



# THE ORTOPEDIK

*Changing the world through caring for kids*

## History in the Making

[Emmanuelle Rondeau] October 13, 2011 marks an important milestone in the Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada’s history in Montreal. With respect to the Shriners’ tradition and the political protocol for the event, Premier Jean Charest with Health Minister Yves Bolduc, M.D., the Honourable Arthur T. Porter, director general and CEO of MUHC, and Shriners Hospitals for Children leadership located in Montreal and from the Head Office in Tampa (Florida) have proceeded to the groundbreaking for the new Shriners Hospital for Children on the Glen Campus adjacent to the Montreal Children’s Hospital (MCH) of the McGill University Health Centre (MUHC).

Douglas Maxwell, President and CEO of Shriners Hospitals for Children emphasized: “the deed of transfer of property has been signed, and if everything goes according to schedule, construction will begin in the spring of 2013 and the completion of the work and the move will take place in the summer 2015. Construction costs are estimated at \$127 million.”

“With the construction of the new hospitals in Montreal in the coming year, including the Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada, there is no doubt that Montreal will be considered a true world leader in healthcare” shared the mayor of Montreal, Gérald Tremblay.

“A project of this scale cannot be undertaken without collaboration of our partners, I would like to thank the Government of Quebec, the MUHC and the MCH, SNC Lavalin and our architect for work already done and to come” concluded Michael G. Severe, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Shriners International.

“The new six floor building will have 207,000 square feet. The hospital’s architectural program promotes the interplay of clinical, teaching and research activities by housing specialized teaching venues, cutting edge fundamental and clinical research facilities” declared Raoul Frevel, Chairman of the Building and Equipment Committee of the National Board for Shriners Hospitals for Children.

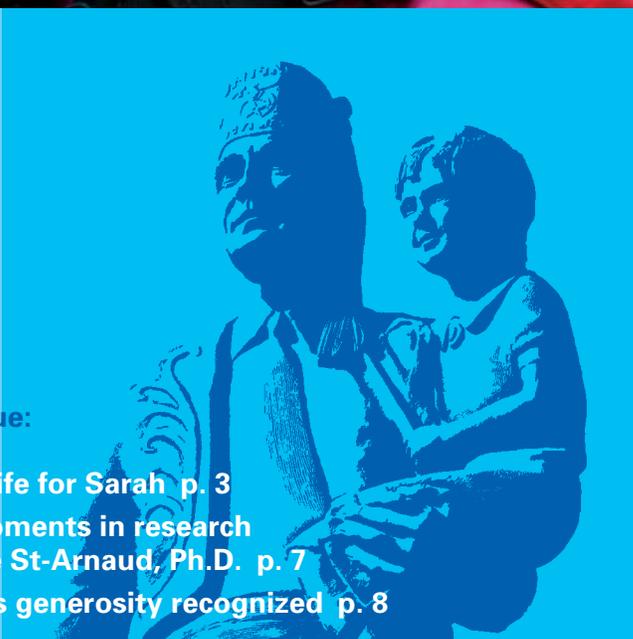
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## Innovation Now

[Reggie Hamdy, M.D.] The talents of our specialists are our most precious resource as they are the ones who shape and mentor their successors, those who will continue our work for future generations of patients. Teaching is one of the core values of Shriners Hospitals for Children® and one of the keys to our success as it allows us to recruit young talent. We have recently welcomed two new specialists to our team who embrace these values.

**Marie Gdalevitch, M.D.,** Pediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon and Specialist in limb lengthening, deformity correction and hip problems for teenagers, has joined our medical team. Dr. Gdalevitch was born in Montreal and following her post-graduate training in orthopaedics at McGill University and at Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada, she went on to complete two fellowships in

orthopaedic surgery in world renowned centres in the United-States and Australia.

Her responsibilities will include caring for patients with osteogenesis imperfecta in collaboration with François Fassier, M.D. She will also play an active role in clinical and basic research as she will begin post-doctoral studies towards her Ph.D. in experimental surgery. Starting in January 2012, she will be one of the grant recipients of the Shriners Hospitals for Children Surgeon-Scientist Program.

