

Physicians' values versus patients' needs

Public expectations and physicians' responsibilities.

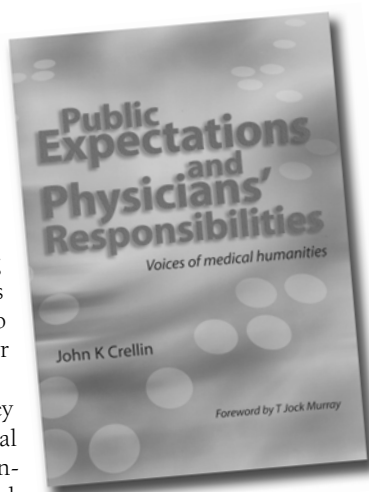
Voices of medical humanities. John K Crellin.

Abingdon: Radcliffe Publishing, 2005
(vi + 165 pp, \$61.50). ISBN 1 85775 642 8.

JOHN CRELLIN, Professor of the History of Medicine at the Memorial University of Newfoundland, explains that “underpinning this book is the perception that the values held by physicians have changed in recent years and may not be in keeping with the needs of patients today”. He and his colleagues (including students) have dipped into popular culture, literature and film to illustrate their point.

The material is organised according to seven key professional roles: the doctor as expert and clinical decision-maker, communicator, collaborator, manager, health advocate, scholar and professional. These are the roles identified by the CanMEDS 2000 Project¹ and widely adopted in Canada and other countries, including Australia, to guide curriculum development in postgraduate training programs.

These roles provide one “axis”, with various forms of literature, the arts and popular culture providing the other. It's a patchwork of different pieces and genres with little overall coherence, but this is not necessarily a bad thing; the book is more like a “dress-up box” than



an exegesis. Excerpts vary from the memorable to the mundane, with an understandable bias towards Canadian literature.

A rather more impressive literary collection appears in a new book, *The moral of the story: an anthology of ethics through literature*.² This one is a knockout — a necessary quality for a book that is priced at \$230.00. Here we have some of the best chapters from the best books by the best writers, arranged and annotated in “ethical clusters”.

“Bedside teaching” usually occurs around the patient's bed, but another equally important form of bedside teaching occurs when we spend a little time with books like these at the end of a hard day. Just beware: if your bedside table looks like mine, it is almost certainly an occupational health and safety hazard.

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1 Frank JR, Jabbour M, Tugwell P, et al. Skills for the new millennium: report of the societal needs working group, CanMEDS 2000 Project. *Ann R Coll Physicians Surg Can* 1996; 29: 206-216.

2 Singer P, Singer R, editors. *The moral of the story: an anthology of ethics through literature*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Geriatric medicine. Early policy and practice in Western Australia. Lefroy RB. Perth: University of Western Australia Press, 2005 (xiii + 130 pp \$24.95) ISBN 1 920694 44 7.

Global status report on alcohol 2004. Geneva: World Health Organization, 2004 (88 pp + CD-ROM \$82.50) ISBN 92 4 156272 2.

Guide to arthrocentesis and soft tissue injection. Anderson BC. Philadelphia: Elsevier Saunders, 2005 (ix + 214 pp \$69.00) ISBN 1 4160 2205 8.

Harrison's manual of medicine. Kasper DL, Braunwald E, Fauci AS, Hauser SL. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2005 (xv + 1081 pp \$74.95) ISBN 0 07 144441 6.

Harrison's manual of medicine 16th edition for PDA. Kasper DL, Hauser SL, Braunwald E, Longo DL, Fauci AS. Sydney: McGraw-Hill Medical, 2005 (CD-ROM \$109.95) ISBN 0 07 145384 9.

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Humanity in healthcare: the heart and soul of medicine. Barritt Peter. Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing, 2005 (240 pp \$66.20) ISBN 1 85775 836 6.

Hunting the double helix. How DNA is solving puzzles of the past. Meyer A. Sydney: Allen & Unwin, 2005 (vii + 232 pp \$26.95) ISBN 1 74114 107 9.

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In our own right. Goold S, Liddle K. Sydney: Content Management, 2005 (vi + 120 pp \$33.00) ISBN 0 9757422 2 1.

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Injury prevention in Aboriginal communities. Rural Health Education Foundation. Canberra: Rural Health Education Foundation, 2005 (Video \$75.00).

Integrating UK and European Social Policy. The complexity of Europeanisation. Geyer R, MacKintosh A, Lehmann K. Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing, 2005 (248 pp \$82.00) ISBN 1 85775 764 5.

Integrative medicine in general practice. Bridging the gap between complementary and conventional medicine. Sali A, Jamison J, Deed G, Kotsirilos V, Healy D. Melbourne: Unity Health, 2004 (CD ROM \$148.50).

An intelligent life. A practical guide to relationships, intimacy and self-esteem. Short J. Sydney: Random House, 2005 (283 pp \$24.95) ISBN 1 74051 343 6.

Interferon. The science and selling of a miracle drug. Pieters T. Oxford: Routledge, 2005 (xvi + 264 pp \$190.10) ISBN 0 415 34246 5.

John MacAlister's other vision: a history of the fellowship of postgraduate medicine. Cook GC. Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing, 2005 (184 pp \$70.15) ISBN 1 85775 789 0.

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Know yourself — the individual's guide to career development in healthcare. Houghton A. Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing, 2005 (192 pp \$56.70) ISBN 1 85775 714 9.

Learning from medical errors: clinical problems. Nguyen AVT, Nguyen DA. Oxford: Radcliffe Publishing, 2005 (240 pp \$93.70) ISBN 1 85775 768 8.

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A lifelong journey. Staying well with manic depression/bipolar disorder. Russell S. Melbourne: Michelle Anderson Publishing, 2005 (xiii + 141 pp \$19.95) ISBN 0 85572 357 2.