



for about 28 years, I am faced with many situations in which unnecessary confusion concerning drugs arises. Surely in this era of computerization it cannot be that difficult to include more useful information, such as that suggested by Doyle, on labels of prescription drug bottles. I would also add the expiry date of the drug, which the pharmacist can easily obtain from the drug's original container.

Perhaps the most useful recommendation is to include the generic name, perhaps in an abbreviated form, as well as the strength, on each tablet or capsule. This would be useful because many patients transfer medications to different containers. There are few more frustrating times in my office than those involving a new elderly patient with a pill dispenser filled with pills and capsules of every size, shape and colour!

Because our population is aging, meaning we will see an increase in "polypharmacy," I am certain that we could avoid numerous adverse drug-induced reactions through better drug and container labelling. I sincerely hope there is enough communication between the pharmaceutical

companies, physicians and pharmacists to begin to address these vital issues. Action is long overdue.

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Entering medical school means pursuing all options

In the article "After rejection in Canada, more Canadians pursuing career dreams at offshore medical schools" (*Can Med Assoc J* 1997;156:865-70), Milan Korcok conveys my experience in applying to medical school in Canada. Put into the proper context, my story is very similar to that of many students who apply to Canadian schools. It is true that I have previously applied to McMaster University, the University of Ottawa and the University of Western Ontario and have been unsuccessful. However, the article did not mention that I have only once submitted an application to the Ontario Medical School Application Service (OMSAS) and at the time had not even written

the Medical College Admission Test. For that reason and others — for example, a lack of community involvement — my original application to OMSAS was weak.

My current focus is completing my doctorate. Once that is done, I plan to reapply to McMaster, Ottawa and Western, as well to the University of Toronto, Queen's University and several other schools across the country. I anticipate more success. As far as not being admitted to medical school on first application is concerned, my experiences seem to be normal. An application to Ross University in Dominica is only one of the many options I have decided to pursue.

Korcok's article stresses perseverance and determination. Pursuing all options, whether at home or abroad, is a natural progression in striving to reach one's goals. The opportunity to attend medical school in Canada has in no way been exhausted for me.

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