



them for further study. "What's up in medical informatics?" (*CMAJ* 1997; 157[12]:1718-9), by Dr. R. Brian Haynes and associates, intrigued me, for I have a keen interest in this area. "Wrong answers at the wrong time?" (*CMAJ* 1997;157[12]:1726-7), by Dr. Raisa Deber, attracted me because it so clearly put into perspective the problems with regionalization.

Robert Janicki, MD

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Received by email

I enjoyed your Holiday Review 1997, but as a prospective neurologist I was disappointed that there was no update on neurology. Admittedly, other specialties were also absent, but the last 2 years have seen tremendous advances in this field. The introduction of tissue plasminogen activator for acute stroke therapy in the US (and soon, we hope, in Canada) and the arrival of new drugs to treat Alzheimer's disease and Parkinson's disease will dramatically change the ways thousands of patients are treated. A very much made-at-home story is the re-establishment of pallidotomy in the treatment of Parkin-

son's disease, by Lang and colleagues in Toronto.¹ New drugs for multiple sclerosis and epilepsy were released in 1997, and more are pending. The new migraine therapies that will be available soon promise better and safer relief than existing remedies.

Neurology is changing rapidly as better treatments come on stream. Your readers deserve to know!

Michael Hill, MD

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Received by email

Reference

1. Lang AE, Lozano AM, Montgomery E, et al. Posteroventral medial pallidotomy in advanced Parkinson's disease. *N Engl J Med* 1997;337:1036-42.

I am happy to see that *CMAJ* is finally noting the growing role of computers and medical informatics in the workplace, as evidenced by the article "What's up in medical informatics?" (*CMAJ* 1997;157[12]:1718-9), by R. Brian Haynes and associates. The article provided a basic introduction, something that many physicians need. As an experienced and long-time user, though, I found it disturb-

ing that the photo accompanying the article portrayed a group of health care professionals who appear to be interested in a benign card game. Is this the message we should be sending to readers about the importance of computers in our workplace?

Russell D. MacDonald, MD

Cambridge, Mass.
Received by email

[The editors reply:]

We thank Dr. Hill for his suggestion. He can expect a phone call next fall as we begin organizing our Holiday Review for 1998!

We suggested to authors participating in our inaugural Holiday Review that they keep their articles informative yet light, and we asked them to provide suitable artwork if possible. Personally, we are glad that Dr. Haynes and his colleagues got involved in the spirit of things with the particular photo they chose — and yes, there are 4 of them playing solitaire. If any readers took offence, it is not Dr. Haynes and his hard-working colleagues who are to blame. We editors accept full responsibility. ?