



## Tobacco-industry lobbyist retains seat on hospital foundation

In spite of complaints from cancer agencies, the board of the Women's College Hospital Foundation in Toronto has decided to retain Robert Parker as a member; Parker is president of the Canadian Tobacco Manufacturers Council. The board unanimously decided that Parker should remain a member because of his ability, commitment and concern for women's health.

The Canadian Cancer Society, supported by other health organizations including the Ontario Medical Association, had complained that having the tobacco advocate on the board sent the wrong message about women's health care. Tobacco causes about 90% of all lung cancer, which is the

leading cause of cancer mortality in women and a major cause of heart disease, the major killer of Canadian women. Dr. Andrew Pipe of Physicians for a Smoke-free Canada told the *Globe and Mail* that the foundation's decision to appoint Parker to its board was "hopelessly misguided."

## Growth-hormone surveillance program continues

The Canadian Growth Hormone Advisory Committee is continuing its surveillance of patients who were treated with pituitary-derived growth hormone (GH) during childhood. To date, no cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) related to the hormone have been reported in Canada, Japan or Australia. Since 1985, when CJD was reported in young adults

who had received GH, more than 70 cases have been reported worldwide, notably in France (40), the United Kingdom (15) and the US (15).

In an advisory notice sent to *CMAJ*, committee chair Dr. Heather Dean noted that since 1988 more than 45 cases of leukemia have been reported in children and young adults treated with GH; 2 of the cases involved Canadians. Pseudotumour cerebri has also been reported worldwide in association with early GH therapy, most often in children with chronic renal failure, Turner's syndrome or GH deficiency with obesity; 4 of these cases have been reported in Canada. Physicians who note any unexplained neurologic or hematologic changes in persons previously treated with GH are asked to contact Dean at the University of Manitoba, 204 787-4553 or 787-7435.

## Let the (medical) games begin

There's still time to register for the 18th annual World Medical Games, to be held June 28-July 5 in Le Touquet Paris-Plage, France, a resort town on the English Channel about 80 km from Paris. More than 1800 practising physicians, final-year medical students and other medical professionals from more than 25 countries are expected to attend the "Medical Olympics." They will witness opening and closing ceremonies and medal presentations, and receive CME credits.

There are 23 sporting events, including basketball, cycling, fencing, soccer, golf, swimming, windsurfing, tennis and mountain biking. Joseph Del Monte of Velia Travel Service, the North American contact for the games, says most events

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are organized in 5 age categories. In addition to the sporting events there will be symposia on medicine and sports, which are eligible for up

to 30 hours of American Medical Association category 1 CME credits. Further information is available from Velia Travel, 617 321-6500.