

Writing for the Public About Medicine (or Other Subjects)

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Anton Chekhov, M.D. 1860-1904



USEFUL BOOKS

- The Elements of Style by William Strunk Jr. and E.B. White (especially White's essay, "An Approach to Style")
- Bird By Bird by Anne Lamott - A wonderful book for writers and would-be writers.
- The Artist's Way by Julia Cameron. "Exercises" to encourage creativity.

Sources of Training

- Writing classes and workshops (local)
- Writers' groups
- CME conferences (for doctors on writing) or writers' conferences
- Summer workshops or retreats
- Formal university-based programs (e.g. science writing, medical writing, or creative writing programs including online)

Science Writers' Groups

- National Association of Science Writers
- American Medical Writers Association
- Council for the Advancement of Science Writing
- Knight Foundation (fellowships for science writers)

INTERNSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

- JAMA (medical writing)
- New England Journal (writing, editing - flexible)
- AAAS (summer internships, place science grad students in media jobs)
- Newspapers, TV, magazines, NPR (mostly for college students, but worth checking out)

Journals That Publish Personal Essays

- British Medical Journal
- Health Affairs (“Narrative Matters”)
- JAMA (“A Piece of My Mind”)
- Annals of Internal Medicine
- NEJM (rarely)
- American Journal of Psychiatry
- Probably many more – check information for authors/submissions on websites

Source for Writers' Conferences and Workshops

- The Writer's Chronicle published 6 times a year by National Association of Writing Programs

[http://www.awpwriter.org/magazine/index.
htm](http://www.awpwriter.org/magazine/index.htm)

Where to Submit Creative Pieces

- 400-500 journals and “little magazines” publish poetry and fiction – some are online only
- Poets & Writers Magazine publishes a list with websites and details
- The International Directory of Little Magazines and Small Presses is a directory in book form

Tips on Choosing Journals

- Look through them at the library to see whether they publish the type of work you write
- Follow submission guidelines
- Start with smaller journals especially those in your region
- The Bellevue Literary Review publishes medicine-related pieces

Publishing a Non-fiction Book

- Look for an agent (read the acknowledgements pages in books you admire to get agent names, or attend a conference for doctors who want to write).
- Send an inquiry letter or email.
- Get sample book proposals from agents and work on your proposal.