

Chez nous

MCH STAFF NEWSLETTER | SPECIAL EDITION 2024

Spotlight on the Awards of Excellence 2024 Winners

*Lena Andrianakos
Six years old*

Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse —
Medical Multimedia, MUHC

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Soaring to new heights

The 2024 edition of the Awards of Excellence is a tribute to caring innovation. Our award winners, each in their own way, have done something extra, better or new to improve patient and family-centred care. The quality of their work extends The Children's reputation for excellence far beyond the walls of the Hospital.

Whether our award winners play a key role with patients and their families, are part of a multidisciplinary or senior management team, or are members of a global professional community, our honorees' complete commitment is truly inspiring. Their dedication earns our highest admiration.

From oncogenetics to the treatment of food allergies and pediatric infectious diseases, some of our laureates have devised groundbreaking treatments or solutions,

establishing themselves as recognized leaders in Canada and internationally.

Join us in warmly congratulating these exceptional individuals. Their success is a testament to the collective efforts of every member of The Children's family, each contributing to the Hospital's reputation. Together, let us continue our pursuit of excellence.

We also extend our heartfelt gratitude to our valued sponsors: American Iron & Metal, CYLAD, Le Groupe Maurice, National Bank, Pfizer, Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation, and Sun Life. Their generous and loyal support enables The Children's to find *Unexpected Ways to Heal*.

Long live little brats!



Norman E. Hébert, C.M., and Renée Vézina, surrounded by young patients from The Children's.

Photo: Ryan Blau, PBL Photography

Renée Vézina

President

The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation

Norman E. Hébert, C.M.

Chair of the Board

The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation



Dr. Jesse Papenburg

Recipient of the National Bank Medical Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse - Medical Multimedia, MUHC

The interactions between bacteria, viruses and human beings have always fascinated Dr. Jesse Papenburg, a specialist in pediatric infectious disease and a medical microbiologist. While doing his clinical clerkship, he discovered his passion for pediatrics and laboratory medicine. Today, he is a leader in the field of pediatric infectious diseases in Canada.

When the pandemic hit in 2020, his responsibilities multiplied significantly. On top of his work as a clinician, he led national studies on influenza, respiratory syncytial virus and COVID-19, contributed to provincial and national guidelines on the treatment of the flu and COVID-19, developed vaccine recommendations... and became a well-known media spokesperson!

“Helping young patients and their families, carrying out research and working on advisory committees are all very rewarding.”

During this tumultuous period, he gave over 400 interviews to local, national and even international journalists. On Facebook, he took part in educational videos on vaccinating children, which have been viewed more than 500,000 times.

What makes him most proud, however, are the opportunities he has seized and turned into valuable improvements. With access to instruments acquired during the pandemic, Dr. Papenburg implemented a molecular diagnosis of meningoencephalitis to help children with certain central nervous system infections. The diagnosis could be obtained in a few hours instead of several days, a major advantage for young patients. Thanks to a systematic review carried out with a pediatric resident, the results can now be better understood by clinicians across the country.

In addition, the results of a study he co-directed, which evaluated self-screening and the interpretation of COVID-19 rapid tests, were used by Health Canada to greenlight the use of these tests at home.

For Dr. Papenburg, practicing medicine is a privilege. “There’s always something new and different to learn, and we adapt. It’s life.”

In his free time, the clinician-researcher loves to share special moments with his 10-year-old son, Noah, who is a constant source of inspiration for him. Congratulations, Dr. Papenburg, for this well-deserved Award of Excellence!

National Bank has always put people first and wants to have a positive impact on people's lives. We are therefore proud to highlight the remarkable career of Dr. Jesse Papenburg, a specialist in pediatric infectious diseases and a medical microbiologist. In addition to being a leader in the field of pediatric infectious diseases in Canada and a key media personality, his achievements have significantly improved the lives of young patients and their families. We are honoured to present him with the National Bank Medical Award of Excellence. Our most sincere congratulations, Dr. Papenburg!

