



Specialist's move enhances rural medical training

As a career move, it was sufficiently unusual to be newsworthy. Dr. Graham Young, an internal medicine and cardiac specialist who practised in St. John's for 20 years, recently moved to Gander, Nfld., to continue his medical practice and teaching career. In a recent edition of *MumMed*, the newsletter published by Memorial University's medical school, Young said it is difficult to teach students proper attitudes toward rural medicine unless their teachers "have been there or are there."

Young spent 2 years in rural practice, and for the last 15 years spent in St. John's his practice has included monthly trips to Gander. His move to Gander will allow Memorial to provide teaching expertise for residents in a more rural location. "The hospital and board in Gander are very progressive, and my recreational activities have been oriented to the country," Young said. "I'm quite excited about the move — it's where I want to be."

New method allows increased fat removal during liposuction

Plastic surgeons at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Centre in Dallas are using a new liposuction method to remove fat — as much as 12 kg at a time — from patients. The university says ultrasound-assisted liposuction (UAL) uses high-frequency sound waves emitted by a hollow wand to liquefy fat cells, which are simultaneously suctioned out.

Because the fat is liquefied, larger amounts can be removed with less loss of blood and reduced bruising and pain. UAL also allows the plastic surgeon to contour the area being treated. The chair of the university's Department of Plastic Surgery, Dr. Rod Rohrich, believes UAL will become

the preferred method for liposuction in problem areas of the body where good results are difficult to obtain.

SIDS research grants available

The Canadian Foundation for the Study of Infant Deaths invites applications for grants for research into the causes, effects and/or prevention of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The 1-year awards may be renewed. The deadline for applications, which will be peer reviewed, is June 1; for details call the Foundation at 416 488-3260; fax 416 488-3864.

Illegal practice of medicine leads to large fine

A retired Lufthansa executive who treated cancer patients with juice and herbal tea has pleaded guilty to 28 counts of practising medicine illegally and been fined \$17 000. The *Ottawa Citizen* says the woman trained as a naturopath in Germany in the 1980s, then retired to Canada to run a spa northeast of Ottawa. A lawyer representing the Quebec College of Physicians, which laid the charges, told the court that 2 terminally ill cancer patients were told to go on a 6-week juice fast, then drink herbal tea; 5 other patients with chronic illnesses were told they had conditions such as mercury poisoning, liver problems or mineral deficiencies. The court heard that the defendant expected she would have no legal difficulty treating patients because a local physician referred people to her.

Think positive

Anesthetized patients who hear positive suggestions during abdominal hysterectomy may be less likely to suffer postoperative vomiting or retching episodes, Saudi Arabian anesthesiologists report. In a letter published in the *Canadian Journal of*

Anesthesiology (1997;44;2:227) researchers reported on emetic episodes in 50 patients recovering from abdominal hysterectomy. Half the patients received positive suggestions from a male voice via headphones while anesthetized; only a blank tape was played to the others. Of the 25 who heard the blank tape, 15 (60%) experienced vomiting and/or retching in the first 24 hours after surgery; emetic episodes were recorded for only 9 of 25 patients (36%) who heard positive suggestions. No one recalled hearing the audiotape, the researchers said.

Prison AIDS project focuses on peer education

A pilot project on peer education and support for AIDS at New Brunswick's Dorchester Federal Penitentiary has been adopted as a model for correctional facilities across Canada. In a report for Correctional Service Canada, writer Leslie Harrison said the CAN (Cons AIDS Network) program teaches peer education and support techniques to inmates, who in turn support and educate fellow inmates about AIDS and disease-prevention strategies. Concurrent initiatives at Dorchester included condom distribution, the launch of a newsletter, educational workshops and 1-on-1 prevention support.

The key to the program's success is its peer-education component, particularly because the spread of disease often involves illegal activities such as the injection of illicit drugs. Although some have suggested that there should be zero tolerance of drugs or sex in prison, an inmate who coordinates the Dorchester program told Harrison that to assume none of these activities takes place would be ridiculous. Peers understand the prison environment from the convict's perspective and know how to communicate within the setting.