It was, in effect, a ‘Wiki’ over 16 years before the first Wiki!

GPnotebook is free and unrestricted to medical students and validation of their University email address) and doctors and medical students in developing countries (validation via Facebook). During the 12 months until June 2013, 11.5 million unique users accessed pages on GPnotebook. Of those who logged into personal accounts, 30,421 users were GMC accredited clinicians working in the UK and of these, 18,719 GMC accredited doctors using the site described themselves as GPs. There were 6.6 million pages accessed by GMC accredited clinicians during this period while they were logged in, of which 4.0 million pages were read by the GMC accredited users who described themselves as UK GPs. Many doctors take advantage of the four free pages per day and so the actual readership by UK GPs is substantially higher. Data concerning users can be derived for all and show we have a user group from all groups of users. One group visited rarely and reads a few open access pages, while the other group are predominantly UK clinicians who visit repeatedly and read more pages.

INFORMATION ACCESSED
GPnotebook is a very broad knowledge resource with over 27,000 index terms providing access to more than 2 million words of information. Users may be considered generalists and so analysis of the terms that they enter into the search box may be considered representative of the needs of the national clinical population. We have recorded the content of search phrases that have been entered by users of GPnotebook. Table 1 shows the top 10 search phrases, in fact the most common search terms are single words as indicated. A user may be searching on just the stated term or a combination term that contains the stated term: if we consider this with respect to the term ‘hypertension’ then there are many combination terms containing the term hypertension; for example, systemic hypertension, hypertension and stroke, hypertension and lipids, and pulmonary hypertension. In fact there are 195 different pages in GPnotebook that have hypertension in the title. If we then consider which pages are subsequently most frequently accessed then the top four are:

- exclusion from school (guidance re: common infections), n = 41,412
- migraines (main page), n = 34,108
- systemic hypertension (main page), n = 35,173
- gastritis (main page), n = 31,052

The exclusion from school guidance page has been accessed more than 60,000 times by logged in GP users of GPnotebook since the tracker facility became available in 2005.

CONCLUSION
Having started as a project to help a group of medical students cope with the information overload of clinical school, GPnotebook has evolved over the past 20 years to become a national, and international, resource.

OUTLOOK
Poetry is communication concentrated. A few words can help us as GPs to identify and unravel those concerns which can’t be voiced directly.

REFERENCE
1 Seven poems. Roberton RS. http://www.encrypted.net/joseph/poems/7poems4ab.htm (accessed 7 Jan 2014).