

- ing surgical careers. *Am J Surg* 1989; 157:245-9.
2. American Association of Medical Colleges. *Preliminary analysis of supplement to 1986 graduation questionnaire*. Washington: The Association; May 1986.
 3. Canadian Resident Matching Service. *Program handbook and director. 1997-1998*. Ottawa: The Service; 1996.
 4. Swanson AG. The "preresidency syndrome": an incident of epidemic of educational disruption. *J Med Educ* 1985; 60:201-2.
 5. Fabri PJ, Powell DL, Cupps NB. Is there value in audition extramurals? *Am J Surg* 1995;169:338-40.

© 1998 Canadian Medical Association

ETHICAL ALLOCATION OF SURGICAL RESOURCES

I congratulate the editors for publishing the article by Dr. Michael Gross, entitled "The ethical allocation

of scarce resources in surgery: implants and costs" in the December 1997 issue (page 421).

Many excellent comments on the specifics of the article were published in the same issue. I would only add that in the Capital Health Authority in Edmonton, standardization of prostheses in orthopedic surgery has been one of the few things that have gone very right. Three years ago, all 27 surgeons in the region agreed on a contract for prostheses with 2 main suppliers. This action has reduced costs by over 35% and has provided a wide inventory of prostheses to meet all patient needs and surgeon concerns. This process was surgeon driven and controlled.

I think Dr. Gross speaks to a broader issue and that is the frustration that physicians and surgeons feel across Canada with health care reforms. In many areas of the country, physicians and surgeons have been disenfranchised from the process, and

decision-making has taken place with little regard for patient interests or with token medical input. After almost 4 years of restructuring in Alberta, many of the original problems remain (i.e., lack of beds, staff, equipment and operating room time).

In my opinion for health care reform to be a meaningful exercise, health care providers must be at the forefront of the reform. I think we all fully realize the financial constraints that the health care system in Canada must deal with. However, if decision-making is left to the "bean counters," the system as we know it will not survive.

D.W.C. Johnston, MD

Site Chief of Surgery
University of Alberta Hospital and Grey
Nuns Hospital
Capital Health Authority
Edmonton, Alta.

© 1998 Canadian Medical Association

Notices

Avis

Update in general surgery

The University of Toronto's Faculty of Medicine will present a conference entitled "Update in general surgery" from Apr. 30 to May 2, 1998, at the Sutton Place Hotel, Toronto. Credits are available for MO-COMP and AMA Category 1. For registration information contact: Continuing Education, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, Room 121, 150 College St., Toronto ON M5S 1A8; tel 416 978-2719, fax 416 971-2200

Wound care symposium

The Prairie Skin and Wound Committee and the Canadian Association of Wound Care will host a symposium entitled "Western Canada wound care symposium: meeting the challenges of the future" at the

Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, from May 13 to 15, 1998. The conference provides an interdisciplinary forum where participants will learn about new educational and research developments in wound care. The sessions and interactive workshops will cover such topics as education, interdisciplinary wound care, diabetic ulcers, pressure ulcers, venous stasis ulcers and vascular assessment. Participants will have an opportunity to interact with leading experts and colleagues from across North America. For registration information contact Christine Paley, The Medicine Group Ltd., Ste. 610, 3 Robert Speck Parkway, Mississauga ON L4Z 2G5; tel 905 896-2800 or 800 667-4134, fax 905 896-2850, email medgroup@passport.ca or register Online at <http://www.wound-care-mtg.com>

International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand

"The future at hand: sharing knowledge towards the 21st century" will be the theme of the 7th Congress of the International Federation of Societies for Surgery of the Hand (IFSSH). The congress, hosted by the IFSSH and MANUS Canada will be held from May 24 to 28, 1998, at the Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC. For further information contact: Conference Secretariat Events by Design, 601-325 Howe St., Vancouver BC V6C 1Z7; tel 604 669-7175; fax 604 669-7083; 74117.273@compuserve.com

Continued on page on page 172

that their readers have access to imaging equipment for computed tomography and magnetic resonance imaging for the work-up and management of the conditions they cover. This might be true in a university setting. However, surgeons working with more limited resources without such equipment will find this book of limited use.

