



atherosclerotic complications in the middle third of cholesterol concentrations of modern societies very well. It emphasises the role of low high density lipoprotein (HDL) concentrations and how these interrelate with triglycerides and small dense LDL.

The prevalence of hyperlipidemia in founder populations such as in South Africa, is stressed. Diabetes and its attendant dyslipidaemia is covered well in the chapter on secondary dyslipidaemia. Of relevance is the discussion of dyslipidaemia emerging with treatment of human immunodeficiency virus infection. The recent landmark drug trials are persuasively discussed, including the Heart Protection Study. Guidelines in North America and Europe are contrasted in the discussion on management. The more conservative view of the European guidelines is discussed and is of interest as the South African guidelines are in close agreement.

A D Marais

Scientific Writing. Easy when you know how

By Jennifer Peat, Elizabeth Elliott, Louise Baur and Victoria Keena.
Pp. xv + 292. £22.50. BMJ. 2002. ISBN 0-7279-1625-4.

This book is a handy summary of how to go about writing an article for a scientific journal. Most seasoned scientific writers would be familiar with the issues that are discussed but the book is aimed at novice writers and it is nice to have all the advice and suggestions condensed in one volume.

The book starts with a chapter that encourages researchers to write by discussing the rewards for being a good writer. Good time management skills are discussed to ensure writers devote sufficient time to the writing and polishing of their papers - a novel approach for would-be writers.

Chapters 2 and 3 deal with the nitty gritty of writing by advocating the IMRAD structure (introduction, method, results, and discussion.) But they contain much more than how the paper should be planned. They deal with tricky issues such as the politics surrounding authorship of research teams and how they could be listed. A credit point system for deciding authorship is suggested in one of the highlighted/boxed examples. Data analysis, interpretation of results, the golden rules for reporting numbers, tables and graphics and ethical approval are among some of the other aspects discussed which are central to writing a paper. Chapter 4 deals with finishing the paper dealing with such aspects as the title page, references, citations and peer reviews - all illustrated with highlighted examples, and boxed key messages. Each chapter ends with extensive references to websites, journals and books. I doubt though that novice writers would delve into many, if any, of the copious references. They would rather, I think, distill the information from the book and start writing.

After reading those three chapters carefully, the writer should then turn to the back of the book to pick up tips about writing style, grammar, word choice and punctuation. Although nearly 100 pages dealing with these aspects of writing might be a bit too much to read in one go.

There are three chapters in the middle of the book that cover review and editorial processes, publishing and other types of documents. Not as essential to know about if you are just starting to write your first draft, but useful to guide you once you have completed your research paper.

The book ends as it began with some encouraging suggestions to keep the writer writing. The authors suggest a mentor or forming a writer's group, and they give some practical suggestions on how to avoid writer's block. All in all, the book is a handy reference source for novice scientific writers.

Nan van der Merwe and W F Scott MD,FRCP

IN MEMORIAM

Walter Fleming Scott

Walter Fleming Scott died aged 83 some days after a tragic car accident returning from a Game Reserve in Gauteng. His injuries were devastating and survival would have left him severely crippled. The medical profession - and his patients - will be the poorer for his loss.



Wally exuded life. He was a delightful companion who first became my close friend in the 1940s when we were medical students in Johannesburg. He and I, with Gerry McNeill and Peter Moore made a foursome in the wards, wandering after hours in search of problem cases. Our arguments together helped us all to clear the examination hurdles and made us better doctors.

In clinical training, as in his sixty years of practice, Wally was at his best facing an unsolved problem. Because of his tenacity, knowledge and wisdom, he served his patients, and his friends, with warmth and distinction. He continued practising as a physician and as an assistant at the Cardiac Clinic until his death.

In 1947, my second year at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford, I had become familiar with the joys of punting on the Cherwell, the banks of which are lined with trees and shrubs. My wife and I took Wally punting when he stayed with us after he had passed the Membership examinations of the Royal College of Physicians. The river was running strongly, making punting hazardous. At one stage when we had stopped under overhanging foliage, Wally wanted to try his hand, despite his



unfamiliarity with the task. The punt immediately became ensnared as he tried in vain to get off base one, the punt sliding back and forth with foliage all over us; and there were minutes of uproarious laughter from his two passengers. True to form, Wally succeeded. His determination to achieve a goal he had set himself was indeed the hallmark of this beloved man.

The Scotts had a wide circle of friends and Wally also enjoyed his golf and his tennis. His whimsical sense of humour was a delight in any company. He was devoted to his wife, Nancy, who is now in poor health, needing frail care. Their active and talented daughter, Jenni, lives in Britain: and Roger, their son, is in radiological practice in Johannesburg. Between them, they bore the tragedy of Wally's short life-supported illness when, as the days passed, it became obvious that survival was impossible, his injuries being so catastrophic.

