

Accessibility



FOREWORD

Science is intimidating for the average person. Scientific studies are all too often explained in a clinical manner, the subject matter is advanced and complicated to understand... Consequently, it is easy to believe, wrongly, that researchers are disconnected from the general public. Their projects, therefore, remain generally unrecognized and unappreciated, while false information flourishes and becomes more attractive.

Research into oral and bone health is particularly unpopular. There is a general tendency toward denial: this field of expertise elicits aversion, since it is too often associated with pain (fractures) or even disgust (oral infections, oral cancer, etc.).

This collection has the mission of reversing this tendency by informing you of major advances in the field. We want to show you what health research is and share our passion with you. Research is one of the drivers of humanity, but researchers must better communicate and explain how their work contributes to the welfare of individuals, the environment, and society.

In order to highlight the research and its members in an original way, the Network for Oral and Bone Health Research (RSBO for "Réseau de recherche en santé buccodentaire et osseuse") retained two artists in residence, Daniel Ha and Martin PM. For more than a year, Daniel and Martin met with our researchers across Quebec and visited their labs. In the following pages, you can read and enjoy their comics, and thereby discover along with them, the extraordinary work being done by our researchers.

We hope that these pages will inspire you and allow you to see the scientific research in the field of oral and bone health with new eyes. Perhaps it will elicit among the younger crowd the desire to study the sciences and, who knows, become researchers themselves?

RSBO Art and Science Committee

Dr. Christophe Bedos, RSBO Director

Dr. Argerie Tsimicalis, Researcher and RSBO Member

Dr. Marta Cerruti, Researcher and RSBO Member

Dr. Andrée Lessard, RSBO Manager

Martin Patenaude-Monette, RSBO Artist in Residence

Daniel Ha, RSBO Artist in Residence

WHAT IS IT?

WHAT IS THE RSBO?

For more than 25 years, the Network for Oral and Bone Health Research (RSBO for “Réseau de recherche en santé buccodentaire et osseuse”) tirelessly supports Quebec researchers and their students in the pursuit of excellence in fundamental, clinical, and epidemiological research. The Network numbers more than 100 researchers and over 300 students predominantly from McGill University, Université de Montréal and Laval University, as well as their affiliated hospitals (notably CHU Sainte-Justine, Shriners Hospitals for Children-Canada, Montreal General Hospital, Jewish General Hospital and Montreal Sacred Heart Hospital).

The RSBO network is funded primarily by the “Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé” (FRQS). It also relies on partnerships with associates from different backgrounds, notably professional organizations in the field of oral and bone health as well as associations which represent the most underprivileged people in our society. This is how the RSBO network brings together the stakeholders in our social fabric – scientific community, clinicians, populations and users of healthcare services, as well as administrators, decision makers and industries – with an eye toward producing knowledge on health and oral and bone diseases, but also to take this knowledge and apply it.

The actions of the RSBO network fall within the national strategies for promoting health as well as those set forth by the World Health Organization. The Network aims to promote the health and welfare of the Quebec population, to reduce inequalities in healthcare, but also to contribute to the economic and social vitality of Quebec. Actions taken by the RSBO network can, in fact, stimulate the retention or return to employment of more vulnerable people, develop highly qualified personnel, generate the development of new technologies, or encourage scientific entrepreneurship and the production of patents.

Transmitting knowledge is one of the major goals of the RSBO network. This is why we created the Art and Science Committee, which promotes scientific research and health of the Quebec society through the arts. The RSBO network considers that sciences and the arts, far from being antithetical, can in fact mutually feed each other, combine, and ultimately, benefit the entirety of the population.

ART & SCIENCE

This comic collection is a creative and original way to raise awareness in our fellow citizens about research done here, especially on a subject like oral and bone health, which can be quite off-putting for the uninitiated. And yet, the research we are doing is fundamental for all of us.

The idea of doing a collection of comics is exactly right coming from the RSBO Art and Science Committee, and a great approach to demystifying everything that happens in our mouth, from the effect of sugar on our teeth to oral ecology, as well as 3D technology to foster stronger bones, and other activities which take place between our nose and our chin...

