About the Contributors

**Rakesh Biswas** passed his MBBS from Kolkata and obtained his MD in internal medicine through a structured residency program from PGIMER, Chandigarh, India (an institute deemed to be of national importance). He has subsequently taught and practiced medicine as assistant, associate and full professor in centers of academic excellence in Nepal, India and Malaysia. He has considerable expertise in clinical problem solving and has published his experiences extensively in academic journals and books which have been cited globally. He is presently a regional editor for *Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice*, Blackwell publishers, UK. He is a reviewer for the research evaluation panel of National Digital Research Centre, Ireland and academic co-investigator in their newly funded program of research on health informatics solutions to chronic disease challenges. His interests include Clinical problem solving applied to patient centered health care and health education.

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**Kaustav Bera** is a medical student just learning his ropes of the medical discipline in one of India’s premier medical institutes. However, the stringent medical curriculum has not curbed his creative instincts. Besides being actively interested in medical journalism, medical research is an area which piques his interest. In the short span of a medical student he has completed a number of research projects and is also actively involved in several ongoing projects both individually and with like minded peers. His primary areas of interest include molecular biology, biochemistry and translational medicine. He also shares a keen interest in web designing and always looks to lead from the front in any worthwhile initiative.

**Tamoghna Biswas** (b. 1989) is currently a student of 8th Semester MBBS at Medical College Kolkata, India. He is motivated to take up translational research as a career, and has received numerous state and national fellowships and scholarships during the tenure as an undergraduate. His present research interests include molecular biology, public health and health services research, and alternative medical education.

**Shivika Chandra** is a recent medical graduate from Kasturba Medical College, Mangalore. At present she is working with the department of psychiatry at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences, Bangalore. Her research interests include the use of evidence-informed healthcare in medical education and the health-care delivery system, bioethics and clinical epidemiology. She is one of the conveners of the Cochrane Students’ Journal Club which can be accessed at http://csjconline.informer.org.in/.
Sujoy Dasgupta is a Post-Graduate Resident in MS, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Eden Hospital, Medical College Kolkata, India under The West Bengal University of Health Sciences. He was born on 16th August, 1985. He passed MBBS from Medical College Kolkata under the same university in 2009. He is interested in Medical education, academics & research-works. He has few academic awards to his credit like Gold Medals in Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Otorhinolaryngology, Pharmacology and Biochemistry, and Honours in Otorhinolaryngology, Pharmacology, Forensic Medicine & Toxicology, Biochemistry, Physiology.

Sabrina Dekker is a part time researcher for LIRNEasia; based in Canada; she contributes to the Real Time Biosurveillance Project. She holds a Master of Public Affairs from the Institut D'Etudes Politiques and a Masters in Public Policy from the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Her areas of expertise and interests are public health, global health issues, urban planning and international development. Understanding that the challenges faced by the world today cannot be solved without cooperation, she is a proponent for interdisciplinary approaches in developing solutions. For her the RTBP is a prime example of the value of interdisciplinary problem solving to improve livelihoods and hopes to see this project and others like it, to continue in the future.

Panayiotis Koutsabasis is a lecturer of Human-Computer Interaction at the University of the Aegean, department of Product and Systems Design Engineering. He has been working for several years in R&D projects in the areas of human-computer interaction, e-commerce, distance learning, software agents and Web design, and he has published his research in international scientific journals and conferences. His research interests are wide ranging including: human-computer interaction, design methodology, systems thinking and practice, design for all, collaborative systems design, evaluation and implications, evaluation of interactive systems, personalization and mass customisation, user modelling and profiling, artificial intelligence and decision support systems.

Dimitrios Lekkas holds a Ph.D. in the area of Information Systems Security, an M.Sc in Information Technology and a B.Sc in Mathematics. He is an assistant professor at the department of Product and Systems Design Engineering of the University of the Aegean, Greece. He has participated in many research projects funded nationally and by the European Union and published several papers in international journals and conferences. He is a member of the Greek National Educational Network (EDUnet) technical committee and coordinator of the e-School and the e-University Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). His current research interests include design of information infrastructures, computer security, incident response, public key cryptography and digital signatures, database management systems.

