

## Learning at your convenience

**A**ccess to clinical information is often best used when the physician is at the point of care. But what about the kind of learning that requires quiet contemplation?

Continuing medical education at the point of convenience, when the learner has the time to focus and concentrate, is clearly ideal. This can be achieved by listening to audio files on portable CD or MP3 players, or even on smartphones. Audio-Digest Foundation, an affiliate of the California Medical Association, has been offering recordings of lectures of CME meetings from across the USA for more than 50 years. The lectures cover a wide range of specialties including anesthesiology, emergency medicine, family practice, gastroenterology, general surgery, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, ophthalmology, orthopaedics, otolaryngology, pediatrics, and psychiatry. The

College Library subscribes to these lectures in CD format and makes them available for loan. Furthermore, since 2006, the files have been available in MP3 format. Through the Library's account at Audio-Digest, College members may download hundreds of files and listen to them on their computers or mobile devices for free. Instructions for access are on the library's web site at the Audiovisual & PDA page, [www.cpsbc.ca/library/pda-video-audio](http://www.cpsbc.ca/library/pda-video-audio). A limited number of these files have been made publically available by Audio-Digest on the iTunes web site, but access using the College's web site offers a much larger selection by virtue of the Library's subscription.

—Karen MacDonell

—Robert Melrose

—Judy Neill

College Librarians

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injected with a saline solution so that the surgeon can see where micro holes exist and close them with a small stapling device. This prevents the graft from leaking. Unfortunately, I had understood *Bitte Ziehen* (please pull). Like a good surgical clerk I followed instructions and started tugging on the vein that the technician had so carefully removed.

"What are you doing?" the surgeon screamed. "This is cardiac surgery!" I was not sure what was happening as I had done everything that was asked of me. I stopped pulling the blood vessel. Thankfully it was not harmed in the ordeal and the patient successfully received a new graft. Surprisingly, though, the telephone in my pocket did not ring on Friday. **BBM**

### **cdc** *Continued from page 15*

#### References

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2. Barker SB, Wolen AR. The benefits of human-companion animal interaction: A review. *Veterinary Med Educ* 2008; 35:487-495.
3. Rabinowitz PM, Gordon Z, Odofin L. Pet-related infections. *Am Fam Phys* 2007;76:1314-1322.
4. Hemsworth S, Pizer B. Pet ownership in immunocompromised children—a review of the literature and survey of existing guidelines. *Eur J Oncol Nurs* 2006;10:117-127.

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must be promptly notified of a trial date and whether they may be required to attend at trial for cross-examination. Objections to any expert opinion must be raised no less than 21 days before trial or they will not be permitted at trial.

An expert is not permitted to give evidence at trial unless a report has been prepared and served in accordance with the rules. If a party wishes to cross-examine an expert, they must give notice to the party tendering the report within 21 days after the report is served. If an expert has been requested for cross-examination, the report will not be admitted unless the expert is present at trial. If an expert is not called for the purpose of cross-examination, the scope of the evidence he or she can give is limited to clarifying terminology in the report or otherwise making the report more understandable.

In anticipation of the new rules coming into force, medical experts will likely soon be asked to change the format of the reports to reflect the new rules, particularly for any matter which has a trial date after 1 July 2010.

Medical experts will continue to play an important role in personal injury litigation in the province. The new rules should serve to clarify the role of experts in civil litigation and provide greater certainty for both parties and the experts who are retained.

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*If you have any suggestions for future articles, please contact [DrLaura.Jensen@icbc.com](mailto:DrLaura.Jensen@icbc.com).*