowship (General Pediatrics)
Laila Pinto Coelho, Academic Pediatrics Fellowship (General Pediatrics)
Mehrieh Rahimi, Adolescent Medicine
Alana Slomovic, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology
Heraldo Valladao, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine
TBC, Social Pediatrics Fellowship (General Pediatrics)
TBC, Neonatal Hemodynamics Clinical Fellowship (Neonatology)

Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation
Lama Alameddine, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (Gottesman Bursary)
Joanne Delaney, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (PTCF)
Mohammed Dokla, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (Neonatology Bursary)
Joshua Feder, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (2021-22 Clinical Bursary Award in Pediatrics Recipient)
Maya Heled Akiva, Pediatric Infectious Diseases (2020-21 Clinical Bursary Award in Pediatrics Recipient)
Keira Kilmartin, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (Neonatology Bursary)
Guillaume Maitre, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (Gottesman Bursary)
Beatriz Milioni, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (Neonatology Bursary)
Marina Mir-Parramon, Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (PTCF)
Nasir Mohammed, Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine (Neonatology Bursary)
Edith Ogalo, Adolescent Medicine (2021-22 Clinical Bursary Award in Pediatrics Recipient)
Monica Quiros, Pediatric Hematology-Oncology (2018-19 Clinical Bursary Award in Pediatrics Recipient)
Tilmann Schober, Pediatric Infectious Diseases (2020-21 Clinical Bursary Award in Pediatrics Recipient)

McGill University Alan Ross Scholarship Fund
Chadi Al Alam, Pediatric Neurogenetics Fellowship (2021-22 Alan Ross Academic Bursary Award Recipient)
Yulia Vaisbourd, Pediatric Nephrology (2020-21 Alan Ross Academic Bursary Award Recipient)
Executive Associate Chair Report

Emmett Francoeur, MD, CM, FRCPC
Executive Associate Chair, Department of Pediatrics
Director, Child Development Program, Developmental and Behavioral Pediatric Services
Chair, Renewal Day Planning Committee
Montreal Children's Hospital - MUHC Glen Site

Departmental Wellness - Concrete Efforts

In an open discussion at the Departmental Leadership Council (DLC; comprising our Executive Committee and Divisional Directors) meeting on November 24, 2020, Dr. Shevell asked the assembly to bring forward some immediate items that would benefit from our collective attention in the next 6 months.

Departmental Wellness was repeatedly brought up for obvious reasons given the moment in history we find ourselves in.

I will pivot from work in planning for the annual Spring Departmental Renewal event (which has to regretfully be postponed due to infection control measures) to fashioning a series of what is anticipated as monthly virtual Departmental wellness events. I am open to your suggestions and more importantly open to assistance from Departmental members so inclined. Please feel free to contact me if you have a suggestion and/or wish to help out. Dr. Shevell has made his Chair’s Discretionary Budget available to us to facilitate these efforts.

The DLC also embraced the thought that wellness goes beyond the ‘here and now’ and embraces a need for agency and future hope. There will be a new Chair/Chief in place by next summer and it was felt that discussion should begin now about opportunities and directions the Department wishes to consider. Of course, this discussion cannot be led by or involve Dr. Shevell, nor should it constrain the energy and vision of a new Chair/Chief. This is a delicate balance that I and my planning team will adroitly stickhandle.

Best wishes to all for the New Year!

Associate Chair of Finance Report

Mitch Shiller, M.D., F.R.C.P.C.
Associate Chair, Finance
Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, McGill University

The Department’s finances remain healthy.
Our revenues are approximately 6-10% below last year’s revenues.
We proactively reduced our expenditures by a similar percentage in the spring when the pandemic began.
The net result through 3 quarters is a stable financial position.
We continue to monitor our accounts on a monthly basis, but we remain hopeful that our finances will get through the pandemic without significant impact.
Happy Holidays and all the best for the New Year!
This past year has been very challenging for all of us. Independently of that, the researchers of the Department of Pediatrics continue working hard and achieving great success in many different fields. Among their significant accomplishments, we can cite the following:

- **Grants:** given the highly competitive environment for health research in Canada, obtaining operational grants is an important marker of research success and peer recognition. Departmental members that were successful in obtaining funding in 2020 include Myriam Srour (CIHR), Nada Jabado (Cancer Research Society, Genome Québec competition and NIH/NCI competition), Lily Hechtman (Mi4), Janusz Rak (Mi4), Patricia Fontela & Jesse Papenburg (Mi4), Nancy Braveman (Fondation Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie Grant competition), and Gabriel Altit (Fondation Grand Défi Pierre Lavoie Grant competition).

