

Massey Grand Rounds 2017

It's an annual tradition, like Diwali or Ash Wednesday
Where health becomes, to Massey's mast, an academic mainstay
As we traverse some choppy waters, furl our jibs and haul our sails
Aboard the good ship Massey Grand Rounds, where the wind can howl like gales.

Our skipper Aubie Angel has a firm hand on the tiller
He's spent his life in search of means to stop folk getting "iller".
Anchored in experience and moored to current knowledge
There's no finer doc – without a "k" – afloat at Massey College.

His first mates in this narrative, a yarn that's tightly woven
Are two fine Junior Fellows, Peter Liu and Alex Koven.
The commander of the fleet, now OC from our Vice-Regal
Is the Officer and Gentleman a/k/a our own Hugh Segal.

First watch on our voyage required the chairing by a scholar –
And that was ably done by Dr. Barbara Sherwood Lollar.
We heard of the environment, of drugs and food and air;
The next time I inhale or eat, I'm going to say a prayer.

When it comes to what we breathe we can't afford to set the bar low

According to the knowledge shared by Dr. Susan Tarlow.

"Please, sir can I have some more?", begged Charles Dickens' Oliver;

"Yes, but no sugar-sweetened beverage" responded Thomas Wolever.

And of illicit drugs it seems things are not what they seem;

It's a complicated tale – and it's well told by Jurgen Rehm.

We took a pause from food for thought for that which can be eaten;

When it comes to sailors' rations, Massey College can't be beaten.

Fortified with nourishment, a quick trip to the loo

And soon we were refreshed and set to launch Grand Rounds Leg Two.

The focus now is context, i.e., life in the big city

Some live high in condo towers, others find a path more gritty.

While most lead a life quite peaceful, feeling healthy, singing bonnily

Others suffer due to violence, says Dr. Peter Donnelly.

One of the great scholars from the need-for-housing gang

Is the doctor and the advocate Professor Stephen Hwang.

He's marshalled all the evidence on which we can agree

It's harmful to your health to be en francais "sans abris".

We closed with talk of sugar in your blood and body weight
And how the built environment contributes beyond fate.
Where and how you live's the work of Professor Gillian Booth –
Health geography has made her quite the academic sleuth.

By this point in the proceedings, after five hours some did grouse
That sitting for so long meant not a dry seat in the house.
We then endured some doggerel, both juvenile and sassy
A denouement that ended one more fine Grand Rounds held at Massey.

“Ca suffit” we say in French; in Yiddish it's “genug”;
But before you go allow me to make just a little plug.
If today reflected news and views that pleased your mind and ear
Be sure to book in early for this gathering next year!

David S. Goldbloom OC, MD, FRCPC