



to practise in underserved parts of Nova Scotia during their senior residency years. The Professional Association of Residents in the Maritime Provinces (PARI-MP), the Department of Health and the College of Physicians and Surgeons of NS have worked out an agreement that permits residents in their final 2 years of specialty training or final 6 months of family medicine to apply for the licence. Residents in specialty programs who meet certain training requirements in their first 2 years of

training may also be able to provide family practice and emergency department coverage.

After meeting certain criteria, residents in specialties will practise in a supervised setting, while family medicine residents will work without a supervisor. "Residents are pleased that they will be able to gain experience in their specialty and provide relief to physicians," said Dr. Colleen O'Connell of PARI-MP. "It's also a great way for us to supplement our income." Dalhousie residents are paid

about 20% less than the national average during their training.

Information session on Physicians' Charter planned

The CMA will hold an information session on a Physicians' Charter during the August annual meeting in Victoria. The Board of Directors approved a working draft of the charter in May and decided an information session would provide more input from members.

The board will also recommend that General Council extend the deadline for completion of the charter so that comments and suggestions from the information session can be considered in preparing the final document. If the new timetable is approved the final version will be presented to General Council at the 1998 meeting in Whitehorse. The charter project began with a resolution passed at the 1996 annual meeting in Sydney, NS.

OMA gives nod to 4 new sections

Complementary medicine is one of 4 new groups given probationary status by the Ontario Medical Association. It entitles a group to receive a small budget and administrative support, and is granted when physicians sharing a common interest have filed suitable objectives and acquired written support from at least 50 OMA members. The other new sections cover sleep disorders, GP psychotherapy and chronic pain.

New journal covers gay, lesbian health care

The *Journal of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association* made its debut in March as the world's first peer-reviewed, multidisciplinary journal dedicated to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered health. The quarterly

"Acrobot" capable of delicate knee surgery

London Press Services



British scientists have developed a robot that can help surgeons perform delicate knee operations quickly and safely. The "Acrobot" can be programmed to cut within a precisely defined area that corresponds to a scan of the patient's knee taken before the operation. It is linked to a rotating cutter that the surgeon uses to excavate the area; the cutter only works within predetermined limits, preventing damage to healthy tissue. The robotic knee surgeon was invented at London's Imperial College of Science Technology and Medicine, which also developed the world's first robot for prostate surgery, now on trial at Guy's Hospital in London.