- **FRQ-S salary award:** securing external salary support is crucial for researchers to ensure that they will have protected time to develop their research programs. It is also a recognition of the quality of their work. Our department has been extremely successful in obtaining FRQ-S salary awards. This year’s recipients include Patricia Li (General Pediatrics, FRQ-S Chercheur Boursier Clinician Jr 2), Ken Myers (Pediatric Neurology, FRQ-S Chercheur Boursier Clinician Jr 1), Marc Beltempo (Neonatology, FRQ-S Chercheur Boursier Jr 1), and Jesse Papenburg (1-year extension, FRQ-S Chercheur Boursier Jr 1).

- **Research awards:** research awards given by external organizations are an important recognition of the excellence of the work developed by a researcher. Departmental members that received research awards in 2020 include Nada Jabado (Canada Research Chair in Pediatric Oncology, CIHR Tier 1, and Dr. Chew Wei Memorial Prize), Christine McCusker (Pfizer Research Award of Excellence, The Montreal Children’s Hospital Foundation), and Catherine Goudie (Junior Faculty Career Development Award, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, US).

Our Department continues to foster pediatric research, as well as the development of the necessary infrastructure to ensure the thriving of our researchers. Due to COVID-19, we had to unfortunately put on hold some of our departmental research initiatives, such as our Pilot Study Grant Competition and the allocation of funds to develop/improve divisional research infrastructure. We do plan to resume these initiatives in 2021 and will inform the Department membership as soon as the Department Executive Committee makes a final decision about it. Meanwhile, we continue to offer Epidemiology consults for our residents and fellows:

- **Epidemiology consults:** Dr. Emmanouil Rampakakis offers free Epidemiology consults to all residents and fellows of our department (4 hours/trainee/calendar year). Residents and their supervisors may book the aforementioned consults by emailing Dr. Rampakakis at emmanouil.rampakakis@mail.mcgill.ca.

Importantly, according to the directives received from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Center (RI-MUHC), all basic and clinical pediatric research (inpatients) will normally continue being performed during the Winter. We thank the RI-MUHC, especially Dr. Indra Gupta (Interim Director of Child Research), for all the support provided during the year.

The Department of Pediatrics will continue to work to improve the quality of the research performed at our department. We are proud of our researchers and their achievements in 2020, and we hope they will continue to inspire our members to dream big.

I wish you all a happy new year!
Associate Chair of Education Report

Laurie Plotnick, MDCM, FRCPC
Associate Chair (Education)
Associate Professor, Department of Pediatrics, McGill University
Associate Director, Pediatric Emergency Medicine, Montreal Children’s Hospital, MUHC

Despite the limitations on education due to COVID, our Department continues to advance and innovate related to health science education

1. Simulation – Multiple simulations have been held in-situ and by Zoom to implement and evaluate many COVID protocols as well as team management of cases within the COVID context:
   - Emergency measures codes - Zoom-based simulations for emergency measure codes have begun. A “Code White” zoom-based simulation was very successful and will be followed this winter by an in-situ simulation.
   - 1010 Trauma Activation - Zoom-based simulation for 1010 Trauma Activation identified and led to improvement of processes. This simulation was then followed by an in-situ simulation for Trauma Code 1010 and Code Indigo which was completed on November 5th, 2020 and was very successful. Many quality improvements were made to address potential patient and staff safety issues that were identified during the simulations.
   - In situ simulations in the OR and PACU are ongoing and being well supported by staff.
   - Return of many of the local simulations have occurred over the late summer and early fall and include those in the PICU, NICU, wards and ED to maintain the important experiential educational needs for our trainees and our staff.