Hélène Bacha

Recipient of Le Groupe Maurice Nursing Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse - Medical Multimedia, MUHC

Hélène Bacha, an ambulatory care nurse clinician in pediatric gastroenterology, has always wanted to help people. During a clinical placement on the Surgical Unit of The Children's, in her third year of university, she immediately knew she was in the right place. Twenty-six years later, Hélène is still there!

Hélène joined the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition in 2002. She sees patients suffering from chronic conditions, which can be inflammatory bowel disease or problems related to oesophageal atresia, and coordinates their care to facilitate their medical journey. Her availability and the energy she puts into finding solutions are what make her appreciated by families and colleagues alike.

In her early days, Hélène was often the sole nurse in her department. When a problem arose or a question went unanswered, she had no one to turn to for support. Hélène would then knock on the doors of other ambulatory care divisions to consult other nurse clinicians. This experience motivated her to later build the Genesis integration program, which helps to support new nurses.



“I thought it was important to tell nurses: you're no longer alone; here are resource people who can help you.”

With the help of Vincent Ballenas, a nursing professional development educator, she created the Genesis program, which uses reflective practice to discuss with colleagues and find suggestions or solutions to their challenges. Hélène coaches and mentors new nurses.

In 2019, when the Esophageal Atresia Clinic was launched as a project sponsored by The Children's Foundation, Hélène was invited to take over the coordination of the program and ensure its smooth operation with the support of doctors until the new program director arrived.

Throughout her career, Hélène has been finding solutions. This led her to complete a graduate certificate in management at McGill University. Since 2022, she has been assisting the clinic's interim manager, gaining valuable experience in management.

In addition to being a pillar of the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Hélène Bacha serves as an inspiration for her colleagues. She was deeply moved to learn she had received an Award of Excellence. Thank you, Hélène, for your invaluable help. Our heartfelt congratulations!

Hélène Bacha, Nurse Clinician in Ambulatory Services in the Division of Gastroenterology and Nutrition, has distinguished herself by striving for improvement and sharing her knowledge to elevate the standard of care for children and their families. She has demonstrated exemplary professional commitment by aiming for excellence and innovation in her practice. At Le Groupe Maurice, we are committed to recognizing these cherished values, which are seen every day in each of our residences. We are therefore delighted to present Hélène Bacha with Le Groupe Maurice Nursing Award of Excellence. Congratulations, Hélène!



Martine Alfonso

Recipient of the Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation Professional Staff Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse - Medical Multimedia, MUHC

After 14 years working as a physiotherapist, Martine Alfonso decided to seek out new professional challenges. In 2003, that opportunity arose when the clinical coordinator position at her workplace became available. Martine applied for the job, unaware that this would start a remarkable career transition that would take her to the top.

Martine's career soared at the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC). She held a succession of senior management positions, first as Administrative Director of the Neuroscience Mission, then Associate Executive Director of The Children's and finally Associate President and Executive Director of the MUHC for the past eight years. During this time, she also served as Interim President and Executive Director of the MUHC for a nearly two-year period.

When she arrived at The Children's, the Hospital was already distinguished by its clinical expertise, and patient and family-centred culture. "The Children's is a full-service hospital. It's important to always ensure that The Children's team's needs are recognized,"



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says Martine, whose leadership has always been focused on collaborative work.

"There's a certain analogy between looking after your family and leading an organization: you want everything to go well, for the family to develop to its full potential, for its members to become increasingly independent and to use their talents to the fullest. We want the same for the organization."

As a manager, Martine has always sought to foster collaboration between organizations, management and team members "without ever forgetting the people who turn to us for care. That's what gives meaning to everything we do," she adds.

Together with the clinical teams, she has contributed to the development of new mandates that have significantly expanded the range of services offered at The Children's.

Martine has established strong ties throughout the healthcare network with the Ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux and The Children's Foundation. She also works with leaders at other institutions facing challenges and opportunities similar to those at The Children's and the MUHC.

