

Creative Medical Authoring at MoreWriting

Have you ever read books or watched dramas or films that have inspired you or involved you in the characters' lives to the extent that you've really wanted them to succeed? If so, you've witnessed the power creative writing has to give insights, convey feeling and stimulate emotions.

Of course, every hero or heroine has challenges of one sort or another to overcome. And it is the author's job to evoke your sympathy for the character's ambitions, recruit you their causes and build your involvement through the unexpected twists and turns of the journey to the memorable ending.

Illness is a challenge we all face at one time or another, trivial as a cold or severe as a heart attack and it is then we become the hero or heroine in our own story. Will we beat the illness? Will the cure return us to the normality we enjoyed before disease struck?

The stories of illness are as different as we are. We all have different genetic make up, susceptibilities and tolerances. Our jobs and lives may or may not be affected by illness, depending what we do and how we cope. Illness can also be a bit of a taboo subject, something we prefer not to think about or discuss with others in case it implies weakness or changes attitudes towards us. So, we can be caught unawares and unprepared for our own illness and find ourselves struggling to comprehend the difficulties others face.

Creative authors at Morewriting (www.morewriting.co.uk) were given the difficult task of composing attention-grabbing and entertaining stories and poems that both captured the essence of real patient experiences posted on Patient UK and could pass strict clinical review for the medical accuracy of messages given.

They've done a wonderful job and you'll find details about them below.

The (free) Morewriting website is a friendly meeting place where writers can develop their skills, characters and plots by drafting and commenting on each other's poetry, fiction, non-fiction, song lyrics and experimental or training works. The site allows authors to gain confidence and build up a portfolio of works, whether for fun or for submission to publishers. Everyone who would like to write is welcome.

Gordon

About our creative authors

Alison Froud

Ali Froud is a 53 year old Mum, Gran, Am Dram producer, part time Nanny and writer of strange comedic poetry and short stories. Her six year old grandson Stanley has cystic fibrosis which prompted her to write the piece "My Cystic Fibrosis".

Aymie Lacey

Aymie Lacey is a freelance writer, focusing mainly on scriptwriting, poetry, and absurdist playwriting. She began writing for enjoyment as a child, and is keen to incorporate the enjoyment of writing with a career in the field. Away from writing, she works in complaints assurance for a large company and currently lives in Hampshire with her partner after growing up on the Isle of Wight. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends and is a keen film fan. She is keen to travel

and discover new experiences in order to gain further inspiration for her poetry and other areas of writing.

Chris Dawson

A beach lover and a dreamer corrupted by couplets in the late 90s, whereupon I was then fortunate to have the time to reflect on my observations and experiences and commit them to paper. A spontaneous writer, often needing to clear thoughts by freeing myself with a pen in order to avoid being continually haunted by them!

At times constructing pieces for humour, to mock, and often purely out of mischief; also relishing creating something to provoke thought and reaction. I seldom polish, proof or revisit my work. A great deal of inspiration has been derived from a single muse, these writings have received the most recognition...so I would like to acknowledge her both here and each time I raise my coffee cup.

Dan Purdue

Dan Purdue is in his thirties and has been writing fiction since 2004. He works as a design engineer for a healthcare company and lives in Warwickshire. Currently hard at work on his first science fiction novel, he writes occasional short stories as a change of pace. His efforts at "micro fiction" have been published on the Spread the Word website and in *The Wonderful World of Worders* (Guildhall Press, 2007).

He is particularly pleased to have another publication under his belt, as it's not often he has the chance to refer to himself in the third person

Donna Milligan

Donna has enjoyed writing from a young age and practises as much as possible in her spare time. She hopes to one day get around to writing and publishing her own novel. Donna studied a language degree in Brighton and now works in Personnel. She lives in Hampshire with her boyfriend and their tabby cat Precious. Other interests include cooking, eating out, socialising with friends and family and going to the gym.

Elizabeth Madden

A native of Scotland, currently living in Kent, Elizabeth was a teacher of English Literature and Theatre Studies for many years. She is now a full-time writer who was runner-up in *The Writers' Bureau* and *Slingink* Short Story Competitions (both in 2003) and has had stories published in *The Zoetrope Magazine* and the *Slingink* and *Wonderful World of Worders* anthologies. She is currently writing a crime novel set in Lowland Scotland in the 1930s. She is married, has two children and is an insatiable reader.

Karen Jones

Karen Jones is a full time mother and full time carer. She writes in as much spare time as she has – short stories, novels, comedy and, occasionally, poetry.

She has been published in *Writers' Forum Magazine*, *Candis Magazine*, *Our Atticus* ezine, *Tuesday Shorts'* web page and on the *Writers' Bureau* website. Thirty-two of her micro-stories are published in the Guildhall Press book *'The Wonderful World of Worders'*, and she was short listed for the 2007 Asham Award.

