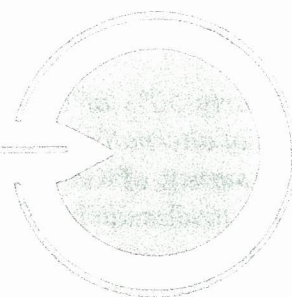


# BIO-PROBE

# NEWSLETTER



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## ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE BILL BECOMES LAW IN ONTARIO, CANADA

On 21 December 2000 an historical event occurred in the Province of Ontario in Canada! The following, entitled "Bill 2, An Act to Amend the Medicine Act, 1991," was passed unanimously by the Provincial Parliament of Ontario:

*"A member (of the College of Physicians and Surgeons) shall not be found guilty of professional misconduct or of incompetence under Section 51 or 52 of the Health Professions Procedural Code solely on the basis that the member practices a therapy that is non-traditional or that departs from the prevailing medical practice unless there is evidence that proves that the therapy poses a greater risk to a patient's health than the traditional or prevailing practice."*

This is exciting news, indeed, especially in light of the recent information demonstrating that reliance on "traditional" medicine has resulted in placing the United States at the bottom of the list in health status amongst the advanced nations of the world. [see BPNL, 17(1):1-3, January 2001] Perhaps the new bill in Ontario will encourage consideration of non-traditional therapies throughout Canada and in the United States.

The discussion of Bill 2 provided some very interesting comments by Ontario legislators:

\* In Europe, St. John's Wort, a botanical used

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*to treat mild to moderate depression, is outselling Prozac by leaps and bounds.*

*\* Hamilton's McMaster University has proposed a \$100-million center for complimentary medicine.....amalgamating research into western and eastern treatments while investigating the roles that lifestyle and diet play in keeping Canadians healthy.*

\* Nearly 50% of Canadians are using some form of alternative therapy.

\* A survey of Canadians' attitudes towards alternative medicine found that 66% feel that the government should be advocating the use of alternative medicine and practices in order to potentially reduce the costs to the health care system.

Resistance from the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons had resulted in failure to pass the bill on the first two tries. However, the following letter from that society was read into the record this time: "Your bill comes at a time when there is even more urgent need to improve the knowledge and experience of the medical profession in the area of non-traditional medicine. The public will be best served by a medical profession that can take a careful, objective look at various forms of alternative medicine, to best advise our patients. Our long-range goal should be to critically evaluate complementary therapies in the same way we are assessing traditional medicine, in order to provide the safest, most cost-effective and beneficial treatments."

The bottom line - providing the safest, most cost-effective and beneficial medical treatment possible! It is clear from the information provided in the last newsletter that this goal has not been achieved in the United States, in spite of the vast amounts of expenditures devoted to that goal. It is time that the "traditional" medical and dental establishments must broaden their vistas and open their minds to alternative approaches. In a way, it is sad that it takes government action to point this out.

[Bio-Probe, Inc. thanks Wayne Obie ([communications@talkinternational.com](mailto:communications@talkinternational.com)) for providing this information. Mr. Obie is known as the person who spearheaded the class action suit against dental amalgam in Canada.]

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## STARTLING DISCOVERY!

### THE ORAL CAVITY IS PART OF THE BODY!

[Editors Note: The following quotations are from a recent article entitled "Oral Reports" in *The Sciences*, pages 25-39, Nov-Dec 2000. The authors were Robert J. Genco (dentist and immunologist at SUNY, Buffalo), Frank A. Scannapieco (dentist and microbiologist at SUNY, Buffalo), and Harold C. Slavkin (Dean of USC School of Dentistry and former Director of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research of NIH). *Bio-Probe* is grateful to Dr. Chester Yokoyama of IAOMT for providing this article.]

**OR: (p. 26, col. 1)** "Investigators have made a startling discovery: the state of the teeth and gums turns out to be integrally related to the health of the entire body."

**BP:** What an amazing revelation! This heretic position flies in the face of the various dental boards, who persist in disciplining biological dentists for "practicing medicine without a license." Leaders of organized dentistry have persistently taken the position that dentists are not qualified to consider the systemic health consequences of the treatment that they render to their patients.

Dentistry has long been functioning independently of the rest of the medical profession. This unfortunate situation has resulted in dentistry being focused on technical quality, rather than health. In a proper prospective, dentistry should be a specialty within the medical profession. Every dental school should have biologists and toxicologists on staff. Hopefully, this trend has begun.

**OR: (p. 26, col. 2)** "Oral bacteria release toxic products that damage gum tissue, but the harm the bacteria cause directly is nothing compared with the destruction they induce the body to inflict on itself." - and - **(p. 30, col. 2)** "In the future, dentists may also take on part of the management of diabetes, screen patients for