**Jean-Marc Mac-Thiong, M.D., Ph. D.,** is a Pediatric Orthopaedic Spine Surgeon. Having completed his training in basic research, he received his Ph.D. at University of Montreal where he specialised in spine pathologies. Dr. Mac-Thiong completed his fellowship in spine surgery at Twin Cities Spine Center in Minneapolis (Minnesota).



Marie Gdalevitch

Jean-Marc Mac-Thiong

Dr. Mac-Thiong is a clinical assistant teacher at University of Montreal, Faculty of Medicine, and Associate Investigator at CHU Sainte-Justine. He is based at CHU Sainte-Justine and is also an orthopaedist at l'Hôpital du Sacré-Cœur de Montréal. He also has research laboratories in both establishments. Dr. Mac-Thiong began to collaborate actively with our spine team in the fall of 2011. |

## Administrator's Message

On October 13, 2011, time seemed to stop, to skip a beat, and we were privileged to bear witness to a historical moment in the existence of Shriners Hospitals for Children®. On that day, we broke ground for the new Shriners Hospitals for Children–Canada in the presence of top politicians, health care partners, Shriners leadership and representatives from the Temples who support us from coast to coast. It was a dream come true for many, a moment to be cherished for a

long time. It was a day of pride, gratitude and excitement.

The journey to this day was a long one and its success rests squarely on the shoulders of all of those who have shown their commitment to our great cause, to our philosophy of care and exceptional treatment, research and teaching.

As an integral part of the planning process for our new hospital, we are recruiting

and mentoring young talent to become the next generation of experts, those who will maintain our focus on excellence and innovation in patient care, teaching and research. |

Sincerely,

Céline Doray

**The Orthopedik** is a quarterly publication of the **Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Canada**

1529 Cedar Avenue, Montreal, QC, Canada, H3G 1A6

We want to hear from you! If you would like to ask us a question or suggest a topic for an article in an upcoming edition of the Orthopedik, please contact us at [erondeau@shrinenet.org](mailto:erondeau@shrinenet.org) or 514-282-6990.

The Orthopedik can also be downloaded from [www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org](http://www.shrinershospitalforchildren.org)

Editor Emmanuelle Rondeau

Co-Editor Guylaine Ouellet

Conception Le Groupe Flexidée Itée

Art Direction and Design Mark Lepik

Photography Denis Alves | Guylaine Bédard | Benoît Desjardins

Editorial Board Sharon Brissette | Gemma Bélanger |

Céline Doray | Catherine Dubé | D' François Fassier |

Kathryn Fournier | Nancy Gionet | D' Francis Glorieux |

D' Reggie Hamdy | Kathleen Montpetit | Susan Takahashi

## A New Life for Sarah

**[Guylaine Ouellet]** In February 2011, Sarah and her mother Christina came to see Neil Saran, M.D., at Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada. They travelled from Kitchener (Ontario). This visit was their last hope. Sarah wasn't able to say long sentences because she was short of breath. Instead of growing, Sarah was regressing, her quality of life vanishing due to her progressive muscular atrophy and weakening lungs.

Sarah was diagnosed with a degenerative neuromuscular condition early in life. This is the root cause of her scoliosis (extreme curvature of her spine) compounding her diminished lung function. According to Dr. Saran, with such severe scoliosis and her underlying muscular weakness, her lungs would no longer have the capacity to expand and contract properly.

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Dear Dr. Saran,

Once in a while in a person's lifetime, someone comes into their life who is a very special person. To our family, you are that person.

We thank God every day that we found you – our hero – for what you have done for Sarah and for the courage that you showed in proceeding with the surgeries that I know, saved Sarah's life.

