

Department of Pediatrics

NEWSLETTER



Vol. 5: No. 1

Spring 2010

Report from the Chairman

Spring has sprung!

As the temperatures have risen and the flowers attain full bloom, there are many positive elements relating to our Department that we are able to reflect upon. Many are highlighted in this expansive Newsletter (**Thank you Sylvie!**). However, the biggest news of the year, bar none, was the announcement on April 1st that the MUHC has been given full government approval to engage the selected consortium (*Consortia Groupe immobilier santé McGill*) that will begin building on the Glen Campus, with financial closure anticipated by mid June. The MCH User Groups have already been scheduled to begin work with the winning consortium to insure the optimal design of the new Children's Hospital that is anticipated to be ready in 2014 – in time to celebrate our 110 year anniversary.

Faculty of Medicine, McGill University

Doubly good news from the Faculty of Medicine: Dr Mara Ludwig has been successful in obtaining agreement from the Provost and Senate that hospital based teaching faculty [so called GFT (H)] will no longer be called part time in McGill university appointments if they are actually working full time. This correction of an inequity has been a long time in coming and is an important recognition of the major teaching role of the majority of faculty, which are actually hospital based. Further, Dr Sam Benaroya has announced that the envelope for the FMSQ-RAMQ agreement for teaching has been under spent, and that a “bonus” will be distributed to all specialists that billed for teaching in 2009. In addition, the amounts allocated for teaching stipends amounts will also be increased, effective July 1st. Both of these are most welcome recognition for our teaching faculty.

MUHC Clinical Activity Priority Setting (CAPS) update

The Strategic Directions Committee (SDC) of CAPS received 86 workbooks, with 38 individual workbooks from the Pediatric Mission (MCH & RVH); the summary feedback reports were distributed on May 13th to those teams that submitted workbooks. We are currently in the phase of revision that was extended to June 1, 2010 as a consequence of feedback received to date. The eligible criteria for submitting a request for revision in writing were circulated to all workbook authors on May 26th. There will be an additional opportunity to have a 10 min verbal presentation to SDC on June 9th. The SDC will then decide whether to amend their recommendations and the decision will then be communicated to the WB authors. Following this process, the difficult task of putting the recommendations into operational mode will have to take place.

Qmentum Accreditation for MUHC

The revised hospital accreditation process will see 12 external evaluators visiting the MUHC in September. They will roam randomly throughout the ambulatory and inpatient units and ask questions related to patient safety primarily. Should you be working in the hospitals on these dates you would need to familiarize yourself with the Standards of Practice (SOP's) that might apply to your unit. You may consult the MUHC intranet or contact the Department of Quality and Risk Management for further information (Nathalie Trastour - X22485 and Eleonora Cau - X23579).

Selection Committee for Chairman of Pediatrics and Pediatrician-in-Chief, MUHC

This Committee continues its important work. Two additional external candidates have been meeting with the Committee and we await (with bated breath!) the outcome of their deliberations. To ensure a smooth transition, I have agreed to a request from the Dean that I officially remain in place until December 31, 2010 or earlier should a new Chairman be named. This means I will not be retiring from McGill as planned on June 1st, and that I will be faced with doing at least one more Newsletter!

Staff Updates

STAFF APPOINTMENTS

Dr. Lorraine Bell has stepped down from her position of Director of Dialysis in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology. She will continue in her capacity as Director of Transplantation and as Director of the Fellowship Training Program. We thank Dr. Bell for her longstanding service to the Division as Director of the End Stage Renal Disease Program and for her continued leadership of the Transplant Program.

Dr. Sophie Nadeau has resigned from her position of Program Director for the McGill Neonatal Fellowship Program, effective December 31, 2009.

Dr. Louis Beaumier has been appointed as Program Director for the McGill Neonatal Fellowship Program, as of January 1, 2010. We thank Dr. Beaumier for taking on his new responsibility.

Dr. Michael Zappitelli has been appointed as Director of Dialysis and Extracorporeal Therapies in the Division of Pediatric Nephrology, as of January 1, 2010. We thank Dr. Zappitelli for taking on his new responsibility.