Due to its excellence in research, the Network is supported by the “Fonds de recherche du Québec – Santé” (FRQS). It seems so very pertinent and important to me that the general public better understand the research being done since, in the end, it is they who benefit from it, even if they don't realize it.

At a more basic level, it is important to raise awareness concerning science and research in the general population: the methods, approaches, questions, and uncertainly, but also the discoveries, results, and accomplishments! It is important to increase the number of opportunities to present science to the population, young or old, so that scientific expertise becomes the first instinctive source we turn to when we ask questions on any particular subject. Calling on art is definitely a good way to stimulate curiosity.

I commend the Network for its initiative in raising awareness for its expertise and projects, and perhaps generating interest among the new generations of students who are wondering about their future. Who knows? Perhaps, despite a little bit of apprehension, this comic collection might help you better appreciate your next visit to the dentist!

*Rémi Quirion,
Chief Scientist of Quebec*

ACCESSIBILITY, NOT ONLY A FINANCIAL ISSUE



Dental care is great, but it has to be accessible to everyone! Thankfully, certain research teams are looking into solutions for improving access, notably for people with reduced mobility. Dr. Christophe Bedos and Dr. Jacqueline Rousseau describe these obstacles and suggest helpful solutions for all (patients, caregivers, professionals). Dr. Yu Kwong Li's mobile clinic is an excellent example!

CHRISTOPHE BEDOS, D.D.S., PH. D.

*Associate Professor, Faculty of Dentistry at McGill University
Co-Director of the RSBO network*



JACQUELINE ROUSSEAU

*Tenured Professor
Institut universitaire de gériatrie de Montréal*



YU KWONG LI

Director of McGill University's Mobile Dental Clinic



MARTIN PM

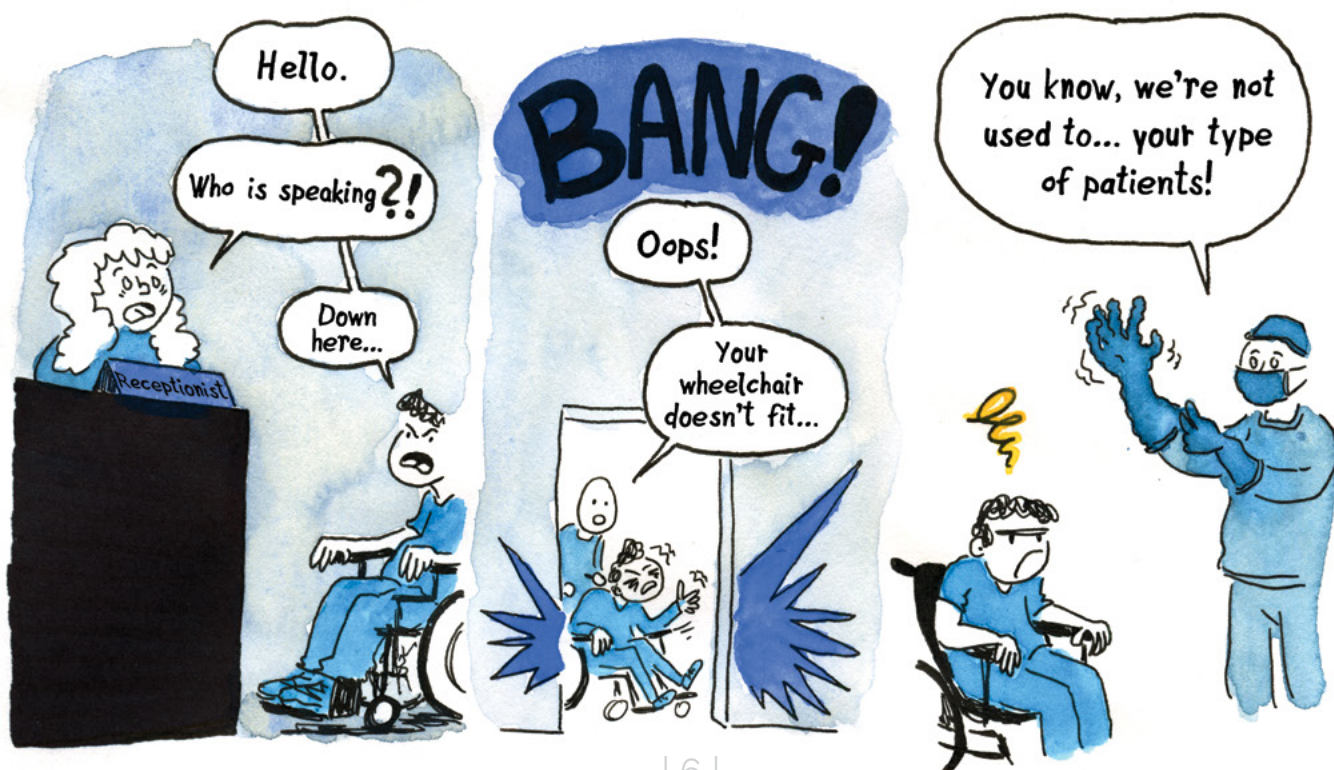
Martin Patenaude-Monette, also known as Martin PM, hails from Montreal. He brushes his teeth at least twice a day, but usually three times. However, he is not quite as rigorous when using dental floss, which he consents to using occasionally, especially when he has a piece of popcorn stuck between his teeth. Curious by nature, he is interested in scientific research, social issues, and politics. He sees comics as a powerful medium for addressing scientific and social issues, by combining text and images.

