Message from the Director

It has been said that philanthropy plays a critical role in academic medicine. We would like to dedicate this section of the newsletter to thanking the many individuals who support the Centre in a number of philanthropic ways.

As many of you know, the Richard and Sylvia Cruess Chair in Medical Education was created by generous gifts from Mrs. Deirdre Stevenson, Dr. Robert Stevenson, Mr. Herbert Black, and the Molson Foundation, to support a scholar who will reinforce McGill’s ability to educate talented clinicians and researchers, and who will influence the development of innovative medical curricula and teaching methods around the world.

The Richard and Sylvia Cruess Faculty Scholar in Medical Education is supported by a donation from Mrs. Jean de Grandpré. Its aim is to recognize and enhance the quality of research and teaching in the Faculty of Medicine, and to foster the research and development activities of outstanding professors, encouraging them to further enhance and expand their contributions to the Centre for Medical Education.

Two other funds were also created to acknowledge the work of Drs. Richard and Sylvia Cruess. Dr. Colin Baxter and his family provided support to create the Medical Education Resource Library Fund, which enables the purchase of online resources to enhance teaching and learning as well as research in medical education. In addition, the Richard and Sylvia Cruess Medical Education Award was created thanks to Mrs. Susan Riddell Fitzpatrick to fund the travel costs of students or residents to attend medical conferences.

In the last few years, we have also received several new class gifts that we would like to publicly acknowledge:

The Class of ’74 created a fund to support a Faculty Scholar for Teaching Excellence and Innovation in Medical Education. This class gift, which will enhance the professional development of graduating physicians, underscores the importance of educational excellence and innovation, both essential objectives in the training of future physicians.

The Class of ’77 celebrated their education at McGill by establishing a MedEd Innovation Grants Program. This fund supports the development and evaluation of new educational innovations that advance the field of medical education, and recent awardees are listed inside.

Lastly, I would like to thank our “anonymous” and most generous donor for recently funding three new initiatives at the Centre: the Centre for Medical Education Faculty Scholar, the Centre for Medical Education Postdoctoral Fellowship, and the Centre for Medical Education Innovation and Research Seed Fund. Your support of the Centre is truly appreciated and will help us to attain our goals.

With much appreciation of the role of philanthropy in advancing our vision and all my best wishes,

Yvonne Steiner, Ph.D.
Director, Centre for Medical Education
Richard and Sylvia Cruess Chair in Medical Education
Congratulations to Core Faculty Member Dr. Mary Ellen Macdonald, who was granted tenure and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor in the Faculty of Dentistry.

Congratulations to Core Faculty Member Dr. Stuart Lubarsky, who was named the Richard and Sylvia Cruess Faculty Scholar in Medical Education for 2015-2016.

Congratulations to Centre Members Ms. Elaine Doucette, Dr. Lily Nguyen, and Dr. Charo Rodriguez, who have been named to the 2015-2016 Faculty Honour List. The Faculty Honour List for Educational Excellence recognizes outstanding contributions to education in the Faculty of Medicine, in the areas of teaching, educational leadership and innovation, faculty development, and research and scholarly activity.

Congratulations to Centre Member Dr. Ronald Gottesman, who received the 2015 Paediatric Academic Leadership Clinician Educator Award from the Paediatric Chairs of Canada. The PCC promotes the development of excellence and leadership within specific career paths.

Congratulations to Core Faculty Member Dr. Farhan Bhanji, who, along with Dr. Catherine Patocka, received grants from the Canadian Association of Emergency Physicians and from the University of Calgary, Office of Health and Medical Education Scholarship, for their research on The Impact of Spaced Instruction on Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Provider Long-Term Retention of Pediatric Resuscitation Performance: A Randomized Controlled Trial.

Congratulations to Core Faculty Members Drs. Aliki Thomas and Yvonne Steiner, who, along with Drs. Larry Gruppend and Cees van der Vleuten, have received funding from the 2014-2015 AMEE grant initiative for their proposal entitled Use of Evidence in Health Professions Education: Attitude, Practices, Barriers and Facilitators.

Congratulations to Centre Member Dr. Ilana Bank and her team of investigators, Elene Khalil, Peter Nugus and Meredith Young, and Miriam Boillat, with her co-investigators, Michelle Elizov and Annie Chevrier, who are the 2015-2016 recipients of The Class of ’77 MedEd Innovation Grants Program.

