



Your Editorial Board: Dr. Susan Phillips

Susan Phillips, who practises at the Family Medicine Centre of Queen's University in Kingston, Ont., is a 1978 Queen's graduate who has a particular interest in gender-related medical issues.

Who was your most influential teacher?

Dr. Kirk Lyon taught me the importance of blending competence and compassion in medicine. My mother and grandmother taught me the same lessons about life.

What aspect of your work gives you the most pleasure?

The opportunity to learn about the lives of a CEO, a tattooed 15-year-old, a homeless man and a promising author during a typical hour of office practice.

What research paper had the most influence on your career?

In their doula studies in *JAMA* (1990;265:2197-2201) and the *BMJ* (1986;293:585-7), authors Kennell et al showed that birth outcomes and newborn health are determined, in part, by the support received by the



mother during labour. Their elegantly designed studies suggested that there is more to health than biological luck and good medicine.

What book did you last read?

Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt.

What alternative professions would you have liked to pursue?

Country music singer, landscape architect or teacher.

What complementary therapies have you tried?

Not much, nor have I tried much conventional therapy. I do owe several months of comfort in late pregnancy to the chiropractor who diagnosed and treated my back pain.

What advice do you have for a young physician?

Have fun, be adventurous, do those things you've been putting off during 8 or more years of education and training.

What was your biggest mistake and biggest achievement?

As I reread these questions and find that I cannot answer them, I realize that I should stop asking my daughter the same types of questions (Your favourite book? Your happiest memory?) when what I really want is a window into her experience of, and reaction to, events.

What make and year of car do you drive?

A 1992 Volvo wagon — the "Docmobile."

Cool sites

www.popexpo.net/eMain.html

As we near the end of the millennium, one of the biggest health risks facing the planet is the sheer number of people. This Web site shows how serious the problem is becoming. Three new people were brought into this world as you read this sentence, and 86 000 are being added to humanity's ranks each day. If knowledge of this is not enough, you can watch the

growth take place thanks to an exhibit called *Six Billion Human Beings*, from the Musée de l'Homme in Paris. This site provides a digital counter that clicks away by the second, adding up net births over time. Viewers see what the Earth's population was when they were born and they can experiment with various trends that affect population growth. They may even learn what is driving the growth, and perhaps ways we can slow it down. — © Michael O'Reilly