From the technical zone

In his famous novel *The House of God*, Samuel Shem describes the tortured existence of interns working at a busy metropolitan hospital in the US. To survive, they invoke a series of "rules", many of which are counterintuitive, but which nevertheless help keep their patients alive. One of these, "there is no body cavity that cannot be reached with a #14G needle and a good strong arm" is brought

to mind in this issue as Drs Adrian Chang and Vu Kwan and Dr Lenore George show how ultrasound is now entering previously uncharted territory in the endoscopy unit and operating suite and respectively.

In the ancient world of course, none of this technology was available, but medical advances still occurred because of careful observation and a desire to question the accepted wisdom of the day. Claudius Galen was a famous second century Greek philosopher and scientist who discovered that veins and arteries

carried blood and not air, as previously believed. The abnormality that carries his name, "vein of Galen aneurysm" is of course erroneously labelled, but a serious disorder nevertheless. In this issue, Roberts shows us why. Next, Yan and Seow continue the vascular theme with a report on upper limb venous thrombosis with unusual ultrasonographic findings; bottom line: pay more attention to spectral signals on Doppler. Finally, Nepal has a population of about 28 million and an average life expectancy of 65 years of age. Eighty-five percent of Nepalese people live in rural areas and lack access to basic medical care. It is heartening to see therefore, a report from Williams describing the enormous impact that compassion and ultrasound can have among these people, albeit for a short period of time.

You may be pleased to see that the *Gleaner* has been joined by the *Stirrer* and *Libero* all of whom aim to bring you up to date with advances in ultrasound in other journals. Although occasionally light-hearted and provocative their reviews are informative. The use of a nom de plume preserves the anonymity of these characters, however, it should not be construed as letting them off the hook. Feel free to send a letter to the editor, lively debate is a good thing, *ca marche*...

George Larcos