This Award of Excellence crowns the career of an exceptional and inspiring woman who has maintained The Children's and MUHC's reputation for excellence provincially, nationally and internationally. Our warmest and most sincere congratulations, Martine!

At the Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation, we want our contribution to have a tangible impact on individuals and organizations that distinguish themselves by significantly improving their communities. We recognize and salute the exceptional leadership of Martine Alfonso, a visionary who has raised the profile of The Children's and the MUHC, and strengthened employee engagement. We take great pride in presenting her with the Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation Professional Staff Award of Excellence. Congratulations, Martine!

Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan

Recipient of the Pfizer Research Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse – Medical Multimedia, MUHC

A specialist in pediatric allergy and immunology, Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of food allergies in children. He was the first clinician in Canada to perform milk protein desensitization and the first to collaborate with clinicians in the United States on peanut desensitization. These contributions have led to the successful treatment of thousands of children suffering from food allergies.

Dr. Ben-Shoshan's passion for pediatrics stems from his joy in interacting with children. In Canada, 10 per cent of children suffer from potentially fatal food allergies, of which approximately two per cent are peanut allergies.

In 2011, Dr. Ben-Shoshan co-led Quebec's first oral immunotherapy food desensitization program for milk. This program has had an impressive success rate.

“I want children to be able to grow up without fear of having a potentially fatal reaction to different foods and I want my research to help them achieve this goal.”

In addition to his clinical accomplishments, Dr. Ben-Shoshan has led significant research initiatives, including creating Canada's first anaphylaxis registry.

Furthermore, his work has enabled some children to remove penicillin from their list of known allergies. His research has led to a fundamental change in clinical practice for the diagnosis and management of allergies to this antibiotic in children. His work was ranked among the world's top 10 pediatric publications in 2016 by the *New England Journal of Medicine Journal Watch*.

Over the past 10 years, he has established nationwide registers of children suffering from allergies and anaphylaxis. The results are a goldmine for allergists and researchers both at home and abroad. Data collection centres have also been set up, with over 5,000 cases recorded to date.

His exemplary work would not be possible without the invaluable support of The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation donors, who have funded innovative treatments and research.

As a distinguished teacher and researcher, Dr. Ben-Shoshan continues to inspire and educate the next generation of healthcare professionals, while constantly pushing the boundaries of medicine.

We extend our heartfelt admiration and gratitude to Dr. Ben-Shoshan for his unwavering dedication to his patients and remarkable achievements in advancing children's health. Congratulations, Dr. Ben-Shoshan!

Pfizer Canada is the Canadian subsidiary of Pfizer, one of the world's leading biopharmaceutical companies. We salute Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan's exemplary pioneering work in the treatment of food allergies and severe allergic reactions in children. His work, discoveries and leadership will continue to have a lasting, positive influence on the lives of countless families around the world. Pfizer proudly presents Dr. Moshe Ben-Shoshan with the Pfizer Research Award of Excellence. Congratulations, Dr. Ben-Shoshan!



Diane Langford

Recipient of the Administrative, Clinical and Technical Support Staff Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse – Medical Multimedia, MUHC

When she first came to The Children's, Diane Langford, a medical secretary, was stepping in for a one-month replacement position. That was 39 years ago and she still loves her job. Diane is the administrative pillar of the Endocrinology Clinic, which treats patients from birth to 17 years of age who are dealing with complex glandular problems.

Each day, Diane interacts with five to 15 patients. They all call her by her first name, which speaks volumes about the warm, personal relationships she has fostered with patients and their families over the years.

From 2015 until recently, Diane was the only medical secretary in her division. To ensure that she doesn't forget anyone and to keep up with the growing number of requests, she developed a meticulous register to track all follow-ups and actions. She proudly calls it her "little notebook".

This invaluable register allows her to promptly follow up with patients by phone or email. Whether it's booking appointments

and distributing forms, faxing prescriptions to the pharmacist, writing letters to referring physicians or sending consultation requests to specialists in other divisions, Diane keeps the lines of communication open and takes care of everything quickly.