STAFF RESIGNATIONS

Dr. Arthur Markus resigned from his position as staff physician in the Division of Neonatology of the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), effective on March 31, 2010.

Dr. Sophie Nadeau resigned from her position as staff physician in the Division of Neonatology of the McGill University Health Center (MUHC), as well as from her appointment as Assistant Professor in the McGill Department of Pediatrics, effective on April 5, 2010



NEW RECRUITMENT

Dr. Josée Chouinard has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as a staff physician (part-time), in the Northern and Native Child Health Program within the Division of General Pediatrics at the MCH of the MUHC, effective October 7, 2009. Dr. Chouinard is a graduate of *Université de Laval* (1989). She completed her residency training in Pediatrics at CHUL, Université de Laval (1989-1992), followed by training in Pediatric Respiratory Medicine at the MCH, McGill University (1992-1993). She has been working for over 15 years as a pediatrician at Hôpital Pierre-LeGardeur, where she currently holds an actif PREM position.

Dr. Samara Zavalkoff has accepted a position as Assistant Professor, in the Department of Pediatrics, at McGill University and as a staff physician with the Division of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine effective March 1, 2010. Dr. Zavalkoff completed a residency in General Pediatrics, assumed the role of Chief Medical Resident and then completed a RCPSC Fellowship in Pediatric Critical Care, all at McGill. She has just returned from additional training at the Royal Children's Hospital, Melbourne, Australia where she pursued advanced training in Extracorporeal Life Support. Dr. Zavalkoff will continue to pursue her academic interests in Patient Safety / Quality Assurance while assuming a core role in our ECMO/ECLS program.

Dr. Myriam Srou has joined the Division of Pediatric Neurology at the MCH as an Attending Staff Physician, effective January 1, 2010. Dr. Srou completed both her medical degree and her residency in Pediatric Neurology at McGill. She is Board Certified in Neurology by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. After completing her residency, she undertook a research fellowship in Neurogenetics at the Université de Montréal. Dr. Srou's recruitment to the MCH is a two-staged one. She began with some clinical responsibilities (ward attending and OPD clinics) while completing her PhD in molecular biology at the Université de Montreal. At the completion in the near future of her PhD she will begin her efforts as an independent investigator in neurogenetics.

MATERNITY LEAVE REPLACEMENT

Dr. Annie Sbrocchi will do a maternity replacement for Dr. Catherine Henin, from July 1st, 2010 to December 31st, 2010.



TO...

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been serving on the Education Subcommittee of the American Heart Association Emergency Cardiovascular Care for the past 1.5 years. He is also serving as a liaison to the Pediatrics Subcommittee that is responsible for the PALS course.

Dr. Farhan Bhanji for having been working on the Royal College Train-the-Trainer Program for "Residents as Teachers". This program will be provided to champions at each university who will implement (or update) the training at their respective institutions.

Dr. Laurel Chauvin-Kimoff for having passed the 2009 Child Abuse Pediatrics Certifying Examination from the American Board of Pediatrics given for the first time ever on November 16, 2009.

Dr. Harvey Guyda for having received on October 19, 2009, the Contribution to Child Health Award 2009 from the Canadian Association of Pediatric Health Centres in recognition of his significant contributions to child and youth health in Canada and internationally over a period of four decades.

Dr. Maala Bhatt for having won the Terry Klassen Young Investigator Award. This is a new award established by the Pediatric Emergency Research Group of Canada (PERC) for young investigators who have demonstrated excellence in pediatric emergency medicine research within the first 7 years of their career.

Dr. Sasha Dubrovsky for having been awarded the 2010 Paige and Bernard Kaplan Teaching Award by the Pediatric Residents. This award recognizes clinical excellence and commitment to teaching.

Dr. Ciaràn Duffy for having received the Jeffrey B. Shiroky Award at the Laurentian Conference of Rheumatology held on April 30-May 1, 2010, at the Fairmont Tremblant. The award is presented in recognition of significant contribution to research in the field of inflammatory arthritis and related conditions. This award was created in honor of Jeffrey Shiroky, who was a McGill rheumatologist who had conducted significant research in rheumatoid arthritis and who died at the age of 43.