In summary, the information provided in this text is general and limited in detail. It might be helpful as a quick reference for students and residents.

Antoine Loutfi, MD
Associate Professor of Surgery
Department of Surgery
McGill University
Montreal, Que.

© 1998 Canadian Medical Association

THE YEAR BOOK OF VASCULAR SURGERY 1997.
Edited by John M. Porter. 534 pp. Illust.
Mosby-Year Book, Inc., Chicago; Harcourt
Brace & Co. Canada, Ltd., Toronto. 1997.
Can\$125. ISBN 0-8151-6800-4

This, the latest book in the series, continues to live up to its stated purpose. Five percent of publications in the field worldwide are selected for abstracting, analysis and comment. Therefore, the choice of editor and guest commentators is extremely important and plays a significant role in the effectiveness of the text.

John Porter and his colleagues have done an excellent job in dealing with each selected article, providing a succinct summary and comments that are sometimes quite sharp and to the point.

The contents are divided into 17 chapters covering the broad spectrum of vascular surgery. The introduction is a useful guide to the latest important contributions and is the editor's personal opinion of the role they play now and in the future.

The papers dealing with the latest technologic advances and the comments on their relative worth are very helpful to the surgeon having to answer difficult questions from patients

regarding such matters.

The chapters on basic considerations, the vascular laboratory and imaging are useful, because they give surgeons succinct information on areas that are not usually covered in detail in the current vascular journals.

The latest results and innovations in conventional surgery are well covered, and the comments are also useful.

This year book is a valuable addition to the bookshelf. The articles for abstracting are well chosen and the comments made by the editor and commentators are stimulating and informative. I would recommend this book highly for vascular surgeons, residents and fellows.

F. Michael Ameli, MB ChB
Chief
Division of Vascular Surgery
The Wellesley Hospital
University of Toronto
Toronto, Ont.

© 1998 Canadian Medical Association

Notices

Avis

Continued from page 168

Trauma and Critical Care '98

The Eastern states committees on trauma of the American College of Surgeons will sponsor a trauma a critical care symposium from June 8 to 10, 1998, at the Hilton in the Walt Disney World® Resort, Lake Buena Vista, Fla. The conference will offer an in-depth program consisting of general sessions with consensus panels, lectures, breakfast and luncheon panels and sessions that address the latest in techniques, controversies and difficult case management. Emphasis will be placed on pediatric trauma. Registration fees paid before May 1, 1998, are US\$495 for physicians. After

May 1, the fee is \$US565. Advance registration is recommended. For more information contact: Ms Carol Williams, Trauma Department, American College of Surgeons, 633 North Saint Clair St., Chicago IL 60611; tel 312 202-5342, email cwilliams@fac.org

Techniques in advanced laparoscopic and gynecologic surgery

The Mayo Clinic Scottsdale is sponsoring the 11th annual course on techniques in advanced laparoscopic and gynecologic surgery to be held at the Marriott's Camelback Inn Resort, Golf Club & Spar, 5402 East Lincoln Drive, Scottsdale, Ariz. from Oct. 29 to 31, 1998. Credit is available for

AMA Category 1. The course will provide an in-depth review of laparoscopic suturing techniques and pelvic anatomy, and the following laparoscopic procedures: paravaginal defect repair, Burch procedure, suburethral sling, dissection of ureteral tunnel, sacrospinous ligament fixation with enterocele repair, sacrocolpopexy, ureterolysis, supracervical hysterectomy, LAVH, complete hysterectomy, intramural myomectomy and dissection of parametrial and uterosacral ligaments. For further information contact: Kristin Eberhard, CME Department, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, 13400 East Shea Blvd., Scottsdale AZ 85259; tel 602 301-7447, fax 602 301-8323