2. Recruitment of sub-specialty trainees for 2021-2022 – In addition to the new trainees starting in the core Pediatrics and Pediatric Neurology programs in 2021-2022, 20 additional trainees (12 in subspecialty residency programs and 8 in fellowship programs) will begin in the 2021-2022 academic year! Thank you to our amazing program directors for their hard work and to all departmental members who have all contributed in one way or another to supporting our training programs.

3. CPD
   - Grand rounds have been changed to Wednesdays at noon using a zoom platform and have been a great success in terms of attendance. The recorded grand rounds will be uploaded onto the MCH CPD website for viewing. [https://www.thechildren.com/pediatric-training-category/grand-rounds](https://www.thechildren.com/pediatric-training-category/grand-rounds)
   - The annual Practical Problems in Pediatrics Course 2021 has been modified to a one-day virtual course On February 12, 2021 to adapt to the pandemic context. For more information: [http://www.pedscourses.mch.mcgill.ca/eng/objectives.php](http://www.pedscourses.mch.mcgill.ca/eng/objectives.php)
   - Other CPD opportunities for all divisions – Please contact Dr. Terry Sigman (terry.sigman@muhc.mcgill.ca) if you are interested in:
     - Sharing your recorded divisional rounds by having them uploaded to the CPD website

4. CanMEDS Rounds for Subspecialty Residents and Fellows are now being held by Zoom and cover a wide scope of topics related to non-Medical Expert roles. These sessions continue to be coordinated by Drs. Anne-Marie Canakis and Lianne Kopel, in collaboration with subspecialty Program Directors and with the support of Sally Crawford.

5. Competence by Design (CBD) – CBD will be implemented for the Core General Pediatrics in the 2021-2022 academic year. Dr. Robert Sternszus (interim lead while Dr. Elisa Ruano-Cea is on maternity leave) and the CBD Steering Committee members (Drs. Ariel Chackowicz, Evelyn Constant, Mylene Dandavino, David D’Arienzo, Rosalie Dion, June Orenberg, Laurie Plotnick, Jill Ranger, Cassandra Tetu, David Zielinski, and Alessandra Tedeschi) have been actively paving the way to ensure a smooth transition to CBD.

6. Helen Karounis Agora Program (H-KAP) – There are now eleven H-KAP Fellows who have collectively donated over 600 hours of their time to academic activities within the Department of Pediatrics and Faculty of Medicine and Health including but not limited to OSCEs, direct observations, academic coaching, research supervision, faculty mentoring, undergraduate teaching and participation in multiple rounds including Chief of Service, specialty and subspecialty rounds and Department of Pediatrics Grand Rounds. The H-KAP qualitative study manuscript is being prepared and program evaluation is underway. For more details, visit [https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/education-training/helen-karounis-agora-program](https://www.mcgill.ca/peds/education-training/helen-karounis-agora-program).

7. Thank you to our AEC#9 administrators who continue to support our programs and Department.
Where are we at?
What Covid19 has brought us so far

Well, it looks like 2020 is coming to an end... finally. That pandemic, however, is clearly not. I just cannot believe that 10 months ago we were totally unaware of the year that was ahead of us. My 2019 December's Newsletter highlighted the work and the pillars of our ExCo’s new strategic plan. Over the last year, we did indeed build on partnerships, innovation, quality and resources, but as we fought a pandemic!

Partnerships. When the first manpower survey came out and we asked ‘who could help’, we witnessed a true display of community spirit and commitment to support colleagues from our Department and the rest of the MCH. Of the 208 MCH-based physicians who responded to our initial survey, over 110 were ready to help our adult colleagues in various ways, from the courageous ‘providing adult ICU care’ to the candid ‘I can carry samples’. The commitment to work together has not stopped since then, as we continue despite all of this craziness to work on projects that burst clinical unit and team silos, and to develop new partnerships that expand our pediatric care mission to respond to the need of our region, of our province.

