

zens and made hospitals and ambulances into targets by hiding gunmen within hospitals and terrorists within ambulances. There are also many examples of Israel's efforts to treat Palestinians in Israeli hospitals and to facilitate aid to Gaza.

Although I appreciate that *CMAJ* publishes articles on global health issues, it is important to me, as a reader and former editorial board member, that the Journal does not present inaccurate, biased or one-sided views that will mislead readers. I object to the use of the pages of *CMAJ* to promulgate political opinion rather than to provide balanced information and education for the readership.

Carol P. Herbert MD

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Competing interests: None declared.

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1. Mason C. Gaza's health care system crippled before — and after. *CMAJ* 2009;180:608-9.
2. Dumont F. Dispatch from the medical front: on the ground in the Gaza Strip. *CMAJ* 2009;180:610.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1090024

The editors respond:

The preceding letters are representative of the approximately 275 letters that *CMAJ* received following the publication of a recent News article¹ and Dispatch from the Medical Front.²

As with previous articles that *CMAJ* has published about health issues in war zones,³ neither article forayed into geopolitical debate about the root causes of the conflict. In keeping with this policy, the News article primarily quoted sources from international aid organizations, while the Dispatch was a first-hand, front-line account by a staff member of Médecins Sans Frontières, which was providing humanitarian aid and medical treatment in Gaza. In retrospect, publishing 2 articles on this subject in 1 issue, albeit normal in

news organizations, may have made it appear that *CMAJ* was taking an editorial position on the Arab–Israeli conflict. This is certainly not the case.

We have now received, and will soon publish, several Dispatch articles with interesting perspectives on the health-related consequences of the Middle East conflict in Israel.

Wayne Kondro MA

News Editor

Barbara Sibbald BJ

Deputy Editor, News and Humanities

Paul C. Hébert MD MHSc

Editor-in-Chief, *CMAJ*

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1. Mason C. Gaza's health care system crippled before — and after. *CMAJ* 2009;180:608-9.
2. Dumont F. Dispatch from the medical front: on the ground in the Gaza Strip. *CMAJ* 2009;180:610.
3. Mason C. Emergency medical response strategy

proved critical to sustaining Georgia's health infrastructure. *CMAJ* 2009;179:762-3.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.090768

Correction

In a recent article on the efficacy of pneumococcal vaccination in adults,¹ the second sentence of the Contributors statement at the end of the article should have read “Anke Huss and Pippa Scott contributed equally to the paper, completed the literature search, extracted the data and performed the data analysis.”

REFERENCE

1. Huss A, Scott P, Stuck AE, et al. Efficacy of pneumococcal vaccination in adults: a meta-analysis. *CMAJ* 2009;180:48-58.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.090733



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