Dr. Ciaràn Duffy for receiving a Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland for outstanding academic contributions. This honor was conveyed at a ceremony in Dublin on June 4, 2010.

Dr. Emmett Francoeur for having been the 2010 recipient of the CPS Certificate of Merit Award for Quebec. The CPS Certificate of Merit is awarded regionally to members who have worked locally to make a difference for the health of children in their community. This honor was conveyed at the Annual Meeting of the APQ on April 24, 2010.

Dr. Richard Hamilton for having been honored by the Hospital for Sick Children with an annual fellowship in his name. The **Dick Hamilton Award** is given to a fellow in recognition of excellence in clinical care, education and research in the tradition established by Dr. Hamilton, a founder of the Sick Kids GI Division.

Dr. Paul R. Goodyer for having been honored at the McGill Quarter Century Plus Celebration for 30 years of service.

Dr. Brenda Moroz for having been presented at the CPDP Spring Fling Banquet with a Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her unwavering service and leadership at the MCH of the MUHC.

Dr. Janusz Rak for having received the 2010 Aldo Award of Excellence in Research from the MCH Foundation. This award is presented to a researcher whose initiatives have made unique and significant contributions to pediatric care.

Dr. Charles R. Scriver for having received the PKU Hero Award at the National PKU Alliance Inaugural Annual Meeting in Dallas, Texas, on January 16, 2010.

Dr. Charles R. Scriver for having received the Folling Award Lecture, from the European Phenylketonuria Group, in Munich, Germany, on January 22, 2010.

Dr. Charles R. Scriver for having received the Pollin Prize in Pediatric Research, in New York, N.Y., on April 23, 2010.

Dr. Charles R. Scriver for having received the 2010 John Howland Medal Award, the highest award of the American Pediatric Society, at its Members' Dinner on May 2nd, 2010. The John Howland Medal is bestowed each year on those who *"bring together men and women for the advancement of the study of children and their disease, for the prevention of illness and the promotion of health in childhood, for the promotion of pediatric education and research, and to honor those who, by their contributions to pediatrics, have aided in its advancement."*

Dr. Wendy MacDonald with the able assistance of **Preetha Krishnamoorthy** for having once again provided the top-ranked clerkship experience for the 2009 graduating class within the Faculty of Medicine.

Dr. Celia Rodd for having been recommended as a recipient for the CAME Certificate of Merit 2010 in recognition of her excellence in teaching.

Dr. Gloria Tannenbaum for having been elected to Council (highest governing body) of The Endocrine Society, which is a distinguished International Society dedicated to meeting the needs of diverse constituencies including basic scientists, clinical investigators and clinicians-in-practice.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW CHIEF RESIDENTS

Dr. Thomas Saba for having been selected as Assistant Chief Residents in Pediatrics, from March 8, 2010 to March 13, 2011, inclusive and **Dr. Wissam Shalish**, from April 5, 2010 to April 10, 2011, inclusive.

Locum

Dr. Celia Rodd undertook a locum at the Children's Hospital, Winnipeg Health Sciences Centre, from March 1st to March 8th, 2010.



MCGILL FACULTY OF MEDICINE

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Dr. Ronald Gottesman on his promotion to the rank of full professor, GFT-H, effective February 1, 2010.

Dr. Bruce Mazer on the recent announcement of his promotion to the rank of full professor, GFT-H.

Dr. Rima Rozen on the renewal of her appointment in the position of **Interim Vice-Principal** (Research and International Relations) effective March 1st, 2010 and ending January 31st, 2013. Professor Rozen has been Associate Vice-Principal (Research and International Relations) since February 1st, 2007 and has worked to advance research collaborations and research impact especially in the context of the hospitals, research policies and regulations in areas of importance to the research enterprise and to the University. Professor Rozen brings to her new role proven leadership and a deep understanding of McGill University and its affiliated network.

Sick leave:

Marlene Davis has been on sick leave since October 14, 2009.

FACULTY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Drs. H. Guyda, C. Duffy, F. Bhanji and T. Sigman have all attended the Faculty Leadership Development Program on January 19-22, 2010.