E B Adams

Dr JW van der Riet

John Werendly van der Riet is op 17 November in die ouderdom van 87 jaar in Bloemfontein oorlede, waar hy sy hele professionele lewe gewerk het. Hy is te Thaba 'Nchu op 30 Oktober 1915 gebore. Die gesin verskuif toe na die Pírel en John het sy skool jare daar begin. Op 15 jarige leeftyd het hy sy vader verloor, and die familie het verhuis na Bloemfontein. John matrkuleer aan Grey Kollege in 1933. Voordat hy sy mediese studies in aanvang geneem het, het hy hom as loods bekwaam en 'n B Comm graad aan die destyds Grey University Kollege in 1940 behaal het. Hy verkry sy MB ChB (UCT) in 1946.

Na sy internskap aan die Nasionale Hospitaal te Bloemfontein in 1947, het hy hom hier tot die privaat algemen praktyk gewend. Hy het dikwels vir Dr Otto Krause se pasiente narkose toe gedien en as gevlog van die blootstelling, die gedagte gekry om hom verder in die rigting van otolaringologie te bekwaam. Omdat diÉ spesialisasie nie aan hom gegun is nie, het sy belangstelling in verdere opleiding uiting gevind in die gedagte van kliniese aande waar pasiente bespreek is en wat belangstelling by ander praktisyns in die stad uitgelok het. Hy het het 'n tydskrif besprekingsklub gestig wat tot 1965 voort bestaan het, en ook baie energie bestee het aan die vestiging van 'n nagraadse mediese fakulteit in Bloemfontein. Hy was alreeds bemoeid met Mediese Vereeniging sake eers as Sekretaris ven die Sentral Afdeling en later as Voorsitter van die takraad van die Tak OVS.

John is getroud met Marie Strydom en uit die huwelik is 'n dogter en twee seuns gebore.

Belangrik is dat op 6 September 1957 het John aan sy vrou Marie gese dat hy beslis die gedagte dat Bloemfontein 'n mediese fakulteit moet kry, gaan uitbou. Na amper tien jaar van voete sleep deur die regering het die tyd aangebreek dat

op 6 Junie 1966, Dr Carel de Wet dit aangekondig het dat 'n mediese fakulteit aan Bloemfontein toegeken is.

Oor die jare lange toewyding aan die mediese beroep as praktisyn is nog min gese omdat John se grootste nalatenskap die totstandkoming van die mediese fakulteit was. John was sedert 1946 lid van die M. V.S.A, Hy was sekretaris van die Sentrale afdeling asook voorsitter, Tak-president in 1960, 1972, 1977 en 1983, Sekretaris van die Nagraadse beplannings komitee 1957 tot 1971, Lid van die Federaleraad 1960 - 1962 en 1966 - 1975, President van die Mediese Vereniging van Suid Afrika 1971 en ontvanger van die vereniging se brons medalje in 1976.

Na 22 jaar in die privaat praktyk het John in 1970 Streek bestuurder van die O. V.S. en Noord-Kaapstreek van die Departement Gesondheid geword tot sy aftrede in 1980.

Rugby was een van sy groot belangstellings en hy was die eerste spandokter van die Vrystaat se rugby span. Ook het hy op die gebied van gemeenskaps betrokkenheid groot bydraes gelewer. Hy was 'n trustee van die vereniging vir mense met liggaamlike gestremdhede en hy het liefdesdiens by Ons Kinderhuis en die aftree oord Mooihawe gelewer. Hy was 'n verkose lid van die S.A. Geneeskundige en Tandheelkundige Raad en lid van die Uitvoerende Komitee. Hy was Bevelvoerder van die 4de Veldambulans van 1954 tot 1961, en in 1972 is die John Chard medalje aan hom toegeken. Hy was ook 'n stigter en direkteur van die bank van die OVS.

Die graad Ph.D (hon. causa) was aan hom op 17 September 1988 toegeken vir sy vol gehoue pogings om 'n fakulteit geneeskunde aan die UV te vestig. Hy het hom byna 18 jaar daarvoor beywer. Hy het op die Raad van die universiteit verskeie kere gedien tussen 1973 en 1995 gedien. Verder was hy lid van die beheerraad van Grey Kollege waar hy gematrikuleer het.

Ten slotte is 'n herhaling van die huldeblyk by sy begrafnis deur Professor W.J. Richards gepas:

'In conclusion dear members of the family and friends, we salute a notable outstanding man of great merit, of noble character, with a record of unselfish service to his fellow men, a versatile man devoted to the many causes he had made his own, and a true friend to the many who crossed his path. He was a genuine leader one who lead by example and who motivated people not only by sound arguments, and level headed judgements, but also by his fairness and honesty, his kind conviction and his unselfish friendship. He was a true aristocrat and Christian gentleman of astonishing depth. We humbly thank the good Lord for such a caring family man, a loving father and grandfather, and last but not least, for such an exemplary guide and inspiring friend.'

Namens die Takraad Tak Vrystaat

SV Potgieter, Ere-sekretaris.