The Department of Pediatric Surgery was founded in November 2011. It is comprised of 36 surgeons with full time or near full time activities in 9 pediatric surgical subspecialties working both at the Montreal Children’s Hospital and Shriners Hospital of McGill University. There are also 5 part-time surgeons. To this group we have added one adjunct professor in pediatric general surgery who is extensively in global health in Africa and also working part-time at the Montreal Children’s Hospital/McGill University. We have also added an Associate Professor CAS researcher, who is based at the Shriners Hospital Research Institute. Our Departmental membership includes 5 McGill Residency Program Directors in Pediatric General Surgery & Thoracic Surgery, Plastic Surgery, Neurosurgery, Orthopedics and Otolaryngology.

Twenty fifteen marks our fourth year of existence as a McGill’s Department of Pediatric Surgery. The pivotal events in 2015 have been the move of the Montreal Children’s Hospital to the Glen site with subsequent ramping-up of activities as well as the move of the Shriners Hospital in October 2015 and ramping-up of its activities. Of note, the juxtaposition of the two hospitals on one site has greatly improved the flow of clinical and academic activities in our Department.

Research and Publications

Despite a historical year (of movement of our hospitals), our Department has remained busy both in bench and clinical research domains. The attached URL link establishes that 142 peer-reviewed publications and 29 book chapters were published in 2015. In addition, one book was edited by a departmental member. Fifty-seven visiting professorships from members of the department of pediatric surgery to other institutions or learned societies also occurred in 2015.

The following members were recipient of external funding for their research activities: Dr. Sam Daniel, Dr. Rob Koenekoop, Dr. Reggie Hamdy, Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge, Dr. Mirko Gilardino and Dr. Roman Jednak.

From a philanthropy point of view our department has focused on the creation of a Chair in Pediatric Surgical Research which will foster the organization of research within our group and the development of clinician/scientist careers amongst our recruits. The Hugh Hallward Chair in Pediatric Surgical Research is now fully funded and has been inaugurated in early May 2016. The appointment of the Chair holder is eminent.

Again this year, several members of the department were important players in national and international organizations. Dr. Christo Tchervenkov through the hospices of the World
Congenital Heart Society, Dr. Reggie Hamdy as President of the Lower Limb Deformity Regeneration Society and Dr. Sam Daniel as President of the Société Internationale d’oto-rhino-laryngologie pédiatrique have organized international meetings. Dr. Capolicchio as President of the Pediatric Urology Society of Canada has also been involved in organizing the national annual meeting for this society. Dr. Daniel is the Director of the Continued Professional Development Department of the Fédération of Specialists of the Province of Quebec and at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons. He has been very active at promoting continued professional development using developmental platforms and modules with the “Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec”.

**Teaching and Learning**

Our five McGill Faculty of Medicine Program Directors, (Dr. Pramod Puligandla, Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery, Dr. Jeffrey Atkinson, Neurosurgery, Dr. John Manoukian, Otolaryngology, Dr. Mirko Gilardino, Plastic Surgery and Dr. Thierry Benaroch, Orthopedics) have all been involved in the development of competency based learning at the Royal College level. This competency based learning will be progressively introduced in the residency programs in Canada over the next five years.

Dr. Sam Daniel has organized four Master’s of Science in Otolaryngology courses at McGill. He as well as Dr. Sherif Emil teach in the undergraduate medical curriculum. Dr. Pramod Puligandla has been involved in the Basics of Medicine and Clinical Clerkships for medical students.

Nine Divisions offer Fellowship level training in pediatric surgical sub-specialties. These are all described in the Faculty of Medicine website. A number of trainees who come are funded by their home country or referring program but we do have available a one million dollar endowment which helps to subsidize part of a Fellowship on a rotational basis if a solid candidate cannot be otherwise funded.

It is estimated that approximately 25 graduate students are supervised within the Department. Supervisors include Dr. Sam Daniel, Dr. Rob Koenekop, Dr. Reggie Hamdy, Dr. Sherif Emil and Dr. Jean-Martin Laberge as well as Dr. Roy Dudley and myself.

Our Pediatric Grand Rounds series was condensed to 11 lectures (because of the hospital move) over the academic year.

From our membership we had lectures from our new recruits including Dr. Roy Dudley who gave a talk on “Neurosurgery for non-lesional epilepsy surgery in children” and from Dr. Pierre-Luc Bernier who gave a lecture on: New strategies in mechanical support & applications for end-stage congenital heart disease”. We also had lectures on “evidence based surgery” from Dr. Robert
Baird. A recent recruit in gynecology Dr. Ian Comeau also gave a lecture on “Pediatric gynecology, the Sick Kids Experience” in 2015.