www.martinpm.info

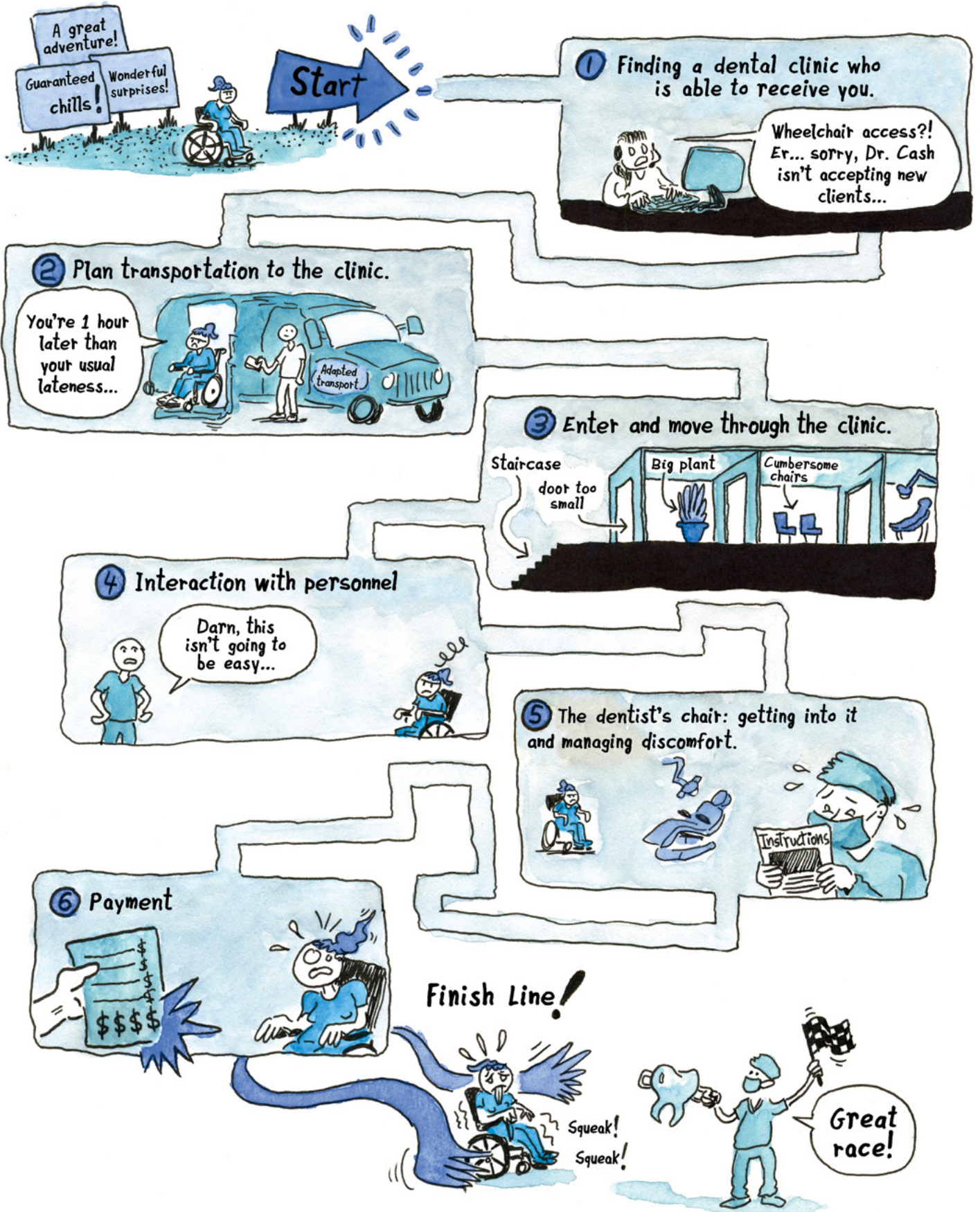
[instagram.com/martinpm.bd](https://www.instagram.com/martinpm.bd)



