



## Book Review

Edited by Maria M. Tsoukas, MD, PhD

**Ryan, Terence**, *Medicine and Body Image: Resource Planning for the Poor*, 312 pages. Words by Design, Oxfordshire, UK, 2018. £10

This book starts with memoirs of a family at a time when Great Britain was a leading world power with tight connections to the colonies in Asia and elsewhere. Some part of the Ryan family made their living in South India, and this would have a significant impact on the author's later life.

The author, Terence Ryan, illustrates his path to medicine, which was far from straightforward. His Christian name, Terence, means "he never gives up." This may be considered as the motto of his life. He started his medical studies in Oxford in 1950. His first teacher in dermatology was Alice Carleton (1891-1979). She must have been a tough woman: "... anyone who called a macule a papule might get hit." During these years, German biochemist Hermann Blaschko (1900-1993) worked on melanin at the Radcliffe Infirmary. He was the son of the famous dermatologist Alfred Blaschko (1858-1922), remembered by the eponym for skin lines.

Ryan's major topic of interest—microcirculation and lymphatics—probably began in 1955, when a patient presented with a purpuric eruption on her legs and Ryan was introduced to the Swedish physician Jan Waldenström (1906-1996), who was visiting Oxford at the time. During the 1960s Ryan was invited to meetings of the British Microcirculation Society. Later his interests expanded into wound healing and leg ulcer treatment.

## International Activities

An additional favorite of Ryan's professional life has been tropical dermatology. During the early 1970s Oxford became the residence for the International Centre for Leprology. This provided an ideal opportunity to expand scientific studies and create an international network.

Ryan has been engaged in many international societies, including the International Society of Dermatology, for which he served as president from 1994 to 1999. In 1991 he created the slogan "Healthy Skin for All," adapted from the "Health for All" programming goal of the World Health Organization (WHO). These activities were organized under the umbrella of UNESCO and the International Foundation for Dermatology. The next year, he became president of the British Society of Dermatology. Through his guidance, projects of public health were developed for Tanzania, Mali, Guatemala, and China.

## International Educational Activities

Terence Ryan retired in 1997, becoming emeritus professor of dermatology at Oxford University. In 2007 he was presented with the Distinguished Services Award of the International League of Dermatological Societies.

When he retired from his duties in Oxford, he funneled his energies toward international educational and health care projects, such as those in Mekele, Ethiopia. He also began to teach the management of lymphedema at the Institute of Applied Dermatology in North Kerala, India. Open-minded as always, he implemented his experience in Western medicine with the local knowledge and a low budget. He introduced yoga into lymphedema therapy as an example of integrated dermatology.

Ryan also became deeply involved with WHO and developed the important white paper on wound and lymphedema management, concerning the African Buruli ulcer and filariasis challenge. In 2009, when the Task Force on Community Dermatology was launched in Berlin, Ryan served as chairman.

## The Ryan Credo

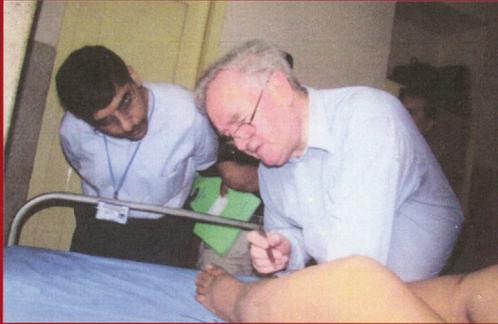
His credo has always been, "I wish to give greater emphasis on the attitude rather than the technology of care."

Uwe Wollina, MD

*Department of Dermatology and Allergology, Academic  
Teaching Hospital Dresden-Friedrichstadt, Dresden, Germany*

*E-mail address: [wollina-uw@khdf.de](mailto:wollina-uw@khdf.de)*

## Medicine and Body Image



Resource Planning for the Poor

*A Memoir by Terence Ryan*