

## How to improve your diagnostic tools for genetic disorders

The Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP) will sponsor a concurrent session on June 21, 2003 at the Canadian Paediatric Society's annual meeting in Calgary. The session will focus on the practical aspects of caring for children with two genetic conditions, CHARGE association/syndrome (CAS) and Prader-Willi syndrome (PWS). Early recognition and intervention are crucial to prevent some of the long term complications in these patients. The concurrent session will focus on some of the specific prob-

lems and provide participants with helpful tools to recognize and act early on this window of opportunity to improve the longevity and quality of life for their patients. The session will present case studies to illustrate teaching points on diagnosis, management, treatment and support of children with CAS and PWS. This information will be invaluable for all health care providers who have an important role to play in the lives of these children and their parents.

### LEARNING POINTS

The concurrent session will provide practical advice on how to:

- Improve your diagnostic skills for CAS and PWS based on clinical criteria and/or genetic confirmation by chromosome studies, such as 'florescence in situ hybridization' (FISH), methylation analysis or subtelomeric testing.
- Implement an early intervention program within the first few months of life for deaf-blindness in children with CAS to facilitate appropriate education for dual-sensory impairment.
- Coordinate a multidisciplinary management team of paediatric subspecialists and paramedical experts to optimize the care and treatment of children with CAS.
- Teach the family of a child with PWS to recognize and manage such food-seeking behaviours in their child as uncontrollable hunger resulting in food foraging and aggressive food-seeking behaviour.
- Implement a diet regimen based on the red-yellow-green diet as an effective means of controlling weight and eating disorders in children with PWS.

*The Canadian Paediatric Surveillance Program (CPSP) is a joint project of the Canadian Paediatric Society and Health Canada's Centre for Infectious Disease Prevention and Control that undertakes the surveillance of rare diseases and conditions in children. For more information visit our Web site at <[www.cps.ca/english/cpsp](http://www.cps.ca/english/cpsp)> or <[www.cps.ca/francais/pcsp](http://www.cps.ca/francais/pcsp)>.*