

The Award for Medical Excellence



Dr. David Melnychuk

The Award for Medical Excellence is presented to a physician who inspires others with exceptional care for patients, extensive knowledge of medicine, valued teaching, superior abilities and accessibility to colleagues throughout the hospital.

Dr. David Melnychuk was a rarity when he was brought to the Jewish General Hospital in 1992, and remains so to this day. Upon his arrival, he began providing cancer patients with greater continuity in the care they received throughout the hospital, thereby performing a valuable service that was unique in Quebec, and is still relatively uncommon. Today, as a Clinical Associate in Oncology, Dr. Melnychuk carries a full load of cancer patients, but his clinical activities focus mainly on individuals with head and neck cancer, colorectal cancer and gynecological cancers.

In pursuing this life-saving work, Dr. Melnychuk has shown himself to be an outstanding clinician and researcher, says Dr. Gerald Batist, JGH Chief of Oncology. “He is a kind and generous person, universally admired by patients and respected by colleagues. There’s no doubt he has his own style and makes his own impact. If we could clone him, we would.”

Dr. Melnychuk says healthcare institutions often have rigid structures, so he credits JGH leaders for their insight and courage in integrating his activities with those of the Oncology Department. “It means someone is on-site to deal with acute problems or with patients who drop in without an appointment,” he says. “That flexibility allows the hospital to respond more directly to the needs of our patients, which is reflected in our high quality of care.” ■

The Award for Excellence in Nursing



Rosemary Short

The Award for Excellence in Nursing is presented to a member of the Department of Nursing who serves as a model for others by using her/his unique abilities, facilitating outstanding care, and exhibiting and building nursing knowledge.

Since 1990, Rosemary Short has dedicated herself to helping children between the ages of 3 and 12, who have serious psychological, cognitive and behavioural problems. As Head Nurse of Child Psychiatry Services, Ms. Short also works with the children’s families and as a key member of a multidisciplinary team that develops assessments and interventions that draw on the strengths of the child and the family. Her objective is to enable children to return to their regular schools and to feel more comfortable within their families.

These efforts have won praise from Lynne McVey, JGH Director of Nursing, who describes Ms. Short as “consistently demonstrating leadership in preserving the Child Psychiatry program at the JGH. She makes a difference every day in the lives of children and their families who are, more often than not, quite isolated in our society. Thanks to her perseverance and her leadership of the interdisciplinary team, this program has become a provincial leader in caring for children and their families.”

Ms. Short served on other units in her first several years after joining the JGH in 1983, but finds working with children especially rewarding. “More than 70 per cent of adult mental illness can be traced back to childhood,” she says. “With children, you are intervening early in life. You can work with them, along with their families and schools, on the underlying causes of their difficulties to help them build a future.” ■