

Another great year of learning.....

Another academic year is passing quickly and the never ending stream of medical learning fills us with wonder, excitement and the usual pre-examination stress. The Dalhousie Medical Journal (DMJ) is also ushering in another great year, our 6th since its revival in 1995.

This issue contains a wide variety of topics to sustain your interest. Can you imagine going for surgery under general anesthetic and then hearing voices or feeling the surgeon's every move? Awareness under general anesthesia is uncommon but has serious implications for patients, leading in some cases, to post-traumatic stress disorder and other poor outcomes. You can read more in Luke Chen's very thorough and interesting review of this issue on page 21. An article by Dr. Brian Cummings, entitled 'Sir Frederick Banting: The Anti-Semite and Bigot?' not only casts a new light on one of the most revered Nobel laureates, but gives us a better appreciation of the academic-research environment in Canada at the turn of the last century. Our article on the air medical transport of cardiac patients in Nova Scotia provides a fascinating glimpse of how this five-year old helicopter service is being used to transport critically ill patients from rural maritime communities to tertiary care centres in Halifax. A retrospective case review by Dr. Charles Maxner helps to characterize and define the longterm prognosis for acute bilateral simulta-

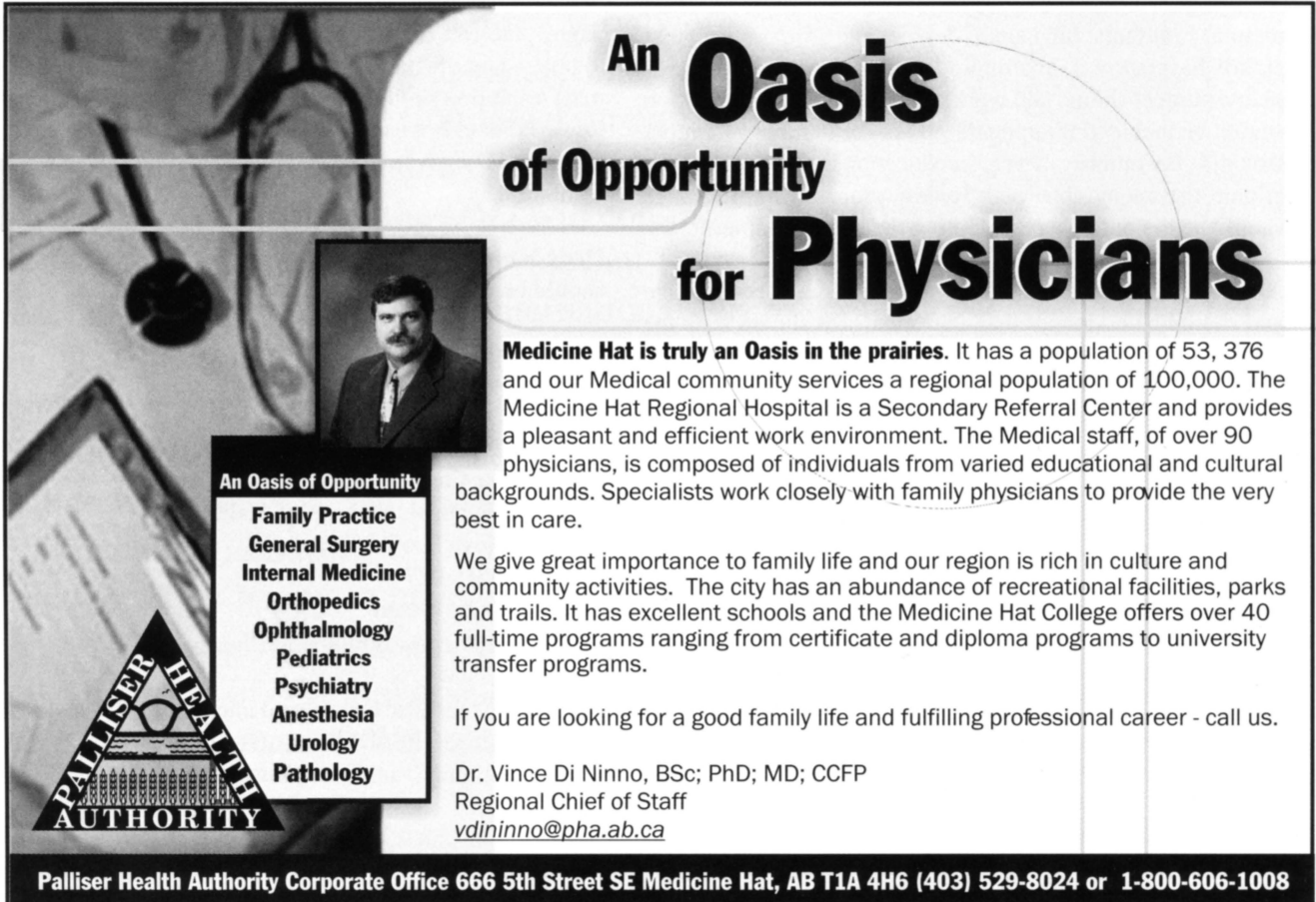
neous optic neuritis, a condition that can result in acute vision loss. Finally, don't miss the diagnostic challenge, whether or not you're radiologically challenged.....the sudden severe headache sounds like a subarachnoid hemorrhage, but is it? Find out more on page 30.

From soliciting and reviewing the articles to designing and distributing the finished product, this issue of the DMJ is brought to you by a dedicated team of hard-working medical students. We've rebounded from some setbacks along the way - including two disastrous computer crashes - but we're working to prevent these from recurring in the future. We're proud of the finished product and hope that you enjoy reading this issue as much as we've enjoyed producing it.

Thank you for your interest and support.

Kamal Sharma
Kate Lazier

Editors-in-Chief



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Medicine Hat is truly an Oasis in the prairies. It has a population of 53, 376 and our Medical community services a regional population of 100,000. The Medicine Hat Regional Hospital is a Secondary Referral Center and provides a pleasant and efficient work environment. The Medical staff, of over 90 physicians, is composed of individuals from varied educational and cultural backgrounds. Specialists work closely with family physicians to provide the very best in care.

We give great importance to family life and our region is rich in culture and community activities. The city has an abundance of recreational facilities, parks and trails. It has excellent schools and the Medicine Hat College offers over 40 full-time programs ranging from certificate and diploma programs to university transfer programs.

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