Much of her work centres on listening and empathy. She reassures anxious patients and families who want to speak to the doctor when they have questions or are worried, or explains to new patients and their families the importance of coming to their appointments without alarming them. She will also speak with doctors and specialists to move up an appointment if necessary. There is no ambassador more devoted to the cause of children.

“Every morning, I tell myself that I'm going to help people. I put myself in the shoes of that worried mother who was crying on the other end of the phone. I want to do everything I can to help.”

Diane's tireless efforts contribute to upholding The Children's reputation for excellence in pediatric endocrinology. What makes her most proud is the satisfaction of truly helping patients and their families. She has always felt the support of her colleagues, who encourage and appreciate her work. She is moved by this recognition and never imagined she would receive an Award of Excellence.

Congratulations, Diane, and thank you!

Over nearly four decades, Diane Langford has developed strong ties with patients, their families and the multidisciplinary team at The Children's Endocrinology Clinic. The quality of her work as a medical secretary is exceptional due to her empathy, her capacity to listen and her sincere desire to help people. Her work contributes to the clinic's reputation for excellence in care. The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation is proud to present Diane Langford with the Administrative, Clinical and Technical Support Staff Award of Excellence in recognition of her steadfast dedication. Congratulations, Diane!

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Centre for Complex Pain Team

Recipients of the American Iron & Metal Teamwork Award of Excellence



From l. to r.: Nathalie Comtois, Rebecca Pitt, Maria Daniele, Dr. Jonathan Hudon, Lina Osseiran, Dr. Pablo Ingelmo, Nada Mohamed, Dr. Sabrina Carrié, Arielle Sadaka, Louise Johansen, Dr. Lucas G.F. Fonseca and Debbie Kosorwich Pealow. *Missing from photo: Julie Lalande, Nathalie Myara, Luan Tran and Marie Vigouroux.

Photo: Christine Bouthillier, Montreal Children's Hospital



“Putting the patient’s needs first requires listening to and understanding what the child and family are living and experiencing. Only by truly hearing their story can the CCP develop a treatment plan that empowers the child to succeed in their journey towards a pain-free future.”

The Edwards Family Interdisciplinary Centre for Complex Pain (CCP) is a comprehensive clinical, educational and research centre with a 17-member team that assesses more than 200 new patients a year and follows more than 450 patients.

Dr. Pablo Ingelmo, Pediatric Anesthesiologist and Director of the Centre, shares the credit with his team: “The success of the Centre is a testament to the team’s dedication. Everyone plays a key role in delivering exceptional care and positive outcomes for children and adolescents with complex pain conditions.”

One in five children will experience chronic pain before reaching adulthood. Left untreated, it can become a lifelong affliction often leading to mental illness, substance abuse and underemployment. The good news is that the CCP team has an impressive cure rate. Over 75 per cent of its patients leave treatment pain free, medication free and fully able to resume their lives (school, work, sports, etc.)

Other remarkable statistics include:

- The team has reduced the use of strong opioids from 18 per cent in 2013 to less than 1 per cent in 2022.
- Since 2015, the CCP team has reduced the consults of any of its cases to the emergency department by 46 per cent, and 84 per cent of those related to chronic pain.

The Children’s is one of the most recognized centres in the world for treating complex pain in children. Between 2013 and 2022, the CCP’s research team made several discoveries about treating pain in children, including using cannabinoids, laughing gas and allergy medication for children with fibromyalgia. The team has published a hundred articles in respected peer-reviewed journals.

Thanks to long-time Children’s Foundation supporter Mark Pathy, the Axiom Space Ax-1 crew and NASA, the CCP team developed and oversaw five pain research projects aboard the International Space Station in 2021.