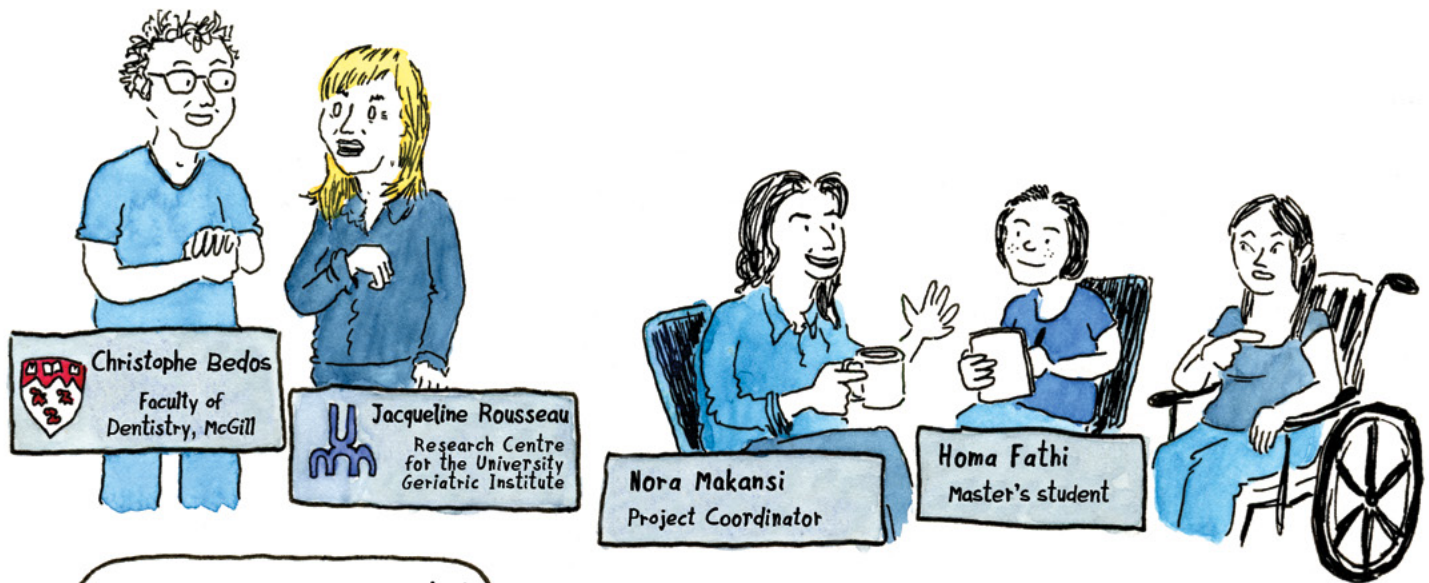
Imagine those concerns if you also have impaired mobility.



