



Arthritis will create "crisis in health care"

Over the next 20 years, as 9.8 million Canadian baby boomers age, the number of people with arthritis is expected to increase by 50%, according to Arthritis 2000, a national forum involving more than 250 health care professionals and people with the disease. The forum met in Ottawa in April to release a comprehensive blueprint to take arthritis care, education, research and funding into the next century. Delegates agreed that action must be taken to avert a "crisis in health care that arthritis will create as we enter the new millennium."

The forum also released a Coopers & Lybrand survey of 1000 arthritis sufferers; highlights included:

- more than 60% of respondents reported they had developed arthritis after age 40;
- 81% said they seek treatment

from an FP, and only 50% consult a rheumatologist;

- other providers consulted for arthritis include orthopedic surgeons (23%), physiotherapists (17%) and chiropractors (8%);

- 62% of those who were dissatisfied with their treatment said "not getting any better" was their main source of concern.

Health-system conferences planned

The federal government and individual provinces plan to cohost 3 national conferences this year as part of efforts to sustain Canada's health care system. In making the announcement, Health Minister David Dingwall said "preserving and modernizing medicare will ensure that Canadians will continue to have access to comprehensive health care services in a system that is

adapted to the new millennium." Conferences involving pharmacare, home care and health information will be cohosted by the health ministers of Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia and Alberta respectively; details and dates are to be announced later.

Funding for HIV network extended

The federal government has extended stable funding for the Canadian HIV Trials Network (CTN) from March 1998 to the year 2000. The announcement was welcomed by Dr. Martin Schechter, national director of the CTN, who thanked Health Minister David Dingwall for recognizing that clinical research "cannot be turned on and off like a tap."

The CTN also announced that it has entered into a large-scale international clinical research trial of 1300 HIV-positive volunteers (including

Farewell to a columnist

Dr. Douglas Waugh, who had written more than 120 columns for *CMAJ* since 1986, died Apr. 18, 1997, after a long battle with lung disease. He was 79.

He had resigned from writing his Vista column earlier in the year. "I guess you could say the well is dry," he said then. "I've run out of ideas." Shortly before his death, *CMAJ* editors visited his Ottawa home to present a Certificate of Appreciation for his work.

His column began appearing monthly in 1986, and during the next 10 years he wrote about topics both light and weighty, from the use of birth-control pills to stimulate plant

growth to the future of his specialty, pathology.

He will be remembered best for columns that went where few writers

dared venture, for Doug Waugh was never afraid to say what he thought and why he thought it. In one of his most moving pieces he discussed the prejudices rampant in his youth, including the views of his parents.

Then he wrote this: "Oh, times have indeed changed. We have learned to be subtle in concealing our biases. Political action based on them has become cleverly oblique, couched in politically correct language. And when we don't hire someone it's not, heaven forbid, because they're of a different colour or ethnic background. It's because they don't have 'Canadian experience.'"



On Apr. 9, 1997, Dr. Douglas Waugh (second left) received a Certificate of Appreciation from Dr. Bruce Squires, *CMAJ*'s former editor-in-chief, as news and features editor Patrick Sullivan (left) and current editor-in-chief Dr. John Hoey looked on