



Arthritis will create "crisis in health care"

Over the next 20 years, as 9.8 million Canadian baby boomers age, the number of people with arthritis is expected to increase by 50%, according to Arthritis 2000, a national forum involving more than 250 health care professionals and people with the disease. The forum met in Ottawa in April to release a comprehensive blueprint to take arthritis care, education, research and funding into the next century. Delegates agreed that action must be taken to avert a "crisis in health care that arthritis will create as we enter the new millennium."

The forum also released a Coopers & Lybrand survey of 1000 arthritis sufferers; highlights included:

- more than 60% of respondents reported they had developed arthritis after age 40;
- 81% said they seek treatment

from an FP, and only 50% consult a rheumatologist;

• other providers consulted for arthritis include orthopedic surgeons (23%), physiotherapists (17%) and chiropractors (8%);

• 62% of those who were dissatisfied with their treatment said "not getting any better" was their main source of concern.

Health-system conferences planned

The federal government and individual provinces plan to cohost 3 national conferences this year as part of efforts to sustain Canada's health care system. In making the announcement, Health Minister David Dingwall said "preserving and modernizing medicare will ensure that Canadians will continue to have access to comprehensive health care services in a system that is

adapted to the new millennium." Conferences involving pharmacare, home care and health information will be cohosted by the health ministers of Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Alberta respectively; details and dates are to be announced later.

Funding for HIV network extended

The federal government has extended stable funding for the Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN) from March 1998 to the year 2000. The announcement was welcomed by Dr. Martin Schechter, national director of the CTN, who thanked Health Minister David Dingwall for recognizing that clinical research "cannot be turned on and off like a tap."

The CTN also announced that it has entered into a large-scale international clinical research trial of 1300 HIV-positive volunteers (including

Farewell to a columnist

Dr. Douglas Waugh, who had written more than 120 columns for *CMAJ* since 1986, died Apr. 18, 1997, after a long battle with lung disease. He was 79.

He had resigned from writing his Vista column earlier in the year. "I guess you could say the well is dry," he said then. "I've run out of ideas." Shortly before his death, *CMAJ* editors visited his Ottawa home to present a Certificate of Appreciation for his work.

His column began appearing monthly in 1986, and during the next 10 years he wrote about topics both light and weighty, from the use of birth-control pills to stimulate plant

growth to the future of his specialty, pathology.

He will be remembered best for columns that went where few writers

dared venture, for Doug Waugh was never afraid to say what he thought and why he thought it. In one of his most moving pieces he discussed the prejudices rampant in his youth, including the views of his parents.

Then he wrote this: "Oh, times have indeed changed. We have learned to be subtle in concealing our biases. Political action based on them has become cleverly oblique, couched in politically correct language. And when we don't hire someone it's not, heaven forbid, because they're of a different colour or ethnic background. It's because they don't have 'Canadian experience.'"



On Apr. 9, 1997, Dr. Douglas Waugh (second left) received a Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Bruce Squires, *CMAJ*'s former editor-in-chief, as news and features editor Patrick Sullivan (left) and current editor-in-chief Dr. John Hoey looked on



400 Canadians) to compare 2 protease inhibitors: nelfinavir, which is an investigational agent under review in the US, and ritonavir, which is licensed for use in Canada.

Travel medicine guide published

Two officials of the International Society of Travel Medicine, in conjunction with Pasteur Mérieux Connaught, have written a travel medicine guide to help physicians give pre-travel health advice to their patients. *Emporiatrix: A handbook for health care professionals* was written by Dr. Jay Keystone, physician at the centre for Travel and Tropical Medicine at the Toronto Hospital, and Lisa Sawyer, a nurse health educator for Pasteur Mérieux Connaught. It provides current information on preventive measures and the epidemiology of travel-related illness to help physicians who

provide pre-travel consultations.

The first edition is being distributed to travel-medicine specialists across Canada; a revised edition, which will incorporate feedback from these clinics, will be more widely available. However, physicians now may order complimentary copies of a patient booklet with health tips for travellers, *The Travel Booster*; call 800 268-4171 or 416 667-2611.

LCDC wins award

The Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC) was awarded a World Health Day Award for strengthening the regional capacity for surveillance of emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The LCDC and the Pan American Health Organization are collaborating to implement a plan to respond to emerging infectious diseases throughout the western hemisphere, with the LCDC

contributing scientific expertise and resources to help develop response mechanisms throughout the hemisphere. The presentation was made by the American Association for World Health.

Ovarian cancer fund established

Patrick Boyer, author, teacher and former member of Parliament, is chairing a Genesis Research Foundation charity to raise awareness and money for ovarian cancer research in memory of his wife. During the next 3 years the Corinne Boyer Fund for Ovarian Cancer Research hopes to raise \$5 million for awareness campaigns and medical research, which will be based at Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto. Ovarian cancer kills 1500 Canadian women each year and is the fourth leading cause of cancer mortality among women.

Sometimes, he concluded, "I think back to those days in Winnipeg and to how little things have really changed."

More recently, he discussed the role of Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the American physician involved in many assisted suicides — he considered him a hero — as well as euthanasia, health care rationing and physician morale.

Waugh, who graduated from McGill in 1942, spent his early professional years in the army before being trained in pathology. Like so many physicians of that era, military experience had a major impact on his life. He returned to the topic in a column marking the 50th anniversary of VE-Day in May 1995, when he recalled spending May 8, 1945, in a little town in Germany. He had many memories from those times, he reported, but when VE-Day rolls around each year "I mostly remem-

ber other things . . . and thousands of young Canadians who never made it home with me."

After the war he practised pathology and then moved into the administrative field, first as dean of medicine at Queen's University and then as executive director of the Association of Canadian Medical Colleges. He was a senior member of the CMA, emeritus member of the Canadian Association of Pathologists and past president of the National Cancer Institute of Canada. He is survived by his wife, Sheila, and 3 brothers.

Dr. Bruce Squires, *CMAJ*'s editor-in-chief when most of Waugh's columns appeared, said his "vast experience" in different aspects of medicine made the columns possible. "The column also gave him the freedom to look at topics in entirely different ways."

Speaking to mourners during the

Apr. 22 funeral service in Ottawa, Squires said that even though he "didn't always agree with the sentiments Doug expressed in his columns, I was awed by his uncanny ability to cut through today's self-righteous political correctness to reveal ourselves as we really are."

Squires concluded that many columns "struck chords that were far deeper than [readers] necessarily wanted to go. That's probably why they caused such furor. Doug called himself a curmudgeon, but I rather think that, true to his training as a pathologist, identifying the absolute truths was his real goal. Thank you, Doug."

As the editor who handled his columns, I'm going to miss working with a lively and daring writer who took me down many new roads. *CMAJ* readers will miss him too. — Patrick Sullivan, *News and Features Editor*