Vassilis Moulianitis is currently an instructor in Department of Product and Systems Design Engineering, University of the Aegean. He holds a Ph. D in engineering design and a Mechanical Engineering degree from the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Aeronautics in the University of Patras. His main research interest is the use of computational intelligence techniques in the engineering design and more especially in mechatronics design, development of knowledge-based systems, robotics, and rehabilitation of lower limp disabilities. He has been involved in many research projects funded by Greek and European Union sources.
Subhrashis Guha Niyogi is a 4th Year Medical student in Medical College, Kolkata. His research interests include point-of-care diagnostics, use of cellphones to facilitate healthcare, biomarkers and hematology. He has been a gold medalist in International Biology Olympiad 2008 and is also an aspiring nature photographer.

Dimitris Oikonomou is a self-employed industrial designer. He holds a degree in Product and Systems Design Engineering from the University of the Aegean, Greece. He has considerable experience in brand design, eco-design, Web/multimedia software development and other industrial product design projects.

Samit Roy did his MBBS from Madras Medical College and after a few years of working as a general duty medical officer in various institutions, he commenced his Psychiatry Trg in Manipal, India, and completed in 1992. He held the position of director of a Drug and Alcohol Detoxification and Rehabilitation Centre for about 5 years in Bhopal (India) while also working in a centre for the Developmentally Disabled and pursuing his private practice. In 2001 he moved to Manipal College in Pokhara (Nepal) to develop a nascent Psychiatry Dept over there, and then in 2002 he migrated to Australia. He has remained there ever since and has held various clinical, academic and administrative positions. His primary interest is in adult general psychiatry and he currently holds the position of a staff specialist with a mental health service located in Brisbane. Dr Roy runs mental health outpatient clinics and is shortly going to take on the reins of a 20 bedded medium stay unit (CCU).

Parijat Sen was born in 1986 and am currently in his last month of Medical School (internship as it is called) which is Medical College, Kolkata. He is interested in Internal Medicine and Cardiology. He is also interested in medical academics and teaching. His career high was representing India in the International Biology Olympiads in Beijing, 2005 where he bagged a bronze. He has been awarded some national scholarships and fellowships over time.

Naman Shah is training to be a physician and infectious disease epidemiologist in the MD/PhD program at the University of North Carolina. His research interests include using field epidemiology methods to improve malaria control and other public health programs.

Vasumathi Sriganesh, MLIS is a medical librarian who has been working in the health information domain for about 20 years. She set up “QMed Knowledge Foundation” in Mumbai, India in 2007 to share her skills in information handling with health professionals. Through the Foundation she regularly conducts workshops and delivers talks on searching medical literature - especially for Evidence based practice. The Foundation has set up a “Friends of QMed” program through which they aim to not only train students of medical and health sciences, faculty and practitioners, but also work with them continuously so that they integrate best practices in literature searching in their research, teaching and importantly for practising EBM. She works with the South Asian Cochrane Network to help spread information about their programs and importantly to get more students and professionals to get involved in using the Cochrane Library and to produce Cochrane Reviews from India.

Nuwan Waidyanatha is a Senior Researcher with LIRNEasia and is the Project Director of the research - “Evaluating a Real-Time Biosurveillance Program”. His expertise are in ICT system design and actionable research working collaboratively with multiple national and international stakehold-
ers. He applies the academic and industrial experience in providing practical solutions for developing nations. Present research interests are in developing early warning systems and information exchange platforms for emergency communication. He is an advocate of Free and Open Source Software and is a member of the project management and standards-interoperability Committees of the Sahana Software Foundation. His master’s degree is in Operations Research and bachelor’s degree in Mathematics and Computer Engineering.

Rupert Whitaker is a clinician and scientist and qualified in psychiatry and immunology in the USA. He is a Founder and Patron of the Terrence Higgins Trust—Europe’s leading HIV and sexual health charity—which was established following the death of his partner Terry Higgins from AIDS in 1982. A leading advocate for people with HIV and chronic illness since the early 1980s, he is himself disabled from long-term HIV-disease and stroke; as an immigrant with HIV, he was also an early leader with his scientific research and media-work in the international response to anti-HIV immigration laws in the USA and elsewhere. He brings both his personal and professional knowledge of illness and medicine to his work in the development of health-effective medical services through the Tuke Institute, of which he is Founder and Chairman.