The quest for dental care for someone with impaired mobility is loooooooooooooooooooooong...!



This obstacle course was described by the team of researchers
Christophe Bedos and Jacqueline Rousseau.



When I worked as a dentist,
I had all the technical
aptitudes necessary to
administer treatments.

"I was able to perfectly
perform a root canal."

"Despite all that, I never got the
impression that I was fully
responding to my patients' needs."

You should be feeling better in
a couple of days, okay?



"I felt like I didn't have the
necessary tools for building
the caregiver-patient
relationship."

We're both interested in
caregiver-patient relationships.

That's why we're both invested in
this project on accessibility
to dental clinics.



The caregiver-patient relationship is even more important for people with impaired mobility.



In fact, we noticed it was the **attitude** of dentists and their teams which turned out to be much more important than physical accessibility of the clinics.



Once the observations had been established, Nora and Homa went searching for the best models for accessible clinics.



They quickly realized that most dentists at those clinics shared two qualities.

They are patient.

Let's take the time to get you properly settled.



And they adapt easily.

Maybe you'd be more comfortable on the couch.



Because **Dr. Li** doesn't like to work in an office and wanted more flexibility, he chose **mobility** in order to increase his accessibility.



Dr. Kwong Li is one of the rare mobile dentists in Quebec. He coordinates a team of six dentists who travel to senior residences, who often have dementia, as well as people with mobility issues.



Do you brush your teeth every day?

Brush!
Brush!

Pshhh!



Yes, even if I sometimes forget.

Thank you!



Today, I'm here just to have a look at your teeth.

Dr. Li examines his patients in their own bed or chair, while wearing his special glasses...

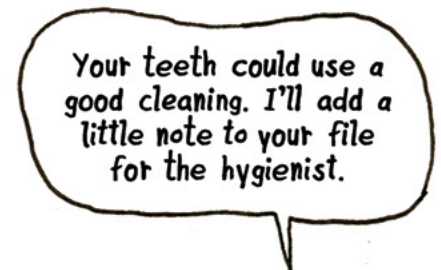


light

magnifying glasses



Hmm...