Kelly Duthie

Kelly is a 600 year old bionic ninja from the Epsilon Eridani system, where she is known for carving marvellous animated figurines from the tusks of the Coprithic Ice Spoon. When war ravaged her planet, she took to the stars and exacted ninjary revenge upon those who had destroyed the mating grounds of the Ice Spoons. Discovering a talent for ninja-piracy and general rowdiness, she embarked upon a career smuggling old men for the burgeoning blackmarket. Caught by the Galactic Five-Oh whilst on her most daring smuggling endeavour (to deliver over ten thousand old men to the cardigan mines on Jubulon Beta), she was deported to Earth. She now teaches primary school children, writes and never, ever smuggles old men.

Martin Colclough

Martin Colclough has been writing stories and poems in rhyme since about 2004 as a result of a stressful event involving his youngest daughter's health. Some of these poems and stories were published in two books 'The Poetry of Cadenz Rime' and 'Bitter Sweet and Funny the Works'. Both books have sold at least two copies each and hence Mr Colclough has teetered into literary retirement.

Mr Colclough has also written an autobiography about his formative years living in the North West and has formulative chapters for two other novels. These will of course never be finished nor published.

Nicky Phillips

Nicky Phillips attended Ware Grammar School, where she developed a love of language. She worked in music publishing, for an organisation protecting press freedom and finally at Canada House, overlooking Trafalgar Square, before leaving London for the delights of a pig farm.

Now pig-free, Nicky works as an administrator and proofreader, writes whenever possible and has had pieces published in Writers' Forum, The Cannon's Mouth and Wonderful World of Worders (a collection of micro stories, Guildhall Press, 2007). She is learning Italian, chooses 70s rock music for relaxation and lives in Hertfordshire.

Pam Davies

My name is Pam Davies. I'm sixty one, a widow and I'm retired, spending much of my life with my partner John who lives nearby.

I have one son, Kevin, who lives in Gloucestershire with his Canadian wife Hilary and have worked variously in the film and oil industries, most recently in a sales capacity.

I enjoy writing poetry and have had several poems published in magazines and on the internet. I also like trying to paint in watercolours, though with little creditable result.

Cornwall, sunshine and the garden are my favourite things; though walking and travelling far became a luxury following a back injury. 'Silver surfing' however brings the world to me!

Patsy Collins

Patsy Collins lives on the south coast of England, with her photographer partner, Gary. In addition to writing and photography, her interests are reading and gardening.

Her short stories have been published in a range of publications including; Fiction Feast, Yours, The Lady, Best, Woman's Weekly, Candis, My Weekly and The Weekly News. She also writes non fiction articles and has recently completed her first novel.

Patsy does not keep cats.

Perry Gretton

Perry Gretton was born in Nottingham, England, and has lived in Australia since the mid-70s. He shares his time between writing, proofreading and editing, and designing and developing websites.

Perry has had published many articles on information technology and related subjects, as well as prose and humorous poetry.

He lives on a hill on the beautiful Central Coast of New South Wales, overlooking Tuggerah Lakes and the South Pacific Ocean, and has no desire to live anywhere else.

Rosie Peters

Rosie is married, has two daughters and two grandchildren and she lives near her mother in Loughborough.

She is a Registered General Nurse and worked for over twenty years as a Practice Nurse. Rosie loved the variety and demands of a busy surgery but she prefers retirement.

Rosie relishes the opportunity to combine her interest in health and medical information with writing stories and verse.

Spending time with family and friends is important to Rosie and she enjoys cooking and entertaining. She also likes to read, tend her garden, go on long walks with her husband and visit the gym.

Roz Mckenzie

Roz is a former national newspaper journalist and can currently be found inspiring the future generation of reporters in her work as a part-time lecturer.

In her spare time Roz works as a freelance journalist and satirist. She has also written several children's poems and stories - including her first novel 'Dreaming of shaved oxheart with the fat removed....' Roz lives in London with her partner and six-year-old son.

Sarah Smith

My name is Sarah Smith and I am a Trainee Solicitor from Southampton. I originally studied Geography at the University of Southampton, however after gaining some experience in the field; I decided to go into law. When I qualify this year I hope to go into tax, trusts and probate.

In my spare time I enjoy keeping fit, socialising and raising money for charity. My particular passion is running and I hope to run the London Marathon in 2009. I enjoy writing both stories and poems in my leisure time. Writing for children is particularly rewarding

Shelley White

Shelley has always had a love of literature but pushed aside her desire to write creatively until about three years ago, when she enrolled on a 'writing for pleasure' course.

She is inspired to write by observing people and hearing snippets of conversation on public transport or in the street.

