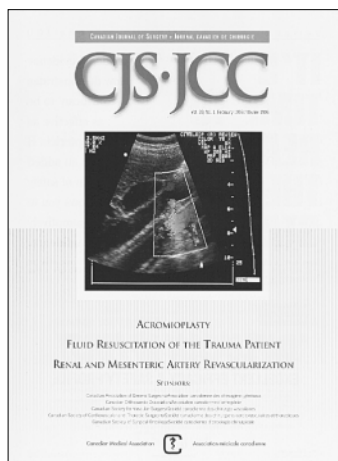




Society doubles support for *CJS*



The Canadian Association of General Surgeons (CAGS) has doubled its financial support for the *Canadian Journal of Surgery*. The decision to increase membership dues in order to boost financial support for the journal was approved unanimously during the association's 1996 business meeting in Halifax. The winter *Newsletter* produced by CAGS said *CJS*, a peer-reviewed journal published by the CMA, is a "vital element in our professional lives." It is also sponsored by the Canadian Orthopaedic Association, Canadian Society for Vascular Surgery, Canadian Society of Cardiovascular and Thoracic Surgeons and Canadian Society of Surgical Oncology. Subscription information is available by calling 800 663-7336 or 613 731-8610, ext. 2928.

Age of Canadians infected with HIV dropping

The age of Canadians being infected with HIV is dropping and the situation among injection drug users (IDUs) is getting worse, the Bureau of HIV/AIDS at the Laboratory Centre for Disease Control reported

in January. The bureau's *Epi Update* said 14 185 cumulative cases of AIDS had been reported through Sept. 30, 1996, but the true number is estimated to be 19 000 to 20 000 cases. The difference is attributed to delayed reporting and under-reporting.

The bureau says the median age of new infection has dropped from age 32 for those infected before 1983 to 23 for those infected between 1985 and 1990. The situation facing injection drug users (IDUs) is particularly bleak, because an HIV outbreak has been reported among IDUs in Vancouver, and Montreal has one of the highest new-infection rates for IDUs in North America.

Overall, up to 45 000 Canadians had been infected with HIV by the end of 1994, and in the past 5 years 2500 to 3000 new infections have been reported annually. Another 10 000 to 12 000 AIDS cases are expected by the year 2000.

Toronto psychiatrist fills suicide chair

University of Toronto psychiatrist Paul Links will fill the first university chair in North America dedicated to suicide research. The Arthur Sommer Rotenberg Chair in Suicide Studies was established in memory of a Toronto physician and U of T graduate who took his own life at age 36 after a long struggle with manic depression.

Links, a professor in the U of T's Department of Psychiatry, is clinical program director (medical) and deputy chief of psychiatry for the Wellesley Central/St. Michael's Hospital joint Mental Health Service. As chair holder he will coordinate research that will focus on clarifying the cause of suicide and suicidal behaviours, including examining the roles of impulsiveness and variations in mood.

The work will also emphasize "action research" that tests reasonable interventions and prevention strategies.

MD curling bonspiel Apr. 10-12

Medical curlers are invited to the 1997 Canadian Medical Curling Bonspiel, which will be held in Calgary Apr. 10-12. Curling will be at the Calgary Curling Club and the base hotel is the Delta Bow Valley. This year the popular bonspiel will be preceded by a 1-day accredited CME course on finding evidence-based medical information on the Internet and via MEDLINE. Registration is limited to 32 rinks, but individual curlers may be accommodated; the deadline is Mar. 31. For information contact Dr. Barrie McCombs, 403 289-4227; (fax) 403 270-2330; (e-mail) bmccombs@acs.ucalgary.ca.

International Aspirin Award 1997

Applications are being accepted for the 1997 Young Researchers Aspirin Award, valued at about Can\$20 000. The competition encourages scientific research into the mechanism of action and clinical use of acetylsalicylic acid. The work should be based on a peer-reviewed publication that has been accepted or published. Entries will be judged by an international scientific committee representing basic and clinical research. Manuscripts (2 English copies), curriculum vitae, a list of the 5 most important recent publications and a statement from a department head confirming the independence of the scientific work and indicating the sources of funding should be mailed by Apr. 30 to International Aspirin Award, c/o Bayer AG, BG Consumer