

## ***Robert M Kaplan***

Away from his day job as forensic psychiatrist at the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Wollongong, Robert M Kaplan is a writer, historian and speaker with a long-held ambition to be a humorist that is firmly discouraged by his friends and family.

His book *Medical Murder: The Disturbing Phenomenon of Doctors Who Kill* was published by Allen & Unwin in June 2009. He is a contributing writer to *Scope*, the Irish medical magazine, writes a column *Looking Up from Down Under* and has written Op-Ed pieces for the SMH and The Australian on topics including medical genocide and Michael Jackson.

He has written on the history of medicine and psychiatry, prehistory and archaeology; crime, serial killing and genocide, Jewish history and the Litvak mentality, and moral panic. Subjects include Sigmund Freud, Dr Radovan Karadzic, Dr Theodor Morell, James Joyce, Abraham Saffron, Harold Shipman, Christian Barnard and Joseph Fritzl.

A regular speaker, he has broadcast on the ABC *Health Report* and *Ockham's Razor* programmes.

His book *The Exceptional Brain: How It Change History* is scheduled for publication in September 2011. He nurtures a long-delayed ambition to complete an ambitious autobiography entitled *Memoirs of a Marginal Medical Student*. The defamation laws will ensure it is highly unlikely to ever appear in print.

## **Medical Murder**

Doctors stand at the boundary between life and death and have a sacred duty to protect life. What happens when a doctor turns to murder, and is this different from mere incompetence? The medical profession, it turns out, kills more than any other profession. They kill their and people around them, their patients and people whom they don't know. This phenomenon is not new, but has escalated in the last century.

It has now become evident that murder of patients in health care settings is a serious and growing problem. This is referred to as CASK: carer-assisted serial killing.

With the activities of serial killers such as Harold Shipman and Michael Swango, and mass murderers such as Radovan Karadzic, it is clear that medical murder is to remain a problem in future.

## Current Topics

- *Clinicide*: doctors who kill
- *Josef Fritzl's Austria*: Sex, cellars and Sado-masochism
- Doctors, human rights abuse and genocide.
- A short history of serial murder
- Syphilis, sex and society
- *The Fox and the Flies*: the amazing life of Joe Silver, serial killer, psychopath, sex slaver, syphilitic and ... the real Jack the Ripper.
- *The Litvak mentality* and the Jewish experience in South Africa.
- Freud, Jews and Judaism
- *The Prehistory of Human Behaviour*: shamanism, schizophrenia and rock art
- The first and second century of schizophrenia
- From Kraepelin to Karadzic: psychiatrists and genocide
- *Moral panic and Munchausen's Syndrome by Proxy*: the rise and fall of Roy Meadow
- *Murder by Medical Malice*: The awful killing career of Dr Harold Shipman