



appeared on my television screen to explain what he called the decline in medicine's 'professional image.' Our problem, it seems, is that we no longer 'radiate success.' For a moment I hoped — although in vain — he would suggest that we follow the advice of Dr. Samuel Johnson: 'A successful doctor needs 3 things. A top hat to give him authority; a paunch to give him dignity, and piles to give him an anxious expression.'"

## England's 800-year-old hospital will live on

St. Bartholomew's, London's 800-year-old hospital, is to stay open after all. Following 6 years of campaigning, the oldest hospital in the city and the home base for one of the world's most famous medical schools is not closing. Instead, it is to become a specialist centre for oncology and cardiology; its accident and emergency department, the focus of much of the campaigning, will remain closed.

The announcement was made Feb. 4 by Frank Dobson, Britain's secretary of state for health. He accepted in full recommendations contained in a London strategy review, which he commissioned last June immediately after the new Labour government was elected.

Development of Bart's sister hospital, the Royal London — it used to be known simply as "the London" — is being reduced from the proposed 1200 beds to 900. The trust responsible for the hospitals had argued in favour of closing Bart's because of the savings that would be realized by operating from a single site. News of the reprieve earned a surprisingly muted response, and news reports surrounding the announcement were, for the most part, hidden away on newspapers' back pages.

Four other hospitals, including University College (UCH) and the Middlesex, are being replaced by a single 640-bed hospital. Sited next to

UCH, it will be complete by 2005. The hospitals already operate as a single trust and individual departments were combined several years ago.

Proposals for the Guy's and St. Thomas's Hospital Trust place casualty and medical and surgical services at the St. Thomas site, with nonemergency work being relegated to Guy's. — © *Caroline Richmond*

## Canada's first female aboriginal psychiatrist honoured

Dr. Cornelia Wieman was 1 of 15 native men and women honoured with a National Aboriginal Achievement Award this month. Wieman, who graduated from McMaster University in 1993, has developed several psychiatric outreach programs, including a crisis intervention team at Ontario's Cape Croker First Nation and a geriatric program at Ontario's Wikwemikong First Nation. Wieman, 33, holds a bachelor of science in kinesiology and a master's degree in biomechanics from the University of Waterloo. She is currently completing a psychiatry fellowship at McMaster.

Past medicine-related recipients of the awards include kidney transplant

specialist Martin Gale McLoughlin, thoracic surgeon Noah Carpenter and Dalhousie University medical student Robert Johnson, Jr.

## Sexual minorities report slams health system

A report by the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Rights in Ontario claims that the province's health and social-service systems discriminate against the "sexual minorities" formed by lesbians, gay men and others. Project Affirmation, which was funded by Health Canada, studied survey results from 1233 respondents who described their experiences with the health and social-service systems. The final report says the results point to "systemic failure."

"There are stories ranging from unbelievable ignorance, insensitivity and hostility down to institutional stonewalling and incompetence. The system has failed this population by failing to provide appropriate service."

The report said discrimination takes 2 main forms. Systemic discrimination is characterized by service-intake forms that assume heterosexuality, training that routinely omits discussion of the needs of les-

## Anniversary of Nobel Prize for insulin marked by Mint



Shortly after announcing that it would release its first coin featuring a Canadian physician, the Royal Canadian Mint has decided to honour 2 more doctors. To mark the 75th anniversary of the receipt of the Nobel Prize for Physiology and

Medicine by Drs. Frederick Banting and John Macleod, the Mint is releasing a \$100 gold coin that features a design by Robert Ralph Carmichael, who designed the loon that appears on Canada's \$1 coin. The new coin features figures inspired by those appearing on the Nobel Prize itself. The mint's first medicine-inspired coin honours Dr. Norman Bethune. That \$5 silver coin involves a joint project with a Chinese mint. Information is available from the Mint, 800 267-1871 (Canada) and 800 268-6468 (US).