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Recognized as a global leader in the metal recycling industry, American Iron & Metal has developed a culture of innovation, excellence and diversity. We highlight the outstanding contribution of the Centre for Complex Pain team, led by Dr. Pablo Ingelmo. This 17-member interdisciplinary team’s impressive cure rate stems from each clinician, educator and researcher’s essential role, creating treatment plans that empower children to overcome pain and thrive. It is with great pride that we present them with the Teamwork Award of Excellence. Our heartfelt congratulations!



Dr. Catherine Goudie

Recipient of the CYLAD Innovation in Health Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse – Medical Multimedia, MUHC

Dr. Catherine Goudie, pediatric hematologist-oncologist and clinician-researcher, has left her mark on the field of pediatric oncology through her remarkable achievements. Her career has been shaped by her passion for oncogenetics.

Dr. Goudie's major innovation is MIPOGG (McGill Interactive Pediatric OncoGenetic Guidelines), a revolutionary application that detects cancer predisposition syndromes in pediatric oncology. MIPOGG uses clinical and family history as well as tumour characteristics to assess the probability that a child's cancer is linked to a cancer predisposition. "In less than two minutes, we know if a patient should be evaluated in genetics by asking just a few targeted questions," says Dr. Goudie.

MIPOGG has more than 2,300 users in 85 countries, enabling faster, more precise interventions in pediatric oncology. This tool is now included in the recommendations of the leading pediatric cancer organizations.

In 2022, Dr. Goudie also played a key role in creating a provincial registry dedicated to cancer predisposition syndromes. The registry, the only one of its kind in Canada, brings together Quebec's four

CYLAD

university pediatric hospitals, enabling earlier intervention and better management of cancer cases in young Quebecers.

"On a clinical level, I never imagined how quickly I'd see the usefulness of these innovations we're currently integrating at The Children's and in Quebec. I feel my work has purpose."

Dr. Goudie is also involved in the implementation of genetic analysis strategies in pediatrics. In particular, she has completed a master's degree on the ethical issues surrounding the genetic sequencing of children in oncology.

Furthermore, recognizing the importance of training the next generation of clinicians in cancer genetics, she co-directs one of the world's few fellowship programs in oncogenetics at McGill University.

Dr. Goudie is also one of the world's leading specialists in pediatric oncogenetics. She is regularly asked to provide recommendations to cancer surveillance clinics in hospitals around the world. Her expertise is also sought at international conferences.

The clinician-researcher would like to thank her mentors, colleagues and donors of The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation, who have supported her innovative initiatives. Her greatest joy is watching her children grow up and getting to know their personalities... as mischievous as they might be! Congratulations, Dr. Goudie, for your remarkable contribution.

With in-depth industry expertise specifically in aerospace, life sciences and healthcare technology, CYLAD has developed an approach based on partnership, commitment and empathy, and is dedicated to having a positive impact on society and the planet. Dr. Catherine Goudie has made exceptional contributions to pediatric oncology genetics through her remarkable achievements in the field. Her MIPOGG application, used in over 85 countries, has revolutionized pediatric oncology and is recommended by the world's leading pediatric cancer organizations. We are delighted to present her with the CYLAD Innovation in Health Award of Excellence. Congratulations, Dr. Goudie!

Isabelle Marcoux, C.M.

Recipient of the Sun Life Community Leadership and Volunteer Award of Excellence



Photo: Andrée-Anne Rivest

Isabelle Marcoux's close relationship with The Children's began in 2000 when her son Philippe received exceptional care in the Hospital's Neonatology and Cardiology Services. As a grateful young mother, Isabelle made her first significant donation to the Hospital's Failure to Thrive Clinic. At the time, the infant feeding program was relatively unknown and had no donor funding.

Driven by a desire to become more involved, Isabelle served on The Children's Foundation's Board of Directors from 2003 to 2007, and returned in 2015, where she remains today. With a bachelor's degree in political science and economics and a bachelor's degree in civil law, Isabelle sits on the boards of several organizations which are close to her heart, including Centraide of Greater Montreal, where she has been actively involved for almost 10 years. Last year, Centraide awarded her its highest distinction, that of Governor Emeritus.