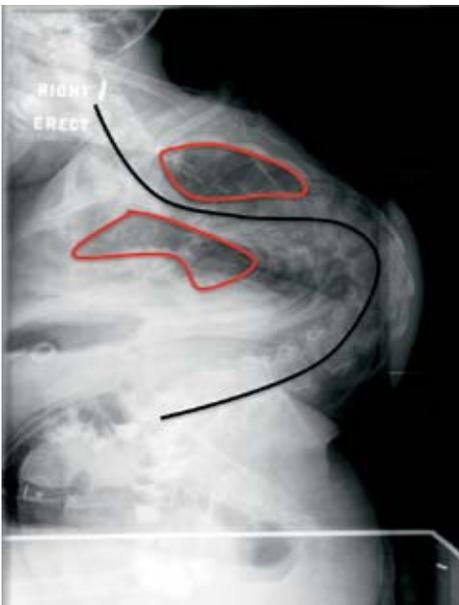
Ever since Sarah was born almost twelve years ago, I have been told by doctors that she was going to die very soon. It has been very difficult to face this but somehow we have all found the strength to carry on. Even up until the time that we left our community of Kitchener-Waterloo to come to Montreal, doctors were very pessimistic. I was devastated but I put all my faith in you to do the best that you could. Never in my wildest dreams did I expect your plans and groundbreaking procedures to have the fantastic outcome that it has.

Sarah is a different child now and most certainly I feel I have my granddaughter back; smiling, laughing and enjoying life instead of lying in her bed crying day and night is the best gift ever.

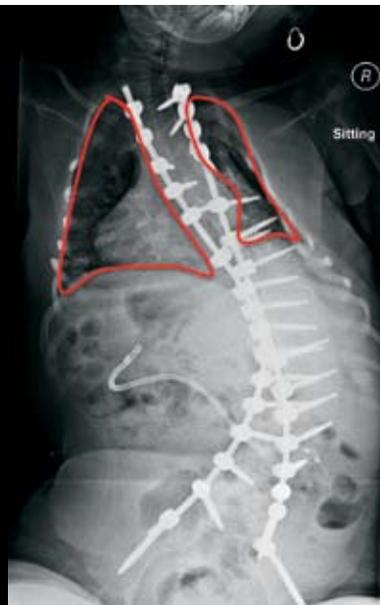
I don't know how else to say a Big Thank You from the bottom of my heart to everyone at Shriners Hospitals for Children-Canada and at the Montreal Children's Hospital for the surgery but most of all to you Dr. Saran for all of your expertise, care and compassion. Our family is indebted to you forever.

Sarah's grandmother, Claire

The following letter was sent to Neil Saran, M.D., Orthopaedic Surgeon at Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada and The Montreal Children's Hospital.



Pre-operative X-rays showing limited lung fields (outlined in red) with a severe scoliosis (black line)



Post-operative X-rays showing much improved lung fields (outlined in red) with significant improvement in scoliosis



Post-operative X-rays after resection of the left proximal femur that was causing severe left hip pain

# A Page in the History of Shriners Hospitals

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Robert Drummond, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Governors, Shriners Hospitals for Children—Canada announced: “We expect that this new facility with the technology and ultramodern facilities will allow us to continue to recruit some of the best pediatric surgeons, orthopedists, researchers and health care professionals to continue to provide the best possible care to children in Quebec, the Canada and around the world. We want to make this hospital a true model of excellence”.

The Shriners hospital will be linked to the Montreal Children’s Hospital on several floors, with a view to operational efficiencies and ease of access for patients and families.



“For me, the groundbreaking ceremony was an emotional and wonderful event. A lot of dedicated people have worked tirelessly to get to that particular moment, it was very symbolic. This is definitely a wonderful step for the children who will get treated at the new state of the art Shriners hospital.”

– Natalie Cinman, former patient



Among the dignitaries; Jean Charest, Premier of Quebec, Yves Bolduc, M.D., Health and Social Services Minister, Gérald Tremblay, Mayor of Montreal, the Honorable Arthur T. Porter, CEO and Director General of the MUHC, the Honorable Senator David Angus, Kathleen Weil, Minister of Immigration and Cultural Communities, Raoul L. Frevel, Shriners Hospitals for Children® Board of Trustees and Chairman of the Building and Equipment Committee of the National Board, Douglas Maxwell, Chairman of the Shriners Hospitals for Children® Board of Trustees, Michael Severe, Imperial Potentate, Shriners International, Jerry G. Gantt, member of the Boards of Directors for Shriners International and Shriners Hospitals for Children, Robert Drummond, M.D., Chairman of the Board of Governors, Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada and Céline Doray, Administrator, Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada. ▶



“The Shriners organisation honoured us by maintaining Montreal as their choice for the only Shriners hospital in Canada and we are sincerely proud.”

