

## Book Case

Dr Gerry Hanna considers 6 books along the theme of medicine, cycling and people.

### MARIE

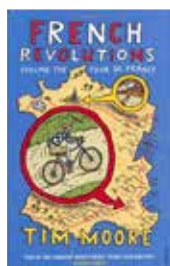
Gordon Wilson and Alf McCreary (Collins – Marshal Pickering 1990).



Many of us will always remember the distressing scenes from various incidents during the troubles. I have vivid memories of looking after the victims of the Omagh bomb during my second week as JHO in the Royal Victoria Hospital in 1998. In the weeks following the Omagh bomb I re-read Marie by Gordon Wilson and it brought me to tears again. Gordon will always be remembered for forgiving those who planted the Enniskillen bombing and who killed his daughter Marie in 1987. His immediate response ““I bear no ill will. I bear no grudge”” was reported worldwide and Gordon became a Peace Campaigner. This simple book tells the story of Marie and the events around the Enniskillen bomb and Gordon’s hope for peace. Evocatively, towards the end of the Book Gordon recalls Marie’s last words, “Daddy, I love you very much.”

### FRENCH REVOLUTIONS: CYCLING THE TOUR DE FRANCE

Tim Moore (Yellow Jersey Press 2012, first published 2001).

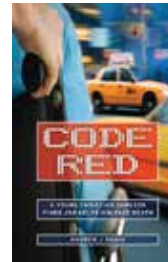


Cycling has always been my favourite form of relaxation and exercise from and I have been fortunate to have been involved in a number of iconic cycles with colleagues such Dr Seamus McAleer and Dr David Stewart. This book brings back memories of my first such cycle along the Camino in

2006. Tim Moore, with little preparation (this I can relate to...) cycles the entire route of the Tour De France shortly before the real race takes place. He recounts encounters with French dogs, cars, hotels and how he copes by over-indulging in red wine over lunch. This is a hilarious read which any cyclist will enjoy and relate to.

### CODE RED

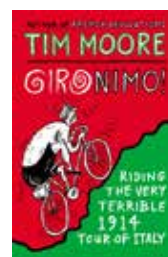
Andrew Drain (Christian Medical Fellowship 2010)



I was privileged to have been in Andy’s year at Medical School Year at QUB. He was such a wonderful person, he was bright (came top of our year), witty and, above all, was so genuine. As he was completing his final fellowship in Cardiothoracic Surgery in Memorial Sloan Kettering, New York, Andrew was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia. This book recounts his experiences as doctor and young father facing serious illness and ultimately death. Published after Andrew’s death, in the book he provides key advice on how to communicate to patients with serious illness. But more profoundly, by following the story of Job, he explains how with the help of faith, he comes accept his own illness and subsequent death.

### GIRONIMO!

Tim Moore (Yellow Jersey Press 2012)

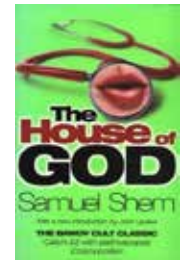


I just had to include another cycling book by Tim Moore. This book was launched in Belfast to coincide with the Start of the Giro d’Italia in 2014 and recounts Moore’s journey following the route of the terrible Giro d’Italia of 1914, in which only 8 out of a field of 81 cyclists competed. To my mind this is his best book to date. The combination of the story of his ride, interspersed with flash-

backs to the original 1914 tour along with colourful and often humorous descriptions of the various regions of Italy is a real joy to read.

### THE HOUSE OF GOD

Samuel Shem (Black Swan 1998, first published in 1978)



This book should be mandatory reading for all Foundation Year Doctors, during the foundation years. It recounts the experiences of an intern in the ‘Best Medical School’ in Boston in 1978 as he attempts to put medical theory into action and encounters unforeseen consequences. The book is a reflective and at times hilarious read of life as a hard working intern. In the book, Shem defines the rules of the House of God, which although are ironic, are still applicable nearly 40 years on. My favourite is rule 12: “If the radiology resident and the medical student both see a lesion on the chest x-ray, there can be no lesion there.”

### DUBLINERS

James Joyce (Penguin Classics 2000, first published in 1914).



After a lot of frivolity I thought I had better finish on my favourite classics. Joyce’s Dubliners, originally written in 1905, was not published until 1914 owing to initial rejection and disputes with his publishers (academics take solace!). The book is a collection of short stories of life in Dublin after the turn of the century. Joyce’s vivid accounts from childhood to death cover a range of social predicaments, but the abiding theme is the constant strain and anxiety of the Dubliners to conform to or to evade the societal constraints of that era and to some extent the utter futility of their effort.