Congratulations to Core Faculty Member Dr. Beth-Ann Cummings, who was selected as the 2015 recipient of the W. Dale Dauphinee Fellowship by the Medical Council of Canada. The Fellowship is intended to advance the vision of the MCC by supporting medical educators to enhance their knowledge and skills in physician assessment.

Congratulations once more to Dr. Mary Ellen Macdonald, who received a one year CIHR grant for her research project on The Oral Health and Dental Care Pathways of Humanitarian Migrants.

Congratulations to Centre Member Dr. Claire Trotter, who was selected as the only Canadian participant in the 2015 Biology Scholars Residency Program, organized by the American Society for Microbiology. The program is meant to empower biologists to be leaders in science education, build capacity in biology education research and catalyze sustained undergraduate education reform.

Congratulations to Core Faculty Member Dr. Peter Nugus and colleagues including Dr. Charo Rodriguez, who have been successful in bidding for McGill University and Montreal to host the 2018 International Conference on Organizational Behavior in Health Care. The theme of the conference is Coordinating Care Across Boundaries and Borders: Systems, Networks and Collaborations.
VISITING SCHOLARS – FAREWELL! (PART 1)
An interview with Drs. Michael Saraga and Renato Antunes
By Melissa Como

After completing research at the Centre for a one-year period, Drs. Michael Saraga and Renato Antunes have headed home to Switzerland and Brazil, respectively. In the following interview, the psychiatrists reflect on their experience as Visiting Scholars.

What were you hoping to accomplish during your time here?
MS: I was hoping to accomplish three things. I wanted to develop theoretical, conceptual ideas about clinical medicine. I wanted to do empirical work and research on the same topic. And, I also wanted to think about a strategy for change at my home institution. I would like to change something about the cultural politics there, about the transmission du métier, how medicine is enacted and transmitted to younger doctors.

RA: I wanted to develop part of my PhD thesis. I focused on accreditation, program evaluation, qualitative research methodology, practical work, the Royal College [of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada], the learning environment, anthropology, and psychology.

Do you believe you’ve achieved your goals?
MS: It’s not a finished story; we’re in the middle of it. It has been a success to engage in significant work on all three fronts. I wasn’t sure when I first arrived. It was a trip into the unknown, but all interesting things are like this. It’s not as interesting if you know the outcome in advance.

RA: I developed new skills relating to qualitative methodology, but it’s a process. It’s not the end.

Why did you choose the Centre?
MS: I was looking for a one-year opportunity. I contacted Dr. Laurence Kirmayer for a collaboration in social sciences and medicine. He gave me advice and put me in contact with Drs. Abe Fuks and Don Boudreau. We met and had common interests. I was lucky.

RA: I was doing a literature review in Brazil, and so many papers come from [McGill]. I contacted Dr. Linda Snell, developed a relationship with her, an exchange, and it made sense to come here.

Continued on page 4...
...continued from page 3

What attracts you to medical education as psychiatrists?
RA: I have been exposed to students in meetings since I entered college. I am interested in the teaching and learning process and in problem-based learning. Knowledge in psychiatry fits with education in general, medical education especially. Even if I specialized in surgery or was a pediatrician, I’d still be interested in medical education.
MS: I’m not necessarily interested in medical education. My interests have been to understand what I was doing as a physician, as a psychiatrist, so there is a natural link to education. Moving forward, what can I tell others about my experience? I like the contact with students, residents, and am trying to share that. It all starts with thinking about experience, and then transmitting something.
RA: A physician is a problem-solver. There is potential to explore when you exchange.

What will you be working on when you return to Lausanne University Hospital, and to the University of São Paulo? Will you be able to tie in any of the work you’ve done at the Centre?
MS: I will be going back to clinical work in consultation/liaison, supervising psychologists and psychiatrists hired by various "sensitive" services, like transplantation, genetic medicine, palliative care, etc. I will pursue what I’ve begun here, on the theoretical and empirical fronts. I have data to analyze. I’d like to publish something. I would also like to implement the pilot project on cultural change, and launch it next year.
RA: Three things: continue what I did here and submit it for publication; submit it to the education ministry, which is part of a bigger plan; and complete my thesis pilot project in Brazil. I will keep focusing on program evaluation and resident assessment, medical education, and surveyors’ perspectives of the accreditation system.

Is there anything else you’d like to add?
MS: I’m sad to leave, but glad I came!
RA: This experience was amazing. The city is amazing, too.

Recent Publications
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