– Jean Charest,  
Premier of Quebec



## National Assembly Motion

*That the National Assembly underline the beginning of construction work on the future Shriners hospital for children and their financial contribution totaling 127 million dollars;*

*That the National Assembly pays tribute to the Shriners International organization in Montreal for their active participation in the social and institutional life of the city and of Québec;*

*That it underline the fact that they have been established in Montreal since the 1920s and that they strive to provide orthopaedic health care for children;*

*That it reiterates its support to the members and the work of the Shriners that it commends their great generosity and contribution, they who for decades have been involved in helping children with serious health problems.*

The motion was carried on October 27, 2011.

Since the announcement of the construction in 2010, the architectural firm of André Ibghy architects was retained and, guided by a Construction Committee composed of representatives of the head office and the Montreal hospital, has developed building plans which integrate high-technology and the family-centered care approach. The environment will be bright and welcoming to children.



CREDIT: ANDRÉ IBGHY ARCHITECTS



*"I feel so small in the middle of this huge construction site. I am honoured and impressed to be amongst the doctors and the Shriners who were the foundation of my inspiration."*  
– Luca "Lazylegz" Patuelli, former patient



*"It was an honour for me and Drummer James Pepin to be asked to lead in the very distinguished delegation. This groundbreaking ceremony was the end of a long time project for some of our fellow Shriners and it was extremely satisfying for all of us to see our vision of a new Shrine Hospital in Montreal move a giant step closer to becoming a reality."*  
– Iain Macleod, Pipe Major  
Kanak Pipes and Drums

*"One of my dreams was to sing the American National Anthem, thanks to Shriners that made it possible with this fabulous event! "*  
– Jérémy Gabriel, patient



PHOTOS: BENOÎT DESJARDINS, PHOTOGRAPHER

**More pictures on our Shriners Hospitals for Children – Canada Facebook page**

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“Before coming to Montreal, we had been told repeatedly that nothing could be done. It wasn’t an easy visit. There was apprehension, desperation and tension. But after spending a short time in the hospital and feeling the compassion of the staff, trust made its way into our hearts” said Christina.

It was decided that surgery to straighten her spine would occur at the Montreal

Children’s Hospital (MCH) due to her complex respiratory issues and her need for post-operative intensive care.

### High Risk Surgery

“It was a delicate surgery and there were high risks involved. Sarah’s health was deteriorating and she could die if nothing was done for her. We needed to do something and couldn’t let her down. We felt that we could improve her quality of life. Understanding the risks of the procedure,

we went ahead with the complete agreement of the family. Teaming up with my mentor, Jean A. Ouellet, M.D., and with my MCH colleagues in respiratory medicine, anesthesia and in Pediatric Intensive Care, together we embraced this tremendous challenge. It was a risk worth taking” said Dr. Saran.

“It was a very long day. When she went into the operating room I hoped and prayed for her to return to us, to be able to breathe on her own, to be our Sarah once more. Dr. Saran had given us hope, and that is what we held onto with all our might” remembers Christina.

### The Second Surgery

In order to relieve Sarah from persistent pain to her left hip, Dr. Saran performed a second surgery 3 months after the first.

“Before my surgeries, I couldn’t sit in my wheelchair more than a few minutes at a time and needed morphine every three hours to control my pain. After only three months, I am drug free and my lung function had doubled. I can sit in my chair all day at school, play on the computer and go shopping. I now have a life” reports a smiling Sarah.

“I know that I will never ever forget Sarah. The whole process was a special one and it created a bond between me and Sarah and her family. That is pretty amazing.” concluded Dr. Saran. |



Sarah and Dr. Saran reunite for a follow-up at Shriners Hospitals for Children®–Canada 6 months after the first surgery

## New Acting Director of Research

[René St-Arnaud, Ph.D.] “It is with great enthusiasm that I accept the responsibilities of Acting Director of Research. Our research centre, under the guidance of Francis H. Glorieux, O.C., M.D., Ph.D., established a worldwide leadership position through the identification and characterization of disease-causing genes, the development of animal models of diseases, and the establishment of the standard of care for several metabolic bone diseases. I want to build on this tradition of excellence and success.”



