

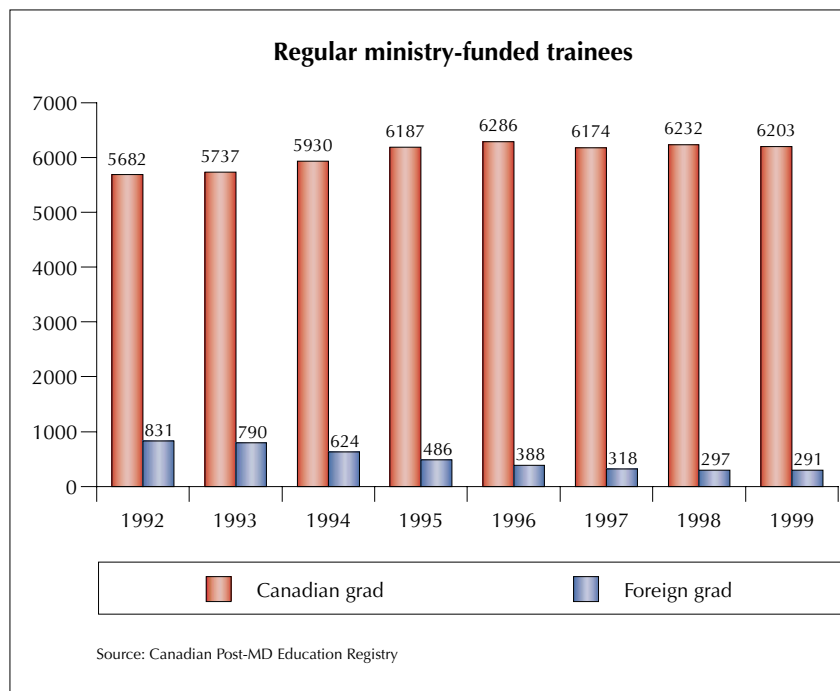
Pulse

Trainees sponsored by foreign governments fill growing share of residency slots

Most postgraduate training positions in Canada are funded by provincial ministries of health. Although graduates of Canadian medical schools fill most of these, some spots are taken by graduates of foreign schools who are permanent residents of Canada.

Visa trainees from other countries are also accepted into Canada's postgraduate training programs, but they are usually funded by their home

6674 to 6494, a 3% decline. The downward pressure on the government-funded positions has led to fewer opportunities for graduates of foreign medical schools who are permanent residents of Canada. The number of Canadian medical graduates in training dropped by 1% between 1996 and 1999, while the number of trainees who were graduates of foreign medical schools and also permanent residents of



country. Most of these physicians return home after completing their training. The latest census of residents in training found that the number of visa trainees funded by their home country — Saudi Arabia is an example — has increased by almost 50% in the last 5 years, from 435 in 1994 to 646 in 1999.

Meanwhile, between 1996 and 1999 the number of trainees funded by governments in Canada decreased from

Canada decreased by 25%. The size of the latter group has declined steadily, from 831 in 1992 to 291 in 1999.

Since the fall of 1999, provincial governments have increased the number of funded postgraduate entry positions by 74, a change that took effect this year. They will add another 40 positions in 2001–2. In Ontario, 12 of the new positions have been allocated to the international medical graduate program. — *Lynda Buske*, buskel@cma.ca

Fellowship targets women with family responsibilities

A new fellowship designed to make research opportunities more attractive to women with family responsibilities has been launched by the Toronto-based Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Funded by a \$450 000 grant from Eli Lilly Canada, the fellowship was created “to meet the needs of women investigators who are combining family responsibilities and careers, since the majority of existing fellowships do not offer this type of flexibility.”

The first winner is Dr. Pier Bryden, who is investigating anorexia nervosa and bulimia in young girls. Bryden says the fellowship she received is “unique in its acknowledgement of the challenges encountered by female professionals attempting to juggle clinical, research, financial and familial obligations. It has allowed me to pursue my research and clinical work part time and have a family.”

The deadline to apply for next year's fellowship is Feb. 1, 2001. For information, call 416 535-8501, x4683.

MRI machine to hit the road in northern NB

What do you do when you can't afford to put 3 MRI machines in northeastern New Brunswick? Simple. You get one machine and ferry it between 3 different sites. Under the plan, 3 regional hospital corporations will pay \$250 000 each to construct temporary docking stations for the machine, while the province will pay annual operating and transportation costs of \$875 000. A mobile MRI was already travelling between Moncton and Saint John. Because those cities are now installing fixed MRI machines, the mobile one will be transferred to northeastern New Brunswick, with service expected to start early in 2001.