



Prostate cancer forum issues call for action

A Toronto oncologist says Canadian men have united on an issue that represents a looming crisis — prostate cancer. Dr. Neill Iscoe, who participated in the May release of recommendations from the National Prostate Cancer Forum, said the incidence of prostate cancer has been rising by 5.3% annually since 1985 and represents “a human and financial burden that we can no longer shoulder.”

The forum cited data that prostate cancer already costs Canadians more than \$250 million annually in lost productivity and immeasurable costs in suffering. It recommended that funding bodies earmark more money for prostate cancer research and ran-

domized control trials. Advocacy, communication and patient support are also recommended.

More Ontario MDs wired

E-mail is becoming a popular way for physicians to keep in touch with their CMA divisions. *CMAJ* recently reported that about 20% of Alberta physicians were receiving electronic correspondence from the Alberta Medical Association. Now *Ontario Medical Review* reports that in the first 4 months of 1997 more than 1100 physicians signed on to the Ontario Medical Association's e-mail network, bringing to 3300 the number of physicians who receive the latest updates on negotiations, government relations, breaking news and current

events via electronic communication — at virtually no cost to the association. The number of physicians linked to the OMA fax and e-mail information network exceeds 11 300 — a healthy 56% of the 20 274 members.

Travel health information available from Health Canada

How current is your travel health information? Health Canada has prepared documents to help health care professionals provide up-to-date pretravel advice to patients. Included is information on drug therapy and other topics of interest to family physicians and others concerned with the prevention of travel-related illness.

Prepared by the Committee to Advise on Tropical Medicine and Travel (CATMAT), the documents are available through:

- the FAXLINK service of the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control (LCDC), 613 941-3900;
- the LCDC's Internet site, www.hwc.ca/hpb/lcdc; or
- mail order: for a reprint package of the CATMAT documents send \$9.95 (includes shipping and handling) to the Canadian Public Health Association Health Resources Centre, 400-1565 Carling Ave., Ottawa, ON K1Z 8R1; 613 725-3769; fax 613 725-9826.

Cancer patients urged to inform MDs of pain

The Canadian Cancer Society (CCS) and Canadian Palliative Care Association have launched a poster campaign to encourage

cancer patients to talk to physicians about pain management. The 4-colour poster, suitable for waiting rooms, encourages patients not to mask pain but to communicate with physicians and nurses so that their pain can be effectively relieved and managed.

“The first step to pain relief is for the patient to tell others, especially health care professionals, how they feel,” Dr. Neil Hagen, chair of the CCS's National Medical Advisory Committee, stated in a news release. “We hope this new poster will prompt patients to start talking and will remind professionals to do their utmost to encourage patients to report pain.” Supported by a grant from Janssen-Ortho Inc., the campaign got under way during National Palliative Care Week in May. Details about the poster are available from any provincial division of the CCS.



Fringe party preaches prevention

Although the Natural Law Party (NLP) received little voter attention during the recent federal election campaign, its prevention-based ap-