She likes the sound of children laughing; hence much of her writing is for children.

She is studying for a Certificate in Creative Writing and would like to write full-time. She enjoys jazz, theatre, cryptic crosswords and the Italian language and culture.

Tracey Weston

Tracy currently lives in Norfolk, England. For the past twelve years she has worked in the field of mental health and learning disabilities. In particular; communication and art therapies. She is now training to be a counsellor and would like to specialise in post traumatic stress disorder. She hopes to work abroad and travel in the near future.

Her contributions to this book have given her an opportunity to combine creativity with work experience. She hopes that readers will enjoy what she has written and wishes you all good health and happiness.

About our medical authors

Dr Beverley Kenny

Dr Beverley Kenny graduated from Newcastle Medical School in 1983. She has been a GP principal for over 19 years in North Tyneside and takes a special interest in women's health, mental health issues, and health education and promotion. She believes that written information given to patients to complement the GP consultation is of great benefit to patients. With her husband she is co-editor of the patient information leaflets on the PILS database and on www.patient.co.uk. Her artistic flair has been also been harnessed and her clear line diagrams are used to illustrate many of the patient information leaflets

Dr Chloe Borton

Chloe Borton did a degree in Experimental Psychology and worked as a teacher in Inner London before going to medical school. She currently works as a sessional GP in Oxfordshire and as a medical author from home. The rest of her time she spends chasing her three small children and ginger cat called Keith.

Dr Colin Tidy

Colin Tidy is in his forties and has been a part-time medical author since 2002. The rest of his time is spent with family (including two children aged seven and five years) and working as a GP in Witney in Oxfordshire. Most of his leisure time is now spent happily playing with his children but there is still some time for his lifelong passion for music and theatre.

Dr Gordon Brooks

Gordon is one of the medics who run Patient UK, maintaining its high standards and implementing new features. He is a qualified medical practitioner who also holds a doctorate in medical informatics.

His earlier RN experiences with mini-sub, parachuting, diving, secret ships and space adventures read like the background to a Bond movie. Nowadays though, he has his feet firmly on the ground specialising in medical computing, authoring and publishing. Except - when he's sailing the Solent and investigating historical mysteries.

Gordon is married with four children, a dog and a boat called Annwen and hopes to finish his novel... someday.

Dr Hayley Willacy

Hayley Willacy is a 40 year old mother of 2 boys. She is a GP who originally trained in gynaecology, so she has an undying love of women's and children's health matters.

As well as authoring for EMIS. She also works for Manchester University, looking after their medical students in East Cheshire.

Dr Huw Thomas

Huw is a part-time General Practitioner in Minehead, Somerset and clinical editor for web-mentor (patient plus). He has been involved in the training of GP's for almost two decades, and has always been interested in utilising the computer to help in this task. When not authoring or editing Huw spends as much time as possible cycling or walking on Exmoor with his family. Escape from this environment usually involves sailing various types of craft (yachts, dinghies or catamarans) as fast as he can, usually struggling to avoid capsizes, and getting as wet as possible!

Dr Lawrence Knott

Laurence Knott has been a GP in Enfield for 32 years. He has been a freelance journalist for many medical and a few national newspapers. He has been the resident doctor for a national women's magazine for the last ten years. He contracted Guillaine Barre syndrome in 1989 but was fortunate to make a full recovery. He was for a while the GP advisor to the GBS Clinical Advisory Board. He is married with two children and his interests include opera, painting and antiques.

Dr Michelle Wright

Dr Michelle Wright is a GP. She graduated from the University of Bristol in 1997 and then moved to London for her hospital junior doctor posts and GP training. On completing her GP training, Michelle worked in a busy South East London practice as a salaried partner until moving to Switzerland in 2004.

Michelle now works as a medical author for EMIS and also writes and reviews patient information leaflets for patient.co.uk. She continues to do GP locum work in the UK. Michelle is also a regular contributor on World Radio Switzerland and is currently involved in a weekly medical show discussing various health topics.

Dr Richard Draper

Richard Draper has been a family doctor in Surrey for nearly 20 years. Before this he worked in an academic department of General Practice and he is still involved with medical student teaching. He has worked in the West Indies for the Oversease Development Administration and did hospital training in London where he lives with his wife, two teenage children and one surviving goldfish.

Dr Tim Kenny

Dr Tim Kenny pursued a career in General Practice after graduating from Newcastle Medical School in 1983. In the 1990s, he and his wife developed a database of patient information leaflets (PILS) for GPs and Practice Nurses to print out to give to patients. This is now a standard feature on the computing system of most GPs in the UK, and a core dataset on www.patient.co.uk. Having spent more than 15 years as a GP principal he now spends most of his time writing material for PILs and is editor of www.patient.co.uk – a widely used health website.