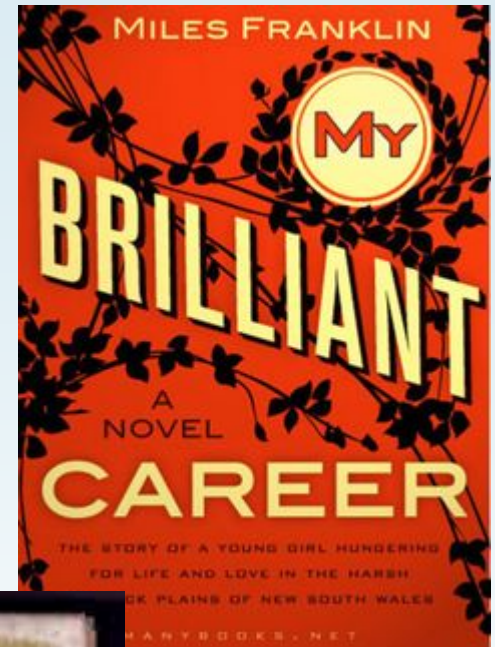


Shaping an academic career

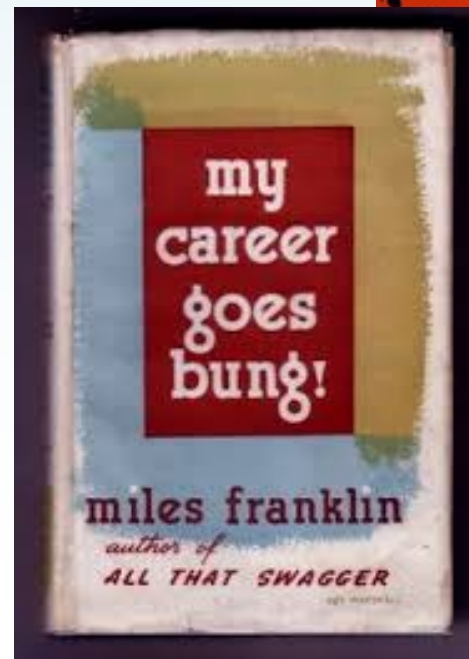
Elizabeth Murray
UCL

2 themes:

Serendipity



Enjoying the journey



My career

Definitely not a straight line



Maybe a maze?

Or a walking meditation?

The straight line version



- 10 years learning medicine/ general practice
- 10 years learning medical education
- 10 years learning research
- Professor of eHealth and Primary Care, Head of Research Department at UCL.

The maze version



- Where am I?
- What am I doing?
- Where am I going?
- Why?

What actually happened (serendipity)

- Pre-clinical and M.Sc at Oxford
- Clinical at The London (now QMUL)
- Determined on a career in reproductive endocrinology
- Offered a PhD at Oxford (after house jobs / SHO)
- Funding fell through while I was in Australia
- Back in the UK with no money, no job, and nowhere to live
- Met a friend in the pub who offered me a locum GP job starting the next day.

More serendipity (right place, right time)

- Loved General Practice; embarked on GP training
- My proposed trainer left, so I had to find a new training practice at very short notice
- Kentish Town Health Centre were looking
- Completed GP training
- Offered a job as a lecturer at UCL, teaching internal medicine to medical students
- RCGP Junior Training Fellowship
- GP Partnership

10 years of medical education: 1991 - 2001

- Established teaching of general internal medicine in general practice
- Grew the GP-based teaching from 2% to 18% of the curriculum (medicine, COOP, O&G, Paeds, Psych)
- Undertook a PhD in Medical Education
- Became Director of Undergraduate Medical Education for Primary Care at UCL
- Some Health Services Research
- Job share partner and principal in General Practice

More serendipity

- Harkness Fellowship 2001 – 2002
- A year at UCSF, studying the effect of the Internet on the doctor – patient relationship
- Career Scientist Award 2002 – 2007
- Established the UCL eHealth Unit in 2003.
- Gave up my partnership in 2007
- Still see patients as a salaried GP

Enjoy the journey

No pot of gold ...



No arrival point



So what have I learnt?



- It's very hard to predict the future
- So take advantage of what comes
- Make the most of opportunities
- Enjoy what you do, and do what you enjoy
- Be prepared to take risks
- Keep your integrity
- Life is about much more than a career, but work you enjoy is a huge privilege.

Questions?