

# Walter Van Der Merwe

## Curriculum Vitae

### Personal Details

**Full Name:** Walter Michael Van Der Merwe

**Work Address:** Hypertension Clinic, Level 3, 87-87 Albert Street,  
Auckland 1010

**Contact:** Appointments: 09-638 6255  
email: [hypertensionspecialist.clinic@gmail.com](mailto:hypertensionspecialist.clinic@gmail.com)

**Date of Birth:** 22 July 1955

**Memberships:** Royal Australasian College of Physicians

### Career Record

#### 23 July 2014 – present time

Full-time private medical specialist practice

- Hypertension
- Nephrology
- Internal Medicine

#### 3 February 2009 – 22 July 2014

- Established (from nothing) the new Waitemata DHB Renal Service
- Clinical Director of this new service from 2010 – 2013
- Established the Waitemata DHB specialist Hypertension Clinic which now sees over 300 new referrals annually
- Established educational website (see skills inventory “Hypertension” page 1) [www.hypertensionclinic.co.nz](http://www.hypertensionclinic.co.nz) which was, and continues to be a great success, particularly as a resource for general practitioners and the general public.
- Full time medical specialist Waitemata DHB in renal medicine and hypertension

#### 1 February 2008 – 31 December 2008 Full time renal physician Auckland City Hospital

- This was a busy clinical job involving all aspects of acute and chronic renal disease

#### 1 July 2002- 15 January 2008 Full time renal and general physician Whangarei Hospital

- This was a busy clinical job involving all aspects of acute and chronic renal disease. I also set up and ran a specialist hypertension clinic which continues successfully today

**1 July 2001 – 30 June 2002 Full time renal physician Middlemore Hospital**

- From 1 July 2001 I relinquished the head of department position to one of my colleagues on a rotational basis and focussed on clinical nephrology in addition to maintaining a strong involvement in quality assurance and protocol development

**1 January 1998 – 1 July 2001 Clinical Head, Department of Renal Medicine, Middlemore Hospital**

- During this period I supervised the development of the Middlemore Department of Renal Medicine through a period of unparalleled growth in dialysis patient numbers during which it has become the largest in New Zealand, (and one of the 2 or 3 largest in Australasia) employing over 80 staff, including 5 specialist renal physicians.
- During this period I maintained a full clinical workload in addition to extensive managerial/HOD duties
- I implemented a large number of new clinical protocols and procedures and kept our service abreast of the latest technological advances.
- I developed and maintained an active quality assurance programme.
- The 2001 report from ANZDATA registry (Australian and NZ Society of Nephrology) showed that the South Auckland chronic dialysis programme has the best patient survival statistics of the 8 units in New Zealand – this is despite the South Auckland programme's having the highest proportion of diabetics, Maori and Polynesian, and low social class clientele in New Zealand

**3 March 1989 – 1 January 1998 Full time renal physician, Department of Renal Medicine, Middlemore Hospital**

- During this period I was one of two, and subsequently three renal physicians working in the expanding South Auckland Renal Service
- Until 1997, my duties included shared supervision of a general medical team
- I spent several years as the chairman on the Specialist Advisory Committee in Nephrology of the RACP, which supervises registrars training in renal medicine
- I also spent several years as the chairman of the NZ RACP self-assessment group which produces self-assessment MCQ questions for RACP fellows twice a year
- I introduced pumped veno-venous haemofiltration to New Zealand ( a treatment for renal failure in the ICU). This treatment is now commonplace throughout the country.
- I introduced the use of tunnelled haemodialysis catheters to New Zealand. These are now in common use throughout the country.
- I have always been actively involved in the development of new protocols and procedures.
- I have always been actively involved in education of junior doctors, medical students, and nurses.

**February 1988-February 1989 Nephrology Research Fellow, Renal Unit and  
MRC Blood Pressure Unit, Western Infirmary, Glasgow, UK**

- Organising and running a double-blind controlled trial of the ACE-inhibitor Benazapril in chronic renal failure
- A comparative study in dialysis patients of high dose intermittent vs low dose daily Rocaltrol.
- A study of the effects on long term blood pressure of a short course of the ACE-inhibitor Perindopril in young spontaneously hypertensive rats with Dr Stephen Harrap.
- All of these studies were presented at scientific meetings and published in abstract form. The Rocaltrol study and the rat study were published in peer-reviewed journals.

**April 1987-February 1988 Renal Registrar, Western Infirmary, Glasgow, UK**

- Training included all aspects of clinical nephrology, dialysis, and transplantation.

**December 1984- March 1987 Advanced Trainee in Renal Medicine, Auckland  
Hospital**

- Training included all aspects of clinical nephrology, dialysis, and transplantation.

**December 1983-December 1984 Medical registrar Auckland Hospitals**

- 6 months geriatrics and 6 months general medicine

**June 1983 – December 1983 Medical Registrar, Queen Elizabeth Hospital,  
Rotorua**

- Full-time rheumatology responsibilities

**January 1982 – June 1983 Medical Registrar, Addington and King Edward 8  
Hospitals, Durban, South Africa**

- Training in general medicine, cardