



## “Doctor on Call” popular addition to daytime television



*Doctor on Call*, a 1-hour program focusing on health care news, interviews with health specialists and information from the medical community, has been a popular addition to daytime television. The cohosts are broadcast journalist Liz Grogan and Dr. Carolyn Bennett, a family physician on staff at Women’s College Hospital and assistant professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Judith Kazimirski, the CMA president, was a featured guest during a segment on evidence-based decision-making taped during the recent CMA Leadership Conference in Ottawa. The show, which features live, over-the-air consultations, airs at 11 am weekdays on WTN, the Women’s Television Network.

## “Early medical” a new decorating trend

Move over, Louis XIV — the latest home decorating trend is early medical furniture. According to an article published in the Mar. 15 edition of the Syracuse, NY, *Post-Standard*, medical furniture from the turn of the century to WW II is turning up at auctions and flea markets, and with dealers who resell “to decorators at tony shops — at prices that gather zeros to the right.”

There is demand for everything from medical storage cabinets, surgical lamps and operating tables to hospital chairs and instrument sterilizers. One store bought 40 medical cabinets from a defunct army base — they will be sold for use as bedside tables. Steel shelves that once sold for \$5 recently were auctioned for \$450 each. While some view this

nostalgia as “a little sinister,” others see it as having a kind of charm: “Objects that used to be intimidating are now petlike,” commented a cultural anthropologist from the Royal Ontario Museum.

## FP in the doghouse

A veterinarian from Sherwood Park, Alta., recently wrote the *Alberta Doctors’ Digest* to complain that a physician, in the course of treating members of a family for strep throat, also prescribed antibiotics for the family dog. Not only was the veterinarian concerned that a physician would illegally prescribe drugs for an animal, but he was also worried that 2.5 times the proper dosage had been prescribed and at a greater frequency than normal.

“The drug was luckily one that is

safe to use in animals, but many drugs used for humans can be toxic for dogs and cats (acetaminophen is one example),” wrote Dr. S.J. Philips. “Veterinarians are aware of species differences and take this into account when prescribing medication. Human physicians have no training in this.”

## Massachusetts offers loans to Canadian students

Canadians studying at any of Massachusetts’ 65 colleges or universities — including the medical schools at Harvard, Tufts, Boston and the University of Massachusetts — can borrow up to the full cost of their graduate or post-graduate education from the Massachusetts Educational Financing Authority (MEFA). MassPlan loans offer a fixed interest rate of 7.65% payable over 15 years. In comparison, the interest rate for Canada Student Loans is 11.5%. A MEFA spokesperson said applicants don’t need to demonstrate particular financial need; the not-for-profit state authority’s intention is to keep education affordable by spreading the cost of postsecondary education over a longer period.

## MD Management staff praised after company’s robust growth

In a company-wide memo, President Rob Hewett has praised MD Management staff for solid growth that not only has seen the CMA subsidiary reach the \$8-billion mark in assets under administration but also pass several other milestones. “We should be especially proud of our success compared with other industry participants,” said Hewett. “Net contributions for the industry were up 49% from last year, compared with our 81% increase. When you exclude the major banks from the industry totals, the net increase for the industry over the prior year is reduced to 28%.”