

Author's Preface

This collection was born out of the author having a terrible memory! Having spent almost 25 years supporting research in clinical medicine I struggled, and still do, to retain even a small understanding of the inspirational work of my colleagues. Many Professors, researchers, students, doctors and nurses have been generous with their time and patience in attempting to improve my understanding of what they are researching. What started out as some very short mnemonic pieces to aid recall has grown into this collection.

My hope is that these eclectic pieces and their stylistic range reflect the diversity of research in the field of medicine. The topics examined range from health economics and specific diseases to biological mechanisms and technology platforms used in research. Some also provide a lens to the feelings and pressures of patients and doctors, whilst others delve into the workings of the mind. Several have layers and patterns for the reader to discover as an allusion to the process of research itself, whilst others are painfully personal in the perspectives they use. The images in the collection offer respite for the reader from poems which often have turmoil at their heart, a chance to take a breath and be reminded of the beauty that surrounds us.

It starts with the key to successful research; collaboration and fellowship, and ends on a reflection of humanity and the humbling of mankind gained through service to others. As such the collection epitomises the path that transforms passion into perfection, and enshrines the drive of the Faculty of Medicine at The Chinese University of Hong Kong to gain and apply knowledge and understanding for the benefit of all.

We should never skip to the last page of a book and read the ending. However in this case I think it is apt, so I shall borrow from the last line of the collection in the hope it conveys the honour I feel in making this contribution.

'I leave this token at your door, humbled.'

Darren J. Nash

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