

le 1 février 1999

Perspectives

Vol 4, No. 11



Margaret Beznak



PERSPECTIVE

Abstrait (XVII^e).

Domaine qui s'ouvre à la pensée, à l'activité de quelqu'un. **V. Horizon.**

Aspect sous lequel une chose se présente; manière de considérer quelque chose. **V. Optique, point de vue.**

[Le Petit Robert]

per spec tive *a*) a specific point of view in understanding or judging things or events, esp. one that shows them in their true relations to one another *b*) the ability to see things in a true relationship [Webster's New World Dictionary]

Honours & Awards

On January 21, 1999, Margaret Beznak, Professor Emeritus of the Faculty of Medicine, passed away after a long struggle with Alzheimer's disease. Margaret Beznak served as Chair of the Department of Physiology, Vice Dean and Acting Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. She also was a member of Senate and of the Board of Governors at the University of Ottawa, the first woman to act in this capacity in Canada.

Margaret Beznak received her MD in Hungary where she also began her academic career. She and her husband, Aladar, who eventually became the Chairman of the Department of Physiology at the University of Ottawa, left Hungary to pursue their research at the University of Birmingham. In 1953, she joined the University of Ottawa and, in 1959, shortly after the death of her husband, she became Chair of the Department of Physiology.

Margaret also served the Faculty as Vice Dean and was an honored and loved member of Faculty for colleagues and students. I have the fondest personal memories of her when I was a medical student and Margaret was the Vice Dean. In 1979 she retired and was granted the rank of Professor Emeritus. Her letter of response contained the following sentence:

The Faculty has always spoiled me and I would lie if I said that I did not enjoy it.

Susan Tolnai, Professor Emeritus, and a close friend and colleague of Margaret Beznak offers the following:

Members of the Faculty of Medicine mourn the passing of Dr. Margaret Beznak who died on January 21, 1999 after a long illness.

Dr. Beznak was affectionately known to generations of medical students as 'Mama Beznak'. Although as Head of the Department of Physiology she had been a hard taskmaster, she earned this moniker by her fairness, understanding and unfailing support of the students. Through hard work, dedication and the force of her powerful intellect she rose to become Vice Dean and was the first woman to represent the Faculty of Medicine in the Senate and on the Board of Governors. Although she did not subscribe to feminist ideals, she cherished these achievements. Her friends and colleagues will keep her memory alive by continuing to strive for excellence, just as Professor Beznak has done throughout her life.

Susan Mitchell (Medicine) and **Nicole Fitt** (geriatric resident) received a grant from the Physicians' Services Incorporated (PSI) on 'The impact of DXA scans on the management of osteoporosis'.

James Donnelly (Pathology & Laboratory Medicine), **Karen Ash** (Medicine) and **Phil Wells** (Medicine) received a grant from PSI for their study on 'Thrombosis in pregnant patients: thrombophilia prevalence and obstetrical outcomes'.

Jean Himms-Hagen (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) and **Ian Hart** (Medicine) have been appointed as Professor Emeritus. The appointments were approved by the Joint Committee

HSRC Report

of the Senate and the Board.

David Moher (Pediatrics) Arc-en-ciel of meta-analysis.

Heather Davis (Physiotherapy) Non-cytopathic control of HBV.

Andreas Laupacis (Medicine) RCT audiobooklet decision aid regarding predonation of autologous blood in open heart surgery.

Johné Liu (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) Role of Rho-associated protein kinase in insulin signalling.

Kenneth Dimock (Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology) Structure and function of the human parainfluenza virus 3 fusion protein.

Stephen Gee (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) Isoform diversity and domain function of the dystrophin-associated protein Syntrophin.

Daniel Krewski (Medicine) Radon and lung cancer.

Stephen Lee (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) Functional characterization of the von Hippel-Lindau tumor suppressor gene product.

José-Maria Trifaro (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) Study of the role of scinderin (SC) in megakaryocyte function and in proliferation and differentiation of megakaryocyte leukemia cells.

Zemin Yao (Biochemistry, Microbiology & Immunology) Multifactorial analysis of hepatic VLDL assembly.

On January 28, 1999, the Health Services Restructuring Commission (HSRC) gave its final report on a submission by the Ottawa Hospital to modify the August 1998 directions instructing the hospital to close the Riverside campus. The Ottawa Hospital proposed to retain the Riverside campus as a stand alone ambulatory, diagnostic and clinical service centre in support of the two largely in-patient campuses, Civic and General.

After some delay occasioned by bad weather, the HSRC has finally pronounced itself. Notwithstanding public objections by the Champlain District Health Council to the three site proposal of the Ottawa Hospital, the HSRC has decided to:

- Approve the three site model using the Riverside campus as an ambulatory and diagnostic centre;
- Reduce available space to the tune of 350,000 sq ft at the Civic campus through decommissioning;
- Continue with capital plans of 75.3m\$ and operating savings of 37.1m\$.

The only negative decision by the HSRC was to deny the approval of a third MRI at the Riverside campus.

All in all, this is very good news for the Ottawa Hospital and for the Faculty. In its submission, much was made by the Ottawa Hospital and the HSRC of the academic support for the three campus model, in general, and of the development of ambulatory education and research as critical to the future development of the Faculty's educational programs at the undergraduate and postgraduate levels. It also is excellent news for David Levine and the clinical planning teams who have spent so much time developing the hospital's master plan in which the three campus model is a critical piece.

New Professors



On Wednesday, February 3, 1999, **Dr. Stephen Gee** (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) will present a talk as part of the New Professor Lecture series on 'Functional characterization of the von Hippel-Lindau tumor suppressor gene product'.

Dr. Stephen Lee (Cellular & Molecular Medicine) will present his New Professor Lecture on Wednesday, February 10, 1999.

The title of his talk will be 'Syntrophins: modular adapter

proteins that link the dystrophin complex to signal transduction pathways in skeletal muscle and brain'.



Both talks will take place in Amphitheatre A of Pavillon Roger Guindon at 13 h 00 and will be preceded by Coffee & Muffins at 12 h 45. The New Professor Lecture Series is hosted by the Office of the Vice Dean, Research.

Upcoming Dates & Events

The Ministry of Education and Training of Ontario has clarified its position regarding the **Ontario Student Opportunity Trust Funds (OSOTF)**. Effectively, the Ministry has indicated that it will allow universities the possibility of replacing unrealized pledges with new donations. Admissible donations will be matched by the government provided that payment of the pledge is received by **March 31, 1999**. The objective of the OSOTF program is to provide increased financial aid for students.

The deadline for submission of candidates for the **Prix d'Excellence en enseignement de l'Université d'Ottawa / APUO Excellence in Teaching Award** is March 19, 1999. Nominations from Faculty members must reach my office by **February 19, 1999** so that they can be presented to the Faculty Teaching Personnel Committee. More information can be obtained by calling Sylvie Forgues-Martel at 8117.

Perspectives is a publication of the Dean's Office of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Ottawa. It is published twice monthly from September through June and is available by email or on the web (www.uottawa.ca/academic/med).

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