Innovation. The pandemic forced, and is still forcing us, to be creative about the way we provide care. It will surely leave as a legacy many improvements in the way we care for children, and how we organize this care. One-click Zoom virtual patient visits now make our old model of telemedicine look totally archaic. Virtual meeting capacity now allow for our daily operation and patient flow stakeholders to get together efficiently in an expanded daily huddle that now includes IS, housekeeping and purchasing in addition to health care providers that are both in-house and at home. Spearheaded by the CCS team and Dr Sara Long-Gagne, the new I-CCAN service will help patients minimize the number of time they must be physically present at the hospital, and provide a long-needed system-navigation help to the caretakers of children with medium complexity.

Quality. Never before has it been so important to be impeccable in the way we prioritize, plan and provide care. From avoiding unnecessary patient visits or tests, rigid respect of clear and up-to-date contact precaution and procedural protocols, quasi-universal N95 mask-fitting and refreshers on donning/doffing of PPEs, as well as staying home when we are sick thanks to solid backup plans to rapidly cover colleagues, we have never been more aware of nosocomial infection risks. On a recent survey by the manpower committee, of 20 divisions and programs that responded, 14 reported now having a formal MD backup plan, with 2 already having successfully activated it. These are just examples of how we took what we did well, and brought it to the extra well level. 2021 may even bring us the long yearned-for Quality & safety structure and medical director position!

Resources. The strategic plan’s objectives were around Work climate, Human resources, and Budget pressures. In the spirit of the Holidays, an obvious parallel with the three ghosts of A Christmas Carol comes to mind. The past: although we are beyond stressed and exhausted, I think this pandemic brought the MCH community together, and I hope that when we emerge, the work climate will have benefited. The present: so far, as we ride this second wave, our institution has been successful to preserve the capacity and health of our human resources, so that we can keep fulfilling our pediatric tertiary care mission. The future: budget pressure? Mmm... will just stop here... too scary!

You can reach the I-CCAN service at 514-412-4400, extension 23290, Monday to Friday from 8:30AM to 4:30 PM. You can also send an e-mail at the following address: iccan@muhc.mcgill.ca.
Figure 1 and 2: MCH Strategic Plan 2019-2020 and partial Results from the MCH Medical Manpower Committee (kudos to Gabriel Altit)
What to do during the holidays as you hopefully get a break to recharge and rest
It’s all about thinking about something else than the pandemic

Here are a few suggestions. Just follow the embedded web links to:

3. Make PPE angels in the snow (sorry no link, you’ll have to figure it out).
4. Shop Boxing Day specials for Quebec-made 3-layers face masks.

Happy Holidays everyone, see you in 2021!

Cartoon credits: www.dreamstime.com; Etsy, Candle with Care
CONDOLENCES

Dr. Hanna Strawczynski, a former Departmental member and devoted pioneer in providing Home Care and in the sub-specialty of pediatric rheumatology. She was devoted to the boys under her care who were afflicted by hemophilia which were later devastated by the wrath of AIDS & HIV in the 1980s. Her dedication to them was remarkable to behold.

A kind teacher, she was a remarkably astute clinician. Her life was an amazing narrative. She spent her teen years during the Holocaust in Poland, when 90% of the Polish Jewish community was ruthlessly exterminated and a 1000-year vibrant culture disappeared from Europe. Hanna was a survivor of the Warsaw Ghetto and a slave labour camp. After the war she trained in pediatrics and then migrated to Canada where she dedicated her life to complexly ill children.

Our condolences also go out to:
- Dr. Ilana Bank, on the loss of her father Stacey Bank on October 1st, 2020.
- Dr. Lily Hechtman for the loss of her husband Dr. Peter Hechtman on March 4, 2020.
- Dr. David Mitchell on the loss of his father Harris Mitchell on August 28, 2020 and on the loss of his mother Eleanor Mitchell (Dubinsky) on November 25, 2020.
- Dr. Patricia Riley on the loss of her mother Joane Evelyn Vansittart (Raumbaut) Riley on April 13, 2020.
- Dr. Paul Rossy on the loss of his father Edward Rossy on November 1, 2020.
- Dr. Richard Schreiber, on the loss of his mother Marilyn Schreiber on September 30, 2020.
- And the Families of Dr. Frank Guttman, Dr. Elizabeth Hillman, Rev. Don Meloche and Dr. Granville Nickerson, former members of the MCH community.