

“Work is the open sesame of every portal, the great equalizer in the world, the true philosopher’s stone which transmutes all the base metal of humanity into gold.”

- Sir William Osler

Hi Everyone

Last week I attended the bi-annual meeting of the Pediatric Chairs of Canada (PCC). Twice a year the Academic heads get together to share discussion about common challenges and opportunities. It is very much a community of peers and within this group I find a tremendous repository of wisdom, experience and practical knowledge to draw upon in my role here.

The PCC has established (2007) annual leadership awards in research, education and clinical practice for academic pediatricians. We nominate members of our respective Departments with the Awardee selected by an independent review panel made up of former Chairs. This year I am delighted to say that our very own **Emmett Francoeur** received the award for clinical practice.

I thought for this week’s acknowledgement I would reprint what I wrote on Emmett’s behalf.

With pleasure and enthusiasm I would like to put forward Dr. T. Emmett Francoeur for the *Pediatric Chairs of Canada Clinician Practitioner Leadership Award*.

Emmett is the Vice-Chair and an Associate Professor in the Department of Pediatrics at McGill University. As a clinician he has pursued for many years a unique hybrid model of practice that combines a community-based practice and a continued physical presence in the academic setting of the university hospital. Emmett can be considered the “pediatricians’ pediatrician”, as many members of the Faculty have trusted him to look after our own children. Long before the ‘talk’ of physicianship, professionalism, and CanMEDS roles, Emmett was doing the ‘walk’. Watching Emmett take a history, interact with a child and impart information to a concerned family has served locally for many years as the “way to do it” right. He literally oozes compassion and empathy and seems unflappable with an economy of actions. Patient and family centered care has always been Emmett’s mantra and *modus vivendi* (not *operandi*). The choice of words is deliberate and a bow by myself to his Jesuit informed education; he lives it, he does not merely do it. His community-based practice and in-hospital clinics are eagerly sought out by our trainees as elective opportunities.

Emmett has assumed a leadership role in multiple domains of pediatric care and practice. Of particular note is his contribution to the practice of developmental and behavioural pediatrics. He has Founder Status in this sub-specialty from the Royal College. Locally, he has played a leadership role in multiple hospital-based clinics and programs often being responsible for their genesis, formulation and implementation. These include the; Learning Progress Clinic, Psychopharmacology Program, and the Child Development Program. Emmett has also undertaken a leadership role in innovative inter-disciplinary and inter-professional collaborations over the years.

This is an explicit actualization of his implicit assumption that the best care for a child and family is a “team sport” that brings together disparate expertise at the point of care. These

collaborations have included a Bio-Behavioural Sciences Unit, a Developmental Behavioural Pediatric Service, and most recently a Brain-Behaviour-Development Integrated Care Network. The first two of these entities featured an integrated approach with rehabilitation services providers, the latter additionally shared care with pediatric neurology and child psychiatry.

Emmett has also been a leader in knowledge translation and exchange. A sought after speaker and community liaison, he has an impressive history of external to the Faculty involvement. These include membership on Board of Directors (Montreal Oral School for the Deaf, Canadian Health Network, Quebec Camp for Diabetic Children [Camp Carowanis], Centre for Excellence for Early Child Development, Just for Kids Foundation, Canadian Council of Learning) and editorial boards (Exceptional Parent, Healthwise, Pediatrics and Child Health).

Nationally, Emmett's clinician-practitioner leadership has been acknowledged on multiple occasions by the Canadian Pediatric Society. Emmett has served as its President (1998-99), Chair of its Nominating Committee (2002-2008) and member of its Public Education Committee (2002-). Most recently, his particular expertise has been recognized by his active involvement in the Society's Early Child Development Task Force. Not surprisingly, he has received the Society's Certificate of Merit (2010). He has also received a CPS Life Membership Award in 2011.

Emmett joins previous PCC Departmental Awardees in research (**Charles Scriver, Michael Kramer**) and education (**Wendy MacDonald**).

Please join me in congratulating Emmett on this terrific recognition of a career path well done.

Have a great weekend everyone

Michael