

November 17, 2009

## Anything good about this pandemic?

It's clear! The pandemic is here and we are sick of it...! However, we think that we should still thank (just a little bit) this pandemic for allowing us to realize – once again – how wonderful the Children's employees are and why this place feels like "Chez Nous!"

Last October 29<sup>th</sup>, as our employees' vaccination campaign had not yet started and numbers of influenza cases were climbing steadily, we were authorized to start vaccinating employees in high-risk areas. With a 2-hour notice, key people volunteered to participate in the training session and vaccinate personnel on their units. A warm thank you to **Violaine Vastel** (emergency), **Sophie Baillargeon** (PICU), and **Vincent Ballenas** (nurse educator) who took on this responsibility, sometimes facing moral dilemmas because of the limited number of available doses.

The "official" vaccination campaign for The Children's healthcare workers would not have been possible without The Children's community's participation. Thank you to **Annie Loiselle** (OHS) for her continual presence and **Lyne St-Martin** (Infection Control) for her efforts to recruit vaccinating nurses! Thank you to those retired nurses who came back to help out, with a smile, even at 6:30 AM ... and thank you to all the nurses from the other MUHC sites who came and gave a hand. We hope that we will not forget anyone in this thank you list. So, thanks (in an entirely random



order) to: *Michael Martella, Jonathan Macalanda, Farida Mohammed, Anna Sadzynska, Julie Racine, Anne Choquette, Suzanne Dagenais, Deirdre McCormack, Janie Koa, Julie Brouillard, Elissa Remmer, Brigitte Rouleau, Amélie Lavoie, Ann-Marie Suess, Sahar Khoshab, Monica Howard, Charlene Matys, Melyna Panneton, Janice Couture, Geneviève Tousignant, Jan Lariviere, Monica Makarewicz, Susan Grant, Maria-Fernanda Gancio, Barb Izzard, Kim Tanguay, Maria Hamakiotis, Sharron Runions, Jean-Charles Dienert, Danielle Dupont, Cindy Chow, Alexandra Fethiere, Tina Primiani, Jocelyne Albert, Di Yi Feng, Sheila Koutsogiannopoulos, Debbie Meldrum, Cheryl Gauvin, Elise Ivey-Felix, Sharon Solyom, Elizabeth Gibbon, Christina Rosmus, Céline Ducharme, Mado St-Gelais, Michelle Belliveau, Gloria Preciosa, Helen Kocilowicz, Antoinette Ghanem, Evelyn Sarmiento, and Johanne Desrochers. Thank you also to our colleagues who pitched in at times*

*where we were low on vaccinators: Drs. Jane McDonald, Francisco Noya, and Earl Rubin.*

### Regarding patients

A big thank you to **Lorraine Piché**, without whom the vaccination campaign for our high-risk patients and their families would not have gotten off the ground. Thanks to the subspecialty clinics for taking it upon themselves to vaccinate their patients on top of their usual work load. We don't have space to name individually all the nurses who participated, but we would like to highlight the tremendous work done by the IACS, hematology-oncology, nephrology, rheumatology, respiratory, gastroenterology, cardiology, allergy-immunology and medical genetics clinics, as well the nurses who vaccinated patients on the in-patient units. Thanks also to **Brigitte Rouleau** for her meticulous and timely submission of the vaccination data to public health – even on weekends!

To All, our warmest thank you!

**Caroline Quach and Dorothy Moore**

This issue of **Chez nous** marks the first installment of **Chez nous Xpress**, designed to keep you up to date on news and events as they happen.

Xpress

## The H1N1 Pandemic

I would like to express my appreciation to the entire hospital community of the MCH for the extraordinary effort that has been mounted at our site to deal with the huge influx of patients presenting to our MER with Fever and Respiratory Illness (FRI). The team's response has been truly magnificent as we experience far from ordinary circumstances. The Control Room coordinating team meets at 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and has functioned very well. We have had to disrupt normal business, primarily in the ambulatory and operative areas, in order to operationalize the pandemic plan. Staff has had to be retrained for actual or anticipated redeployment, never an easy task when we are already short-staffed, and with increasing staff H1N1 illness. Nevertheless, we are cognizant that we must continue to serve the tertiary and quaternary needs of our patients to the best of our ability. We will closely monitor the situation of a daily basis. There are far too many exceptional "leaders" in this effort for me to

name without missing some. To all of you, I offer a sincere thank-you on behalf of the community that we serve.

### MUHC Clinical Activity Priority Setting (CAPS)

The MUHC has launched a second phase of priority setting to shape the future direction of the MUHC. The goal is to better position the MUHC within the network of healthcare institutions in Canada and beyond. The purpose is to align decision making processes at all levels of the organization such as: clinical development, budget allocations, human resource planning, equipment selection, and space allocation. A conceptual framework has been developed that will ensure stakeholder involvement, transparency and a respect for MUHC values and context within Quebec's health care network, i.e., strategic orientation.

A Strategic Directions Committee (SDC), chaired by Dr. Tim Meagher, has been established; Dr. Guyda,

AED of the MCH, and Dr. Nada Jabado, MUHC-RI researcher, are the two Pediatric representatives on this committee. The SDC is being advised by D. Martin, PhD, Associate Professor in the Department of Health Policy, Management and Evaluation, and the Joint Centre for Bioethics, U of T. The SDC has developed a series of objective criteria that are being expanded into a self-study workbook that will be utilized to assess all of the clinical programs within the MUHC community, including teaching and research. We are currently working on the listing and validation of programs based at the MCH that will undergo this self assessment. We have requested that the projected timeline for completion consider that the majority of MCH staff is fully engaged in a large pandemic response that would preclude our immediate participation in this exercise.

**Harvey J. Guyda**  
Associate Executive  
Director-MCH

## Thanks!

As we enter another week in wave II of pandemic H1N1, we should be considering our accomplishments to date rather than focusing all our attention on what might still lie ahead. I believe that this is an important time to recognize the enormous contribution of Jocelyne Albert, CNS, to this extensive planning and roll-out. Jocelyne agreed some months ago to take on the pandemic dossier from Sandy Bradford-Macalanda, and found herself confronted by wave I almost immediately. Since then, she has committed herself almost exclusively to this for all our



benefit and brought to this work her dedication, her perceptiveness, her thoroughness and not the least her sense of humour. Jocelyne

needs our continued support and gratitude for the investment she has made in ensuring that we are caring for our patients, families and our staff.  
Thank you, Jocelyne!!

**Dr. Harvey Guyda**,  
Associate Executive Director  
**Dr. Micheline Ste-Marie**,  
Associate Director Professional  
Services  
**Barbara Izzard**,  
Associate Director Nursing  
**Stéphane Timothée**, Associate  
Director Hospital Services