**THE MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH
CENTRE (MUHC)
MONTREAL CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (MCH)**

COUNCIL OF PHYSICIANS, DENTISTS AND PHARMACISTS

Dr. Pramod Puligandla was elected by a clear majority as Chairman of the MCH-CPDP for the period June 1, 2010 to May 31, 2012.

CPDP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The nominees were elected by acclamation. The elected members forming the 2010-2011 Executive Committee are:

Dr. Shirley Blachman
Dr. John-Paul Capolicchio
Dr. Richard Haber
Dr. Chris Karatzios
Dr. Preetha Krishamoorthy
Dr. Gary Pekeles

MUHC "UNDER THE MICROSCOPE"

The MUHC opened the doors of its hospitals to students on Friday May 7 and to the public on Saturday May 8, 2010 for 24 HEURES de science. This fifth edition of the popular Quebec-wide scientific event focused on the theme "biodiversity."

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES "UNDER THE MICROSCOPE"
AT THE MCH**

Dr. Caroline Quach, Pediatric Infectious Disease at the MCH, and colleagues explained how infections occur, how to protect against them.

**MCGILL UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE STEM CELL
TRANSPLANT PROGRAM**

The McGill University Health Centre Stem Cell Transplant Program was accredited by the Foundation for the Accreditation of Cellular Therapy (Fact) for a period of three years, starting on February 18, 2010. This accreditation applies to all services and facilities that were inspected by FACT, specifically adult and pediatric autologous and allogeneic hematopoietic progenitor cell transplantation; bone marrow and peripheral blood cellular therapy product collection; cellular therapy product processing.

The Clinical, Bone Marrow, Peripheral Blood Cellular Therapy Product Collection and Processing Facilities for the program, located on the campuses of the McGill University Health Centre, RVH, and MCH were all inspected.



**THE MUHC
RESEARCH INSTITUTE**

EXTERNAL FUNDING RESULTS

Drs. Najma Ahmed and **Véronique Morinville** are co-investigators on a CIHR-funded study led by Dr. Rick Schreiber of the U. of British Columbia. Entitled "Home-based newborn screening for biliary atresia using parent completed infant stool color cards: a pilot feasibility study," this research has received a grant of three years valued at \$481,274.

Dr. Nancy Braverman has received an equipment grant of \$350,000 from the Canadian Foundation for Innovation in support of her research entitled, "Molecular and therapeutic studies in Peroxisome biogenesis disorders."

Co-principal investigators **Drs. Evelyn Constantin** and Sherri Lynne Katz of U. of Ottawa, along with co-investigators **Drs. Beth Foster** and **Laurent Legault** and colleagues from U. of Ottawa, Concordia U., U. of Calgary and U. of Alberta have received \$199,262 over a two-year term from the CIHR in support of their study, "Does treating obstructive sleep apnea in obese Canadian youth improve blood sugar control? A multi-centre prospective cohort study."

Principal investigators **Drs. Eric Fombonne**, Peter Szatmari of McMaster U. and Susan Bryson of Dalhousie U. have received \$1,712,750 from the CIHR for a five-year term to conduct phase II of their study, "Autism spectrum disorders: Pathways to better outcomes."

Dr. Larry Lands has received a grant of \$150,000 from The Advanced Foods and Materials Network of the Networks of Centres of Excellence in support of "Pressurized whey protein as novel functional food ingredient."

Dr. Mary-Ellen Macdonald has received a grant of \$4,500 from the Sick Kids Foundation to carry out a "Systematic review of bereavement after the death of a child: a meta-synthesis of literature on family bereavement experiences and interventions."

Dr. Loydie Jerome-Majewska has received \$308,931 from the CIHR over a term of three years in support of "Molecular mechanism of early pregnancy loss: The role of TMED2."

Dr. Annette Majnemer has received \$388,272 for a term of three years and six months from the CIHR to conduct the study, "Determinants of active involvement of leisure for youth: Daily living with disability." Study co-investigators include **Drs. Lucyna Lach** and **Patricia Riley**.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos has been awarded \$494,213 US from the Juvenile Diabetes Foundation International for a three-year term in support of the project, "Rare but highly penetrant alleles in the genetics of type 1 diabetes." In addition, **Dr. Polychronakos** is one of four co-investigators who have received a major grant of \$4,773,945 US from the NIH for a five-year term in support of "Fine mapping and functional evaluation of selected type diabetes loci."

