

could contribute its greatest public health benefit in this way.⁹ Our respondents, however, did not agree, wanting the pharmacy experience to be as brief as possible and not wishing to be counselled about STIs and/or regular contraception by the pharmacist unless they request it.

Conclusions

In conclusion, these results confirm views from other studies on this issue, which suggest that although women have some concerns in relation to OTC supply of the ECP, they believe that its deregulation is a positive step as it improves women's access to it. The data also suggest that women need to be provided with more information and education in relation to the ECP, as this is critical in raising awareness about a subject which has been described as "the best-kept secret in contraception" (p. 729).²⁹

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Competing interests None identified.

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Successful Scientific Writing: A Step-By-Step Guide for the Biological and Medical Sciences (3rd edn). Janice R Matthews, Robert W Matthews. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2007. ISBN-13: 978-0-52169-927-3. Price: £19.99. Pages: 256 (spiralbound)

I really enjoyed reading this book. It is a handy book with all the necessary chapters and exercises to train undergraduate and postgraduate candidates in biomedical sciences in the art of scientific writing. I am sure clinicians will also find the book very helpful, although they would need to access local information sources and databases to gain maximum benefit.

The spiral binding makes it easy to read and carry around. The eight chapters flow easily from conception of a topic, through the research, the writing process and the possible ethical and legal pitfalls one may encounter when submitting a piece of scientific writing for publication. There is a chapter on improving word choice and syntax style that will help immensely in improving the readability and appeal of written material.

Throughout the book, the authors have emphasised the need for planning and organisation, whether drafting, writing, presenting or publishing the material. In particular, they give sound advice on how to

avoid even accidental plagiarism. I enjoyed doing the exercises after each chapter although the temptation to look at the answers was great!

Postgraduate medical trainees who want to use this book as a guide will benefit from involving a clinical librarian to ensure they use the appropriate databases and search strategies for their research.

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