STUDIES IN CLINICAL TOXINOLGY
IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA

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CONTENTS

Statement of Authenticity
Acknowledgements
Introduction
Summary of Contribution to Toxicology
List of Publications
(including statements on authorship)
List of Other Publications by Dr White
Publications
(In order, as listed)
Appendix
Summary of Contribution to Toxicology

The essence of the contribution to the field of toxicology of the works embodied in this thesis will probably already be apparent from the foregoing section, but in brief may be summarised as follows:

1) The provision of a single text providing all required information for the management of snakebite including identification of snakes (1981 monograph). (At that time no such text was available.)

2) The documentation of clinical features of snakebite for major subgroups of Australian snakes, ultimately allowing differentiation of bites for each group, thus assisting use of correct antivenom.

3) The documentation of snakebite coagulopathy and establishment of firm guidelines for its diagnosis and management.

4) The documentation of causes of snakebite fatalities in Australia, which should assist management decisions designed to prevent future fatalities.

5) The documentation of snakebite epidemiology in South Australia, which will assist in developing overall management strategies for snakebite in South Australia.

6) The documentation of patterns of spiderbite with special reference to South Australia, allowing a more rational and factual basis for the provision of medical advice and management of cases of spiderbite.