



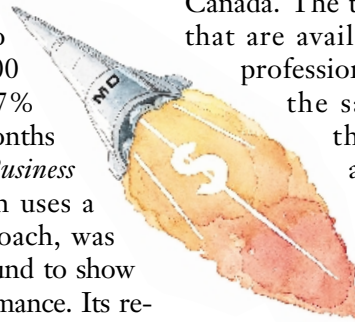
Whyllie made the comments as the NCIC and CCS released a report on the impact health care reform is having on cancer control and cancer-related services. About 130 000 Canadians will be diagnosed with cancer this year and some 60 000 will die. In calling for a national strategy, the report noted that even though the provinces are responsible for health care in Canada, a common framework concerning cancer should be developed. The report was produced following a meeting last March. That workshop, the first of its kind in Canada, brought together representatives from governments, cancer agencies and people with cancer, and produced 11 recommendations. For additional information call the CCS, 416 961-7223 x319, x318.

Heady days for MD Management

MD Management's Canadian Equity Fund is 1 of only 3 such funds with assets of more than \$1 billion to exceed the Toronto Stock Exchange's 300 Index return of 15.7% during the first 7 months of 1997. *Report on Business* said the fund, which uses a multi-manager approach, was the only diversified fund to show above-average performance. Its return for the first 7 months was 17.7%.

In August *RoB* reported that

MD Management now controls more than 90% of the "affinity market" for mutual funds in Canada. The term refers to funds that are available only through professional associations. In the same issue, it said that the MD Balanced Fund ranked eighth among similarly sized funds in terms of returns during the first 7 months of 1997, with a return of 16%; the industry average was 12.1%.



In the news . . .

All of the responsibility, none of the control

Jobs in which employees have little or no control of their work are known to be bad for morale, but now researchers have found that they are a risk factor for heart disease as well (*Lancet* 1997;350:231-2,5-9). A longitudinal study of British civil servants has shown an inverse relation between grade of employment and death from heart disease, only one-quarter of which could be explained by socioeconomic status and lifestyle factors. The study puts paid to the notion of the stressed-out executive who gets heart disease.

Too much of a good thing

Physicians at a bone-disease service in the US recently saw 4 patients with osteoporosis caused by taking too much vitamin D (*Ann Intern Med* 1997;127:203-6). The patients

had been taking dietary supplements containing high levels of vitamin D, which caused mobilization of skeletal calcium and hypercalciuria. Once the supplements were discontinued, blood levels of vitamin D, urine levels of calcium and bone mineral density returned to normal.

Impaired by fatigue

Researchers looking at psychomotor performance, a measure of hand-to-eye coordination, have found that a person who has not slept in 17 hours is as "impaired" as a person under the influence of alcohol and over the legal limit for driving in many countries (*Nature* 1997;388:235).

How transmissible is mad cow disease?

Laboratory studies of bovine spongiform encephalopathy and a similar disease of sheep, scrapie, have led researchers to believe that their ability to affect humans following exposure

is low (*Nature* 1997;388:285). The studies looked at how easily the prion proteins convert to the disease form, a step believed essential in the development of both diseases. The efficiency of conversion is correlated with the known transmissibility of these diseases.

I don't remember, I don't recall

Remembering episodes from everyday life and remembering factual knowledge depend on different parts of the brain, according to a study of patients with amnesia (*Science* 1997;277:376-80). Three patients with brain injury affecting the hippocampus had pronounced amnesia concerning events but were able to attend regular schools and achieve average levels of speech and language competence, literacy and factual knowledge. This means that episodic memory depends fully on the hippocampus, whereas semantic memory depends on other areas of the brain.