Drs. Caroline Quach and Dominic Chalut are co-investigators on a CIHR-funded study led by Dr. Francine Ducharme of Hôpital Ste-Justine. Entitled "Determinants of oral corticosteroid responsiveness in wheezing asthmatic youth," this research has received a 3-year grant valued at \$1,899,256. In addition, Dr. Quach has received a grant of \$251,723 from the FRSQ/Conseil du médicament as principal investigator of the study, "*Surveillance de l'utilisation des antibiotiques: Identification du meilleur paramètre capable de prédire la résistance de la flore nosocomiale.*"

Dr. Janusz Rak has received a five-year grant of \$744,120 from the CIHR to conduct a study of "Tissue factor in tumor progression and angiogenesis."

Dr. Saleem Razack has received a grant of \$127,678 for a three-year term from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada in support of the project, "Understanding competing discourses and creating dialogues about equity, excellence and diversity in a medical school admissions process in a diverse urban setting."

Dr. Celia Rodd, in collaboration with principal investigator Dr. Hope Weiler of McGill U., has received funding of \$323,179 for a three-year term to investigate "The experiences of hospitalized patients with end-stage illness in the context of an acute medical unit."



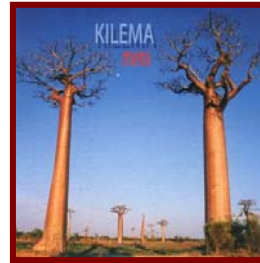
HONORS AND AWARDS

Dr. Gary Pেকেles was invited to participate on the Scientific Committee for the 26th International Pediatric Association (IPA) Congress of Pediatrics, Johannesburg, South Africa in August 2010.

Dr. Constantin Polychronakos and his research team have made a discovery that brings new hope for a cure for diabetes. They found that a previously unstudied gene known as RFX6 is necessary for the generation of islets of Langerhans (the cells that produce insulin in the pancreas). Mutations in this gene were discovered to be the cause of a rare syndrome of neonatal diabetes involving complete absence of islets. This work, conducted in collaboration with a team at the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), was recently published in Nature.

CHRISTMAS IN KILEMA

by Louise T. Auger



Last year I joined the volunteer organization CACHA (Canada Africa Community Health Alliance). It is a humanitarian foundation which offers basic health care to remote African villages in Gabon, Benin, Tanzania and Uganda. I chose to spend my December vacation working with a project involving care of children and orphans of HIV/AIDS in Kilema, Tanzania. Kilema is a very remote area in North-East Tanzania, so small that I couldn't even find it on Google Earth.

I lived in a 3-bedroom guesthouse within a Catholic diocese complex at the base of beautiful snow-covered Mount Kilimanjaro (the highest peak in Africa) over 6000 ft above sea level. The scenery was awesome, lush mountains, sleepy valleys below, and exotic birds. The air was fresh and cool and not too many mosquitoes despite the frequent ferocious thunder showers. The house was comfortable but VERY basic. I was very nearly electrocuted on Day 1: I plugged in my cell phone for recharging and the whole socket exploded.

The Tanzanian people I met were all very nice and welcoming. The people in this area are ethnic Chagga and Maasai and deeply religious, mainly Lutheran & Catholic. There are several local dialects but most people spoke Swahili. The Kilema district hospital has about 100 beds. There is a large maternity unit, adult male and female units as well as a separate pediatric ward. The hospital is directed by a Catholic nun, Dr. Clarissa, who studied surgery in the Netherlands. It is staffed by Medical Officers, Clinical Officers and Nurses who have various levels of training but who, in spite of multiple challenges, do a wonderful job of caring for patients. Many die who shouldn't but many more would die if it were not for their dedication and hard work.