Amongst our visiting professors were Dr. Eric R. Scaife who gave the 8th Annual David R. Murphy Visiting Professorship lecture on “Pediatric trauma” on March 17th, 2015. He comes from the University of Utah. Dr. Blake Papsin gave the 6th Annual H. Bruce Williams Pediatric Surgical Research Lecture and also helped our Committee evaluate the presentations from the different trainees regarding their research. The Williams Lectureship was advanced this year because of the hospital move to April 20th, 2015. Dr. Aren Bezdjian from OTL-SBS received the 1st prize for his basic research presentation, Dr. Razek Georges Coussa from Pediatric Ophthalmology received the 2nd prize for basic research presentation, Dr. Carol Nhan from OTL-SBS received the 3rd prize for translational research presentation, Dr. Edwin Chan from Pediatric Dentistry received the 1st prize for his clinical research presentation and Dr. Layla Shbat from Pediatric General and Thoracic Surgery received 2nd prize for her clinical research presentation. On May 4th, 2015 the 12th Annual Melvin D. Schloss Pediatric Otolaryngology Lectureship & Research Day took place with an invited speaker from the Children’s Hospital, Dr. John Manoukian. Finally, on June 10, in the new Glen facility, the Frank Guttman Lectureship took place with Dr. Keith T. Oldham, Professor & Chief of the Medical College of Wisconsin talking about “Optimal resources for children's surgical care”. Also in 2015 that is on September 21st Dr. Mike Leonard, Urologist at the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario provided a CMPA good practices lecture entitled: “Medico-legal pitfalls of surgical practice- How to avoid them”.

Involvement in the Community

Several surgeons in the Department are involved in global health. Drs. Laberge and adjunct professor Dan Poenaru continue their global health initiatives in Rwanda, Somaliland and Cameroon. Dr. Dudley provided expert care in Haiti with a group from Miami Children’s Hospital. Dr. Emil and Dr. El-Sherbiny have been involved in missions in Africa and in the West Bank respectively.

Dr. Emil and Dr. Poenaru in particular have introduced an exchange program between Africa trainees in pediatric general and thoracic surgery and our Fellows in the same discipline. We are currently trying with this group to establish funding towards an endowed fellowship in global health for trainees interested in this initiative.

In late 2014 we held a Retreat on Departmental “Branding” in view of the upcoming move of our hospital and the Shriners Hospital to the Glen site. Along the same lines Dr. Emil has spearheaded a review course for community paediatricians from all over Canada entitled “Pediatric Surgery – From head to Toe”.

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We have also been significantly involved in establishing our hospital’s position in the health Care Network as it applies to children through several media releases including those of Dr. Gilardino, Dr. Daniel, Dr. Emil and Dr. Farmer.

**Milestones**

The biggest milestone in 2015 has been the moves of the Montreal Children’s Hospital on May 24th, 2015 and the Shriners Hospital on October 1st, 2015. Of course being in a new facility was very appealing to patients and their families but the organization and the functional viability of providing such tertiary services in a new building required a tremendous amount of effort on the part of all Departmental members and in particular the Departmental leadership.

The juxtaposition of the two hospitals will greatly improve our ability to provide continuity of care and limit breeches of service by having more of a neighbouring relationship than a distant relationship. We are convinced that with this will also come improved teaching and improved research.

To that effect in 2015 we recruited Dr. Betina Willie, Associate Professor CAS Research in the Department. Dr. Willie is a full time researcher established at the Shriners Hospital Research Institute. Her work is on the role of osteocytes in bone regeneration. She is interested in interacting and helping answer clinical questions raised by Pediatric Orthopedists but also Pediatric Plastic Surgeons and Pediatric Neurosurgeons.

The future development of the academic department rests on building upon this improved relationship between the Children’s Hospital and the Shriners Hospital both of which have a strong surgical arm. The future particularly for research also rests on the recruitment of non-clinician scientists such as Dr. Willie into the Department and the development of clinician/scientists profiles within the department through the Hugh Hallward Chair by ensuring some perennity of start-up funds for those interested in research.

We are also interested in further developing the teaching performance of the Department through the establishment of a pediatric surgical simulation center in a facility designed for this purpose at the new Shriners Hospital. This will require the creation of an additional Chair in Pediatric Surgical Research and Patient and Family Centered Care, a project that was initiated in the Fall of 2015.

**Honours, awards and prizes**

- Several Departmental members received prizes. **Dr. Bruce Williams** received the Order of Canada, **Dr. Jean-Pierre Farmer** received the Personalité de la Semaine award from LaPresse newspaper. **Dr. Dan Poenaru** received the 2014 Tisdale-Corti Award, the Royal College’s highest humanitarian honor.

- **Dr. Pramod Puligandla** was named to the Faculty Honor Roll for Educational Excellence in June 2015. **Dr. Chantal Janelle** was co-recipient of the prize ‘2015 Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) Surgery Teaching Award’ in December 2015. **Dr. Sabrina Cugno** was the recipient of the Best Surgical Teaching Award at the Annual CPDP Banquet held on April 15, 2016.
Closing remarks

In addition to the academic activities reported above, our group of professionals has performed over 6900 surgeries in 2015 again despite the hospital move and the ramping down and ramping up of activities that this move forced us to go through. There has been an institutional shift towards tertiary activities. The Department invites the reader to consult the attached URL link to review in more depth our activities and to find out more about its individual members. (http://www.medicine.mcgill.ca/pediatricsurgery/AnnualReport_2015-Publications.pdf )

Now that the Department has moved into two new buildings which are juxtaposed we will concentrate our efforts on new ways of teaching and providing patient centered care to young children with serious surgical ailments and consolidate our research activities both through the recruitment of non-clinician researchers and the fostering of clinician/scientists career through the inauguration of the Hugh Hallward Research Chair in Pediatric Surgical Research.

Respectfully Submitted,

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JPF/Jo