



## Your Editorial Board: Dr. Paul Armstrong

Dr. Paul W. Armstrong of Edmonton is one of Canada's leading cardiologists. A 1966 graduate of Queen's University, he is professor and chair of medicine at the University of Alberta.

### Who was your most influential teacher?

Dr. John Parker of Queen's University, who transfected me with the zeal for clinical investigation.

### What aspect of your work gives you the most pleasure?

Caring for patients, searching for new knowledge that will enhance better patient care and influencing the career development of faculty and physicians in training who share the same ideals.

### What research paper has had the most influence on your career?

Scientific basis for the support of biomedical science, by Julius H. Comroe Jr. and Robert D. Dripps [*Science* 1976;192:105-11].

### What is your favourite pastime?

Bareboating in the Caribbean or South Pacific.

### What book did you last read?

*Rebel in a Frock Coat: the Biography of Edouard Manneet.*

### What alternative profession would you have liked to pursue?

Journalism.

### What illness do you fear most?

Metastatic carcinoma.

### What complementary therapies have you tried?

Exercise.

### What advice do you have for a young physician?

Be the best that you can. Stay curious. Contribute, work

hard and use your talents and knowledge vigorously. Make a difference.

### What was your biggest mistake?

Failing to influence adequately the process and speed with which health care reform came to Alberta and affected the care of patients and the destiny of academic medicine.

### What was your biggest achievement?

Contributing to the building and development of an academic Division of Cardiology at St. Michael's Hospital, University of Toronto.

### What make and year of car do you drive?

A 1998 Nissan Maxima.

### Anything else?

My wife, Beverley, and I have enjoyed 31 years of marriage. Our 2 children are global citizens. Lisa, 27, has a degree in anthropology from McGill and a master's degree from the University of Guelph in Ontario, and is an Agha Khan international fellow on assignment in India. Kevin, 24, graduated from my alma mater with an English degree and is currently circumnavigating the Pacific as crew on an 80-foot yacht.



## Waiting lists not increasing, Manitoba says

Manitobans are not facing increasing waits for 8 nonemergency surgical procedures, provincial researchers have concluded. The study, by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy and Evaluation, involved cholecys-

tectomies, hernia repair, tonsillectomy, breast tumours, varicose veins, carpal tunnel release, carotid endarterectomy and prostate removal. The researchers did note that wait times for some key procedures and diagnostic tests were not included in the study because they would have required a different methodology.

"Some of these procedures [we studied] are easily delayed, so if access was a problem one could expect very long waits for them," the researchers concluded. "However, over the past 5 years median waiting times remained stable or fell slightly for all but 2 of the procedures, varicose vein repair and carpal tunnel release."