



Preface

Science starts as a mystery, but it ends with a “*howdunit?*” rather than a “*whodunit?*” In these pages, we take on a 400-year-old mystery. It began that day in 1628 when William Harvey published *de Motu Cordis*. That’s when the world learned that blood moves in a circle. Only then did the word “circulation” begin to circulate, and only then did the mystery of “how?” arise. A lot has happened since 1628. A lot of research. A lot of teaching. A lot of writing. But there’s more to be done. In science, convention should never rule supreme. What you learned in medical school wasn’t wrong, it was just incomplete. You heard the noise but missed the tune. So, I bring you a new story. A different story. Why? Because most of us remember stories longer than we remember facts, and facts longer when they’re embedded in stories - like raisins in a scone. I say “most of us” knowing that our left-brained friends will disagree. For their sake, I’ve prepared a *Quick Start Guide*. For my right-brained friends, I just want you to enjoy the adventure as it comes to you. And, of course, to enjoy the odd metaphors and even odder characters who live in these pages. It’s my belief that the future of physiology will depend, not on what we find in textbooks (including my own) but on finding just the right metaphor and keeping just the right company – including some heroes from the past. That’s how physiology has always triumphed, and how it will triumph again – understanding the past while deciphering the next big thing. In physiology, history matters. “*There is still treasure not yet lifted!*” For all my readers, though - left-brained or right-brained, playful or serious - I hope there’s enough mystery here to rob you of a good night’s sleep.

J.R. Munis