



# Plush room for new moms raises cash for hospital

New mothers just out of labour and delivery are lining up to stay in a room that looks more like a hotel suite than a hospital room. Today, just months after opening the "Victorian Room," officials at the McMaster University Medical Centre in Hamilton are so pleased with the results that they may redecorate a second bedroom. And the fact that the bedroom brings in some extra cash for nurse training and development is a bonus that has everyone smiling.

Sue Smith, the director of obstetrics and gynecology, first saw a specially decorated ward room at an American hospital. When a grateful Hamilton-area woman said she wanted to donate a gift to the hospital as a memorial to her husband and to recognize the care

her daughter and 2 grandsons had received, the room became reality.

The burgundy-coloured bedroom, with double bed, comfortable chairs, *en suite* bathroom and a television, costs \$50 daily for a patient with private coverage. "We've tried to keep it in line with what it would cost for a nice arrangement of flowers or a gift basket," Smith says. "We think its a nice gift for people to give to a friend or relative."

The creative use of the room is just another example of new ideas flooding into hospitals because of government cutbacks. "It's important to staff morale and expertise that they keep constantly up to date," says Smith. "It's kind of neat because you are achieving the ends you have to [achieve] for the sake of dollars, and at the same time the pa-



tient is very happy with the way you've achieved it. It's a nice compromise."

Because the birthing process is something mothers cannot book ahead, the room cannot be booked early either. "We let mothers-to-be know about it early and when they come into labour and delivery, they can fill out a card requesting use of the room," Smith says. It's available on a first-come, first-served basis.

The room's success has Smith and hospital officials eyeing other possibilities. "I can see a special room for our short-stay people," Smith mused. — © Ken Kilpatrick

## We have a WINNER!

Congratulations to Dr. Ian Hopkins of Edmonton, winner of our first OSLER contest (see Green D. Osler marks first birthday with contest. *CMAJ* 1999;160[6]:873). He will receive the book *This is our Work: the Legacy of Sir William Osler*, by Ted Grant. This is an appropriate year for the contest, since 1999 marks both the first birthday of the CMA's immensely popular OSLER (Ovid Search: Link to Electronic Resources) service and the 150th anniversary of Sir William Osler's birth. In just 1 year, the member-only service has attracted 4500 registered users, or almost 10% of all CMA members.

In our contest, we asked users to provide the **Unique Identifier** number attached to the only article in the MEDLINE database written about 2 famous physicians — Osler and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. The correct answer was this reference: Key JD, Rodin AE. William Osler and Arthur Conan Doyle versus the antivivisectionists: some lessons from history for today. *Mayo Clin Proc* 1984;59(3): 189-96; 84166571.

To find it, select MEDLINE 1966-99. Type William Osler into the **Keyword Box**, hit enter, and then tick it where it appears at the bottom of the list of mapped terms. This creates one set of references that mention William Osler in the title or abstract. Repeat the process with the name Arthur Conan Doyle. Combine the sets by typing 1 and 2 into the Keyword Box, and you will have the winning citation.

Hopkins, an anesthetist, was delighted to have his name pulled from a large pile of entries. "I still use OSLER frequently, and find it very helpful in my work."

Details about another OSLER challenge will appear in an On\_the\_Net column later this year, but be warned: the next search will be more demanding. — *Deidre Green*, OSLER support librarian, CMA

## Huge variations in access to home care

Governments need to inject \$700 million into home care services to ensure equal access for every Canadian, a University of Toronto study indicates. Peter Coyte, codirector of the university's new Home Care Evaluation and Research Centre, found that all provinces except Newfoundland need significantly more funding to match Ontario's home-care spending. Quebec, for instance, would have to double its funding, and Alberta and BC would require a 50% increase. Even though the \$700-million projection represents a 30% increase in total home-care funding, it would still account for less than 1% of total health expenditures.