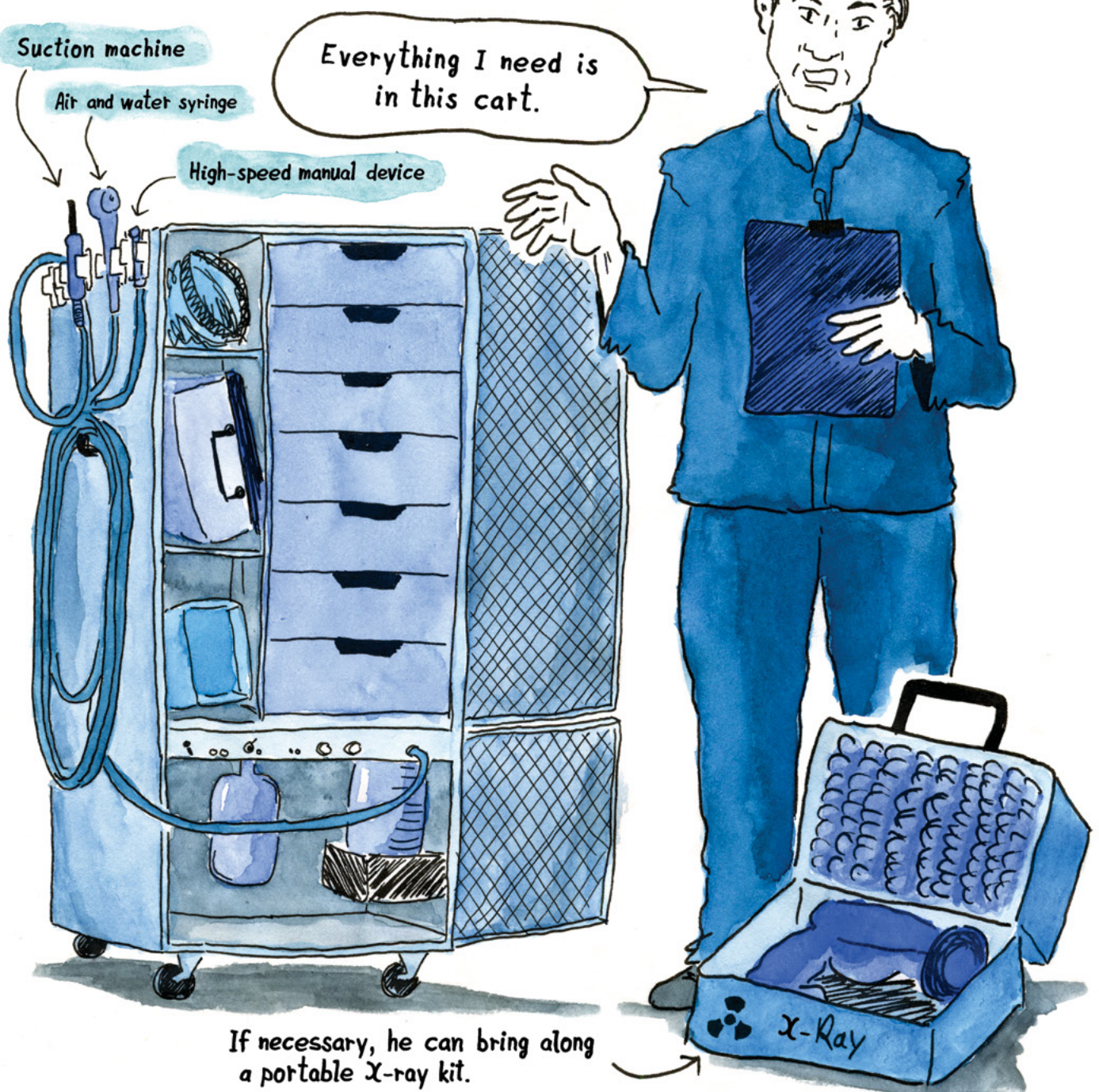
Your teeth could use a good cleaning. I'll add a little note to your file for the hygienist.



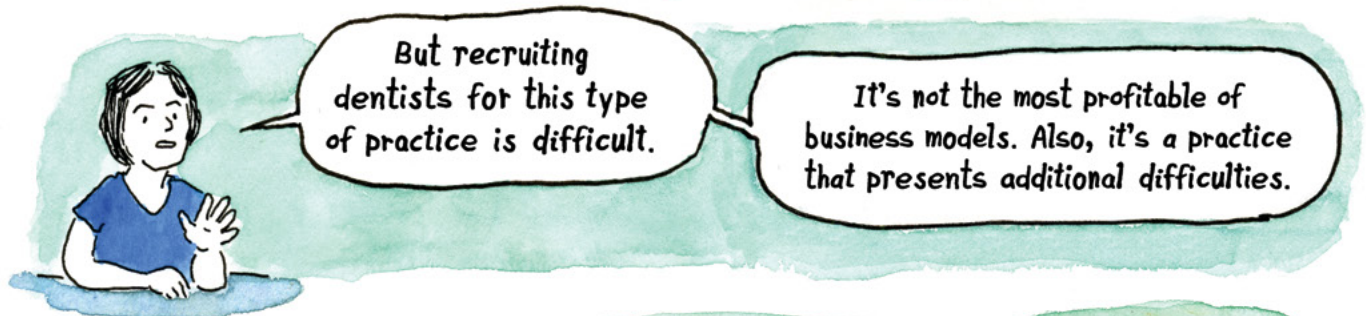
Okay.



When one thinks of a mobile clinic, we think of a ton of material to transport.

