Training pediatricians

A recent item in the CMA Bulletin1 discussed a proposal from the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada (RCPSC) to reduce the number of PGY-1 training programs from approximately 30 to just a few “generalist competency” training streams. This proposal has been presented as an alternative to the “common PGY-1 year,” previously discussed as a model to improve medical students’ flexibility in deciding on a career path.

The Residents Section of the Canadian Paediatric Society (CPS), representing over 500 pediatric residents in Canada, has a mandate to examine and ensure the quality of pediatric training in Canada. In a recent survey, members of the Residents Section expressed interest in the common PGY-1 year and emphasized the importance of retaining the number of PGY-1 training programs to ensure the quality of pediatric training in Canada. The CPS has a mandate to examine and ensure the quality of pediatric training in Canada.

E nfin une étude transcendantale qui permet de soulager mes angoisses existentielles! Enfin j’aurai compris pourquoi je vois douloureusement les ans s’égrenner alors que Tintin est gratté pourtant.1 Enfin une étude transcendantale qui permet de soulager mes angoisses existentielles! Enfin j’aurai compris pourquoi je vois douloureusement les ans s’égrenner alors que Tintin est gratté pourtant.1

Eric I. Benchimol
President, Residents Section
Canadian Paediatric Society
Ottawa, Ont.

References
DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050067

Tintin in CMAJ

The article by Antoine Cyr and associates1 is a fascinating perspective into the enigmatic delayed development of Tintin. The researchers must be commended for such insightful extrapolation from the limited source material. One wonders about Asterix and Obelix and the possible glandular or other systemic deficiencies that might be contributing to their sizes, body masses and apparent halted development. Perhaps the toxicity of cartoon material. One wonders about Asterix and Obelix and the possible glandular or other systemic deficiencies that might be contributing to their sizes, body masses and apparent halted development. Perhaps the toxicity of cartoon ink should be independently evaluated.

Brent L. Hay
Calgary, Alta.

Reference
1. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. CMAJ 2004;171(12):1433-4.
DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050008

With Hergé’s approval, Frederic Tuten wrote Tintin in the New World,2 wherein Tintin meets the seductive Claudia in Peru. One night, “sighs float to the ceiling ... a blue glow emanates from the bed center ... two animals collide and adhere.” Tintin is cured!

Yves Lambert
Centres jeunesse de la Montérégie
Longueuil, Que.

Référence
1. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. CMAJ 2004;171(12):1433-4.
DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050007

I read the article by Antoine Cyr and associates1 with a growing sense of perplexion. For such an eminently qualified research group to miss the nub of the mystery is astounding. The obvious causes of our hero’s “Peter Pan-ism” needed no such study, but the greater mystery did: How could Tintin’s dog Milou live for 50 years (350 years in canine terms), especially after being shot at least 10 times?

Craig D. Baker
Lincoln, England

Reference
1. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. CMAJ 2004;171(12):1433-4.
DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050008

Letters

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References
DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050055
would love it. The familiar characters appear, and the inside cover art is by Roy Lichtenstein.

Thomas J. McGuire
Berkeley Fire Department
Berkeley, Calif.

References
2. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. *CMAJ* 2004; 171(12):1433-4.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050009

[One of the authors responds:]

Congratulations to Antoine Cyr and associates for their excellent article on Tintin’s health disorder. This article shows kids an excellent example of what a scientific article looks like. Its potential educational value should not be underestimated.

Rémi Parmentier
Madrid, Spain

Reference
1. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. *CMAJ* 2004; 171(12):1433-4.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050012

The concept of using the adventures of Tintin and other cartoon or comic book characters as medical case studies is a creative way to popularize medicine.

It is amusing to see how Antoine Cyr and associates have translated Tintin’s adventures to the real world by collecting empiric data from the Tintin album collection. Involving children in such a scientific study is also great.

I read my Tintin albums differently since coming across this article!

David Neveu
Graduate student, Electrical Engineering
Université de Sherbrooke
Sherbrooke, Que.

Reference
1. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. *CMAJ* 2004; 171(12):1433-4.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050018

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References
1. Cyr A, Cyr LO, Cyr C. Acquired growth hormone deficiency and hypogonadotropic hypogonadism in a subject with repeated head trauma, or Tintin goes to the neurologist. *CMAJ* 2004; 171(12):1433-4.

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.1050062

Corrections
The DOI attached to a letter to the editor published last year should have read 10.1503/cmaj.1050132.

Reference

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.050645

The DOI attached to a Query article published last year should have read 10.1503/cmaj.1050133.

Reference

DOI:10.1503/cmaj.050646

Mécanisme de présentation des lettres

Le site amélioré des cyberlettres du JAMC est désormais le portail de réception de tous les textes destinés à la chronique Lettres. Pour rédiger une cyberlettre, consultez un article sur le site www.jamc.ca et cliquez ensuite sur le lien «Lettres électroniques : répondre à cet article», dans la boîte en haut à droite de l’article. Toutes les cyberlettres seront étudiées pour une éventuelle publication dans le journal imprimé.

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