

# Canoe say cyber doc?

By SALLY JOHNSTON  
Lifestyle Editor

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis paid his way through medical school as a professional drummer and ran a music recording studio while completing his doctor's training.

Now, 20 years later, the Montreal pediatrician has combined his medical and technical skills to produce an award-winning Web site that offers parents articles and tips on kids' health matters.

"I like to describe myself as the Dr. Spock of the new millennium," Roumeliotis said during a recent visit to Edmonton.

His Dr. Paul's Child Health and Wellness Information Web site recently began appearing on Canoe, the cyber centre for Sun Media, *The Edmonton Sun's* parent company.

He has also produced a string of health education videos, audiocassettes and CD-ROMs as well as books and newsletters.

He's appeared on television and radio and is planning to tour Canada next spring giving talks on respiratory problems and ear infections in youngsters.

"I believe that one of the best tools for ensuring your family's good health is through accurate and accessible health care information," said the father of two.

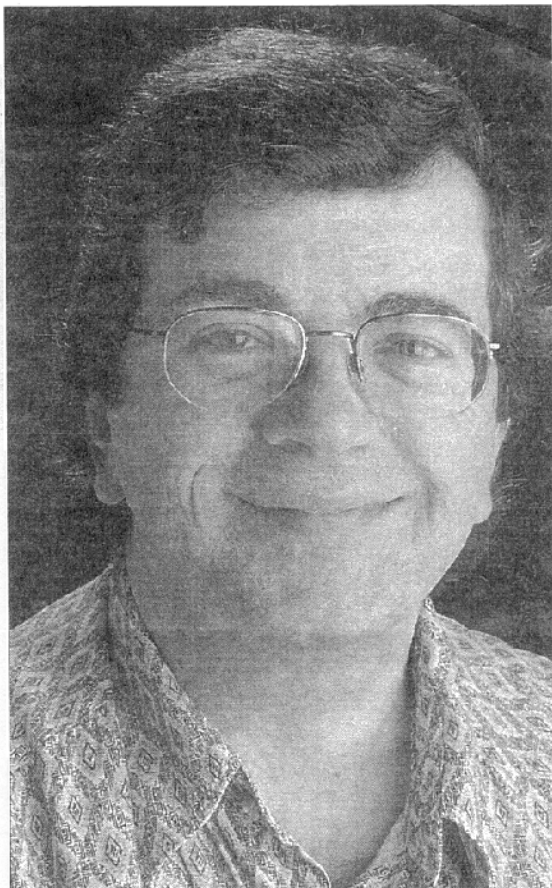
Dr. Paul's Web site covers a range of kids' health topics from pregnancy to adolescence.

There is also a tip of the day, a weekly advice column and online chats. He encourages parents to send him their questions about kids' health matters.

"This kind of information is much sought after," said Roumeliotis who founded an asthma clinic at Montreal Children's hospital and is a professor at that city's McGill University.

"Everyone has a child in their life. Even if they are not a parent, they are an uncle or aunt or brother or sister."

With the rapid pace of medical discovery and a growing trend towards prevention and self-management, patients are hungry for health information, he said.



- GARY BARTLETT, Sun

Dr. Paul Roumeliotis mans an award-winning Web site.

Roumeliotis started playing drums as a teenager, performing with several bands, both live and in the studio.

"I made a lot of money and financed my medical education," he said.

In 1985, while a resident in pediatrics at Montreal Children's hospital, he formed a record company, producing artists and marketing records and videos.

His unusual combination of talents proved invaluable when he became interested in promoting health education.

Roumeliotis believes the Internet can be a powerful and positive learning tool but worries that too much inaccurate and biased information is put out by lobby groups and drug companies.

He condemns Web sites that charge patients hundreds of dollars to diagnose diseases based on a list of symptoms.

"Anyone practising medicine over the Internet in that way should be banned," he said.

And he urged physicians to bone up on technology. "They should educate themselves about the good and bad Web sites so that when their patients come in and say, 'I found this on the Internet,' they know what they're talking about."

Dr. Paul's Web site is at [www.canoe.ca](http://www.canoe.ca)