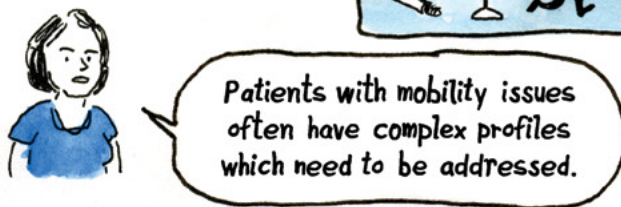
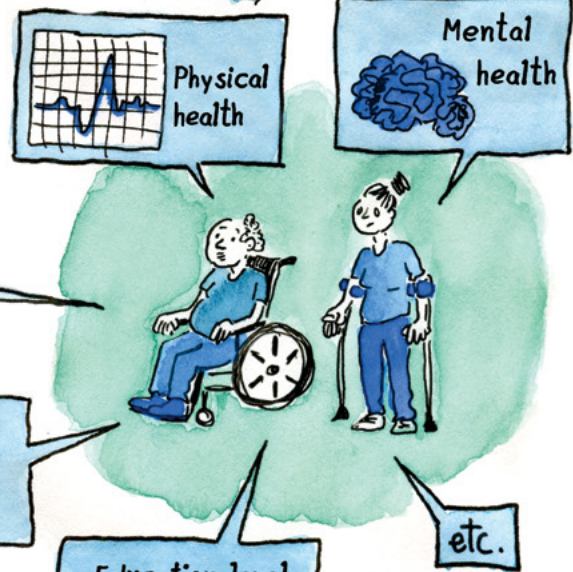
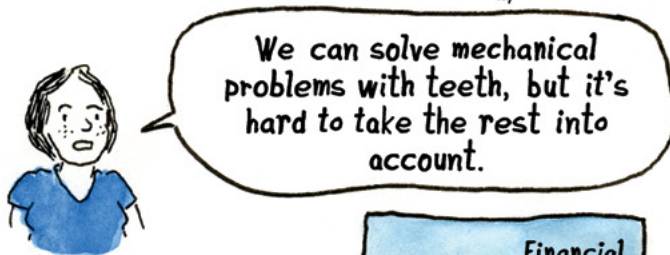
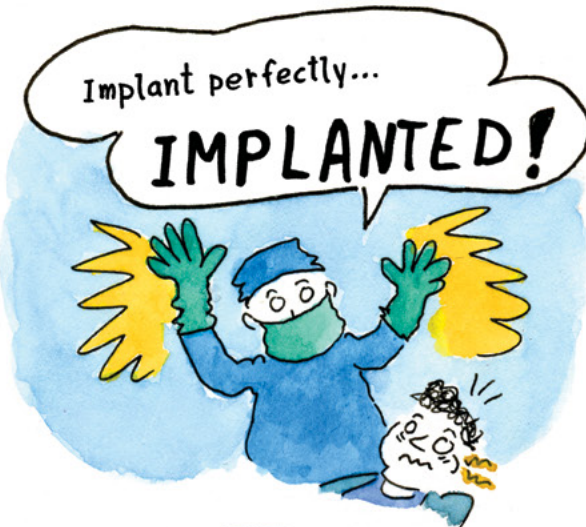


Dr. Li has an intriguing profile.



These dentists often work alone, with higher-risk patients.





Thankfully, in Quebec there are mobile clinics we can look to. Nora and Homa continue to study them in order to identify best practices. Their team is also developing a course aimed at promoting awareness among dental professionals about handicap and social inclusion issues.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The RSBO network thanks its partners



Martin PM

I would like to thank the RSBO network, particularly Christophe and Andrée, for having had the courage to begin this artistic endeavour. Thank you for the freedom to create. Thanks go to Daniel for having shared his ideas and his experience with me all during these months of creation. Thanks to the members of the RSBO network who welcomed me into their laboratories. Thanks to Laurène, Estelle, Jacinthe and Lucile for their comments, rereads, and suggestions. Thanks to Laurène for sharing their story. Thanks to Cécilia and Martin, who greatly helped us climb the last summit toward the publication of this collection.

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