In 2019, Isabelle co-chaired the cabinet for The Children's Foundation's largest-ever fundraising initiative — the \$200 million *Unexpected Ways to Heal* campaign. She continued to multiply her efforts by supporting the Hospital's esophageal atresia program. With TC Transcontinental, the Marcoux family most recently funded the multimedia donor wall, which recognizes contributors to the major campaign in a unique and meaningful way.

“By getting involved, we have the privilege of working alongside people who want to make a difference for Quebec's sick children and their families, and ensure that The Children's remains a world-class pediatric hospital so that its experts can continue to provide exceptional care.” — Isabelle Marcoux, Executive Chair of the Board, Transcontinental Inc.

By twice co-chairing the Children's Ball (in 2013 and 2023), she helped generate vital funding for the Hospital's most urgent needs. Under her leadership, the Bal des tannants has become one of Montreal's most sought-after philanthropic events.

The Montreal Children's Hospital Foundation commends Isabelle Marcoux's steadfast commitment to philanthropy. Through her efforts, influence and leadership, she has been instrumental in the unprecedented success of The Foundation's \$200 million campaign, helping sick children and teens throughout Quebec.

Sun Life proudly champions the Community Leadership and Volunteer Award of Excellence, honouring individuals whose selfless efforts contribute to the health and well-being of communities. At Sun Life, we help Canadians lead healthy lifestyles and are committed to building sustainable and healthier communities. It is an honour to present this award to Isabelle Marcoux, whose exceptional philanthropic commitment helps improve the lives of sick children and their families. Thank you, Isabelle. Congratulations!



Lena Andrianakos

Recipient of the Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation Nicolas W. Matossian Junior Community Award of Excellence



Photo: Pamela Lajeunesse – Medical Multimedia, MUHC

With her big brown eyes sparkling with intelligence and her irresistible bursts of laughter, you'd never suspect that Lena, a six-year-old superhero affectionately nicknamed "Supergirl", had been battling cancer for almost three years.

Lena was just 21 months old when she was diagnosed with high-risk B-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. Three days later, she began chemotherapy, a grueling treatment that would last 854 days.

Lena's parents, Christina and Nick, went on an arduous three-year journey filled with intensive chemotherapy, regular visits to The Children's and weeks of isolation at a time. But they found solace and inspiration in watching their sick daughter dance, sing and play with the educators from the Child Life Department. Their daughter's unwavering spirit gave them the desire to celebrate life instead of living in fear and anxiety.



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"The power of Lena, our Supergirl, can be summed up in three words: strength, courage and resilience," says Christina. "Her zest for life helped us stay hopeful and positive."

Touched by Lena's exceptional care and the remarkable support they received — an experience that transformed their lives — Christina and Nick sought to express their gratitude so that other families facing this terrible ordeal could benefit from the same support.

Christina and Sophia, Lena's aunt, created The Lena Fund to raise awareness of pediatric cancer and raise money to fund childhood cancer research projects at The Children's. They have also organized events for sick children and their families. To date, their efforts have raised over \$80,000 for this vital cause.

Along with her parents, Lena participates in fundraising activities to support the psychological well-being of children undergoing cancer treatment at The Children's. Recently, Lena had the time of her life at the Hospital's *Tannant d'avril* event on April Fool's Day in 2023, celebrating the mischievousness of Quebec children.

Officially in remission since January 7, 2022, Supergirl will begin grade one at school this September. We're confident that our superhero will make many new friends with whom she can swim, dance and sing! Congratulations, Lena!

The Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation supports organizations that positively impact the health and well-being of children from all walks of life, so that they can reach their full potential. Thanks to Lena's exceptional state-of-the-art care at The Montreal Children's Hospital, she has become a playful, energetic child again. We proudly present Lena Andrianakos with the Sandra and Alain Bouchard Foundation Nicolas W. Matossian Junior Community Award of Excellence. Your courage and resilience inspire all children. Congratulations, Lena!

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