By Day 2, being the only pediatrician, I became responsible for all the children in the Ward, the OPD and the well-baby clinic. I saw a variety of pathologies including much trauma (falling from trees, burns, injuries from machetes (used to cut grasses and crops)), and infections such as cellulitis, pneumonias, meningitis, gastroenteritis, malaria and lots of HIV/AIDS. Malnutrition was uncommon as the area is very fertile. It is always heartbreaking to see a child go before their parent. But also devastating was to witness the heartbreak of a grandparent watching their adult child dying of AIDS and left to care for their grandchildren: the lost generation of parents.....

Almost everyone with fever was treated with ampicillin, gentamycin and quinine. We could do malaria smears, CBC, glucose, VDRL, Widal, UA and HIV rapid screen. We had no culture facility, no gram stain, only AFB stain.

No ECG machine or ventilators. We could do Ultrasound and X-rays but the interpretation was dubious. They didn't have Vit K for newborns, had run out of DPT-HIB vaccine a month before and of WHO formulas for malnourished infants 6 months before. Fractures were set with little or no anesthesia.

Although I have done only pediatrics for many years, I found myself having to attempt resuscitation on an elderly gentleman who arrested in the Radiology room. He did not make it. People often die quickly in Africa, because they seek medical help so late. I also served (reluctantly) as surgical assistant at a STAT C-Section because the Clinical Officer couldn't find anyone else!! We used a large cone from our ear to the woman's belly to listen for the heartbeat. (I had only seen these devices in my father's old medical textbooks!) We scrubbed with diluted bleach as there was no soap. The ``anesthetist`` was actually a nun who had trained as a nurse. She did a wonderful job ventilating the patient manually with a bellows-like device. I also ended up resuscitating the baby who was distressed, had cord around the neck and was flat!!! The suction machine was barely pulling, the `warmer` was a 25-watt lightbulb, and no intubation available of course. I was really nervous, but eventually, after much beating on, 2 injections of glucose and bagging and chest compressions, the baby cried.... That made my day.....

Volunteering in Africa may be challenging but is a very enriching experience. One has to adjust to a different mindset and learn to be creative and function with very limited resources. The culture-shock is not only in Africa but also when coming back to Canada. But the experience really makes us appreciate what we have and how lucky and fortunate we are to live in Canada. I strongly encourage everyone to volunteer some time and expertise in a developing country.

LESSONS FROM AFRICA

- ♦ You don't need hot water to do the dishes.
- ♦ Doing the dishes promptly prevents ant swarms.
- ♦ You can fit 30 people (or more) in a 16 seat dala-dala (bus). Goats, sheep and fowl are also passengers in dala-dalas.
- ♦ Africa time means never on time, maybe not even today.
- ♦ There's nothing that can't wait until tomorrow.
- ♦ In Africa there is no place for impatience.
- ♦ You can live without a television, a radio, a toaster and a hotplate and yes, you can even survive without a computer, the Internet or a mobile phone, but that one is difficult!!!
- ♦ You don't have to know from where or what those strange noises are on your roof or beside your window at night; probably better if you don't.
- ♦ Always have a flashlight handy; the power goes out often.
- ♦ The feral dog you meet on your path has the right of way, especially if you thought that rabies shot was unnecessary.
- ♦ Always carry toilet paper, you may need it urgently.
- ♦ You will always need to use the toilet one you've spent 10 minutes tucking every single part of your mosquito net under the mattress from the inside.
- ♦ Trying to keep moths out of the house is a waste of time – easier to keep geckos in.
- ♦ Always shake your clothes and shoes before putting them on.
- ♦ If you can't do something one way, there is always something else you can do to achieve similar results; creativity comes naturally.

Our condolences go out to:

Dr. F. Noya on the loss of his mother, Mrs. Graciela de la Piedra, on January 25 2010.

Dr. C. Lejtenyi on the loss of her husband, Mr. Andrew Lejtenyi, on February 10, 2010.



PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR AGENDA TO ATTEND

TOWN HALL MEETING WITH DR. RICHARD LEVIN VP (HEALTH AFFAIRS) & DEAN OF MEDICINE

Wednesday, October 13th, 2010

**8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Forbes-Cushing Amphitheatre
(D-182)**

**Breakfast will be served
at 7:30 a.m.**

**Attendance is strongly
recommended.**