ing Time Directive” or the “Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence,” which, while potentially interesting to budding scholars of European health policy, are not particularly high-yield for the average U.S. medical student. Similarly, the final chapter on “Competency-based tasks” describes U.K.-specific interview techniques such as the “patient simulation exercise,” which in the U.S. is assessed not by means of an interview, but during a standardized clinical skills exam such as the USMLE Step 2 CS.

Overall, How to Succeed at the Medical Interview might be useful for someone in search of a resource focused specifically on the interview as opposed to other aspects of the residency application process. However, given the distracting preponderance of U.K.-specific discussions and terminology, most medical students are probably better off sticking with some of this book’s better-known U.S. book cousins, such as Iserson’s Getting into a Residency or First Aid for the Match.

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Hope and Suffering: Children, Cancer, and the Paradox of Experimental Medicine. By Gretchen Krueger. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press; 2008. 216 pp. US $35 Hardcover. ISBN: 978-0801888311.

Gretchen Krueger paints a vivid picture of deformity, disfigurement, and suffering and offers an equally compelling depiction of hope and incremental advances in the history of pediatric cancers in her book, Hope and Suffering: Children, Cancer, and the Paradox of Experimental Medicine.

Krueger’s offering is laid out in chronological order, but several themes manage to permeate throughout: cures and reasonable treatment for childhood cancers, specifically leukemia, have only been available since the 1970s. Research for cancer historically has been done on the backs of desperately ill children at major cancer centers. The psychological burden of cancer has weighed heavily on parents and patients alike, often with little-to-no acknowledgment by medical caregivers, who frequently disagreed professionally about how to handle difficult conversations with families. Lastly, Krueger familiarizes the reader with key moments in pediatric oncology history.

This book, as suggested by the title, spends much of its time discussing the role that children have had in cancer research, specifically leukemia research, which is one of the most common childhood cancers. As early as the 1920s, childhood cancer was recognized as a threat to the well-being of the next generation, but it wasn’t until the end of World War II that public health campaigns and foundations began to bring awareness to the disease. Throughout the 1950s, children diagnosed with cancer usually lived less than one month following admission to a major cancer center hospital, even though the care was considered state-of-the-art. It was not until the late 1960s that children had a realistic opportunity for prolonged remissions.

Krueger is at her best when she is discussing the psychosocial effects of the disease, and her chapter dedicated to the bestselling illness narrative, Death Be Not Proud, is a particular highlight. In Death Be Not Proud, John and Frances Gunther detail the experience of watching their son succumb to leukemia. Death Be Not Proud was the first to give a voice to the experience of an adolescent cancer patient and his parents, who were forced to helplessly watch their child expire from this disease.

Krueger repeatedly shows the reader the traumas that patients underwent in the hopes of “finding a cure” or having their deaths or those of their children not be “in vain.” The consequences, however, of aggressive research were a double-edged sword. Krueger explains that “progress in treating and curing childhood cancers became the justification for increased cancer research funding … the transformation of leukemia … from acute, invariably fatal diseases to nearly chronic conditions created unforeseen challenges …”

Hope and Suffering is one best suited for the casual medical historian. Krueger’s writ-
ing is not overly technical, and, while she does discuss the medical and scientific advancements made in the field of pediatric oncology, the science behind such breakthroughs is quite slim. Krueger’s most compelling writing is found when she is discussing death and dying and the psychosocial aspects of the disease. Her deliberate choice to arrange the book in chronological order — instead of with a more cohesive theme — works, given its historical nature. However, some of the chapters can feel misplaced. In fact, Krueger writes, “… the history of pediatric cancers splintered into three separate narratives: illness and incurability, short- and long-term survival, and death and dying,” and there are times when the reader wishes she had taken that direction. Overall, Krueger offers a well-researched, interesting work that brings primary source material to light and places the sometimes controversial history of pediatric oncology in a social and cultural context.

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How to Write a Paper. 4th edition. Edited by George M. Hall. Malden, MA: BMJ Books & Blackwell Publishing; 2008. 168 pp. US $35.95 Paperback. ISBN: 978-1405167734.

The fourth edition of How to Write a Paper is a pragmatic, straightforward guide that will aid novice writers in effectively communicating scientific results through the written word. This volume should be considered obligatory reading for undergraduate and postgraduate students as well as non-native English speakers. However, more seasoned, published scientists with a developed compositional style may find the pedagogic instructions of How to Write a Paper immaterial. Thus, the overarching goal of this book is to indoctrinate the inexperienced writer to basic publishing skills necessary for successful communication of scientific results and theories.

How to Write a Paper is organized around rational, short chapters that are focused and well written. Initial chapters discuss the overall structure of a scientific manuscript as well as the format and content of each individual section (i.e., Title, Abstract, Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, and References). Moreover, this volume discusses the etiquette and writing style required for appropriately responding to reviewers’ comments regarding a manuscript submission. In addition to chapters focused on empirical papers, How to Write a Paper also features chapters that describe how to write a review, prepare a case report, and submit an electronic manuscript (the latter of which is often a thorny process). Relevant information regarding electronic publication and digitalization of the publication process makes these chapters timely additions to any book focused on contemporary scientific writing. Subsequent chapters delineate the respective roles of the editor, manuscript assessor, and publisher in the submission and publication processes. A brief consultation of these chapters offers readers insight into the world of publishing, where few authors have experience. Readers will gain a unique perspective on issues facing editors and publishers, including manuscript triage and reviews as well as sales and marketing of publications. Finally, chapters devoted to sensitive ethical and legal considerations, including authorship selection, conflicts of interest, plagiarism, and research misconduct, are presented and, together with the preceding chapters, create a valuable practical guide for writing a coherent and reputable scientific article.

How to Write a Paper is immediately useful and accessible to anyone who aspires to master the art of writing quality scientific research articles. The practical advice on writing and publishing put forth in this volume is sufficient to train researchers in basic publication skills. In addition to demystifying the writing process, the fourth edition broadens its scope to include timely ethical and legal topics as well as the latest debates on open access rights to published research articles. Thus, this book establishes a foundation upon which scientists in the infancy of their publishing careers can acquire the necessary