



OMA, CMA trailblazer retires

Dr. Carole Guzmán, a trailblazer for women physicians who has a passionate interest in the evolution of Canada's health care system, retired in May after spending more than 6 years as the CMA's associate secretary general.

She served the organization for 20 years, beginning as a committee member in 1979 and becoming a board alternate in 1984 and a board member in 1988. She was president of the Ontario Medical Association in 1989, and 2 years later assumed the

CMA presidency. Guzmán was the second woman to head both these organizations. She was also president of the Federation of Medical Women of Canada from 1981 to 1983.

Guzmán, who graduated from the University of Toronto in 1958, is an internist specializing in pulmonary disease. She did research and practised rehabilitation medicine at Ottawa's National Defence Medical Centre for 22 years. She also developed a care model for patients with chest disease that is still used today. In 1992 she quit her practice to assume the CMA post, but she continued to teach at the University of Ottawa.

Guzmán became involved in organized medicine because she felt the profession was being "assaulted" by politicians, economists and others. She vowed to help improve the environment so that "physicians could do what they were trained to do." She adds that "the profession has a role in helping society make decisions."

In retirement, she plans to pursue her hobbies and volunteer work and spend more time with her family; her husband, Tony, is a neurologist, and her first grandchild was born in June. She still plans to do limited consulting in health policy and professional issues. — *Barbara Sibbald CMAJ*



Barbara Sibbald

Dr. Carole Guzmán: time to relax

Make technology work for you

The new *Alberta Doctor's Guide to Office Automation* offers physicians practical advice on using computers to enhance patient care. The 28-page booklet, produced by the Alberta Medical Association, provides an overview of software, the Internet and email, electronic patient records, levels of automation, implementation and cost.

AMA President Rowland Nichol says office automation has become "an

invaluable part of ensuring consistent, ongoing quality patient care." Possible applications include monitoring for drug interactions and patient recalls, supporting clinical care, conducting literature searches and making charts more legible and comprehensive. The guide is free to the AMA's 5700 members; others may purchase it for \$10 (plus shipping, handling and tax) by calling 780 482-2626 or by contacting ama_mail@amda.ab.ca.

MDs needed to cope with "extreme brutality" in Sudan

The African Medical Association of Scandinavia (AMAS) is making a special appeal for aid for the western and eastern parts of Sudan. Some 2 million people are affected by the "bloody and protracted conflict in Sudan," states the association, which is seeking voluntary health care workers, medicine, medical equipment and cash contributions. "There is compelling evidence of attempts to ethnically cleanse the Nuba peoples from this region. . . . These people are totally helpless in the face of extreme brutality."

AMAS is particularly concerned about the "total lack of state institutions" in Sudan. In the Nuba Mountains, for example, there are 2 German "housemen [not fully qualified] doctors" working in "extremely primitive conditions." They are providing care for about 500 000 civilians widely dispersed over 7 counties. There is no vaccination program and no sanitation or clean-water projects.

AMAS is planning a 5-part project that includes improved sanitation, creation of a piped water supply, a comprehensive vaccination program, nutrition education and primary and emergency health care. Specific initiatives will include sending 1 doctor to each of the 2 regions, training volunteers to provide vaccination, clean water and sanitation, training traditional midwives in family planning and providing food.

AMAS was established in 1991 and has 109 members, 29 of African descent. It hopes to act as soon as possible. "It is after all a matter of life for tens of thousands of people," the organization said in a letter to CMA President Allon Reddoch.

AMAS is a registered charity. For information contact AMAS, PO Box 511, S-581 06 Linköping, Sweden; dr.a.kangoum@ebox.tninet.se.