A born Montrealer, Dr. St-Arnaud graduated with a B.Sc. from Université de Montréal and a Ph.D. from Laval University in Quebec City, before completing post-doctoral training in Ottawa and at the State University of New York. His research is aimed at understanding what controls the expression of important genes in bone cells. In parallel, his team is attempting to demonstrate that certain derivatives of vitamin D play beneficial roles in bone healing. He has published over 100 peer-reviewed articles in scientific journals and authored more than 30 book chapters.

## His Vision

“My vision centers on nurturing and developing talent. The planned construction of the new hospital at the Glen Campus provides a unique opportunity to increase our research program. We will benefit from a modern infrastructure that will allow us to attract top talent. It will then be important to develop our research program along current strengths and to promote excellence by providing all resources and support to successfully apply to funding agencies.

The endowed Francis Glorieux Chair in Pediatric Musculoskeletal Research also represents a novel, prestigious resource that can be used to support an investigator or trainees and to reward achievements. I wish to develop links with both McGill’s Faculty of Dentistry and Faculty of Medicine to secure tenure-track academic positions. Doubling the space dedicated to fundamental research will allow us to increase the critical mass of Principal Investigators contributing to an integrated research program related to our patient base; our research centre will continue to provide a sizeable return on the investment. This can be calculated in the number and impact factor of publications, the leveraging of research funds and partnerships, the development and protection of intellectual property, and the training of highly qualified personnel. In parallel, the success of the research program provides world-wide exposure and visibility for Shriners Hospitals for Children.” |

Dr. René St-Arnaud is a Senior Investigator at the Genetics Unit of Shriners Hospitals for Children® – Canada, as well as a tenured Professor of Surgery, Medicine and Human Genetics at McGill University. Dr. St-Arnaud is also Director of the Network for Oral and Bone Health Research and the President of Advances in Mineral Metabolism.

To get to know Dr. St-Arnaud, visit the news section of our website at [shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://shrinershospitalsforchildren.org) and select Canada.



## Celebrating 100 years of helping kids –Philae Shriners

[Alyssa MacLeod] The Cape Breton Shrine Club of the Philae Shriners has been helping kids discover their potential for many years. In 2011, they celebrated the 100th anniversary of their temple. The Cape Breton Shrine Club consists of 75 members, who work hard every year fundraising in support of the maritime divisions of Philae Shriners (Nova Scotia and Prince Edwards Island). Since 2002, the Cape Breton Shrine Club has sent 30 children to the hospital's outreach clinic in Halifax of which eight were referred for treatment in Montreal.

When my journey began in 1994, it was with the help of the Philae Shriners that I was able to have access to the world-class care offered by the hospital. Without Philae Shriners and the hospital, it frightens me to think which path my treatment would have taken. I am very happy they came into my life when they did!

Congratulations Philae Shriners! |



Today, I am in the Science program and doing a major in Biology at Cape Breton University. I wish to pursue my studies in medical school and hope to someday work at Shriners to come full-circle.



## Bruce Shrine Club donates \$50,000 to purchase Urodynamic equipment –Mocha Shriners

Claudette Bilodeau, clinical nurse in the ambulatory clinic, made a presentation to the members of the Bruce Shrine Club of Mocha Shriners, to recognize their generous contribution and present the highly specialized piece of Urodynamic equipment that the nobles purchased. The equipment is used to help diagnose and track bladder disorders or issues in children with spina bifida, cerebral palsy and spinal cord injuries. |

Claudette Bilodeau, clinical nurse, accepts cheque on behalf of the hospital from Bruce Shrine Club representatives.

## Shriners International Personal Essay Contest

Help us commemorate the 140th of Shriners International by sharing your memories. The top three winners would be featured in a commemorative anniversary coffee table book and will be acknowledged at the 138th Imperial Session in Charlotte (North Carolina) in 2012.

Essays must be submitted to [shrinepr@shrinenet.org](mailto:shrinepr@shrinenet.org) by January 31st 2012. For a complete list of rules and guidelines, visit [www.ShrinersVillage.com](http://www.ShrinersVillage.com) or call 813.281.8162.

Shriners Hospitals  
for Children® – Canada

[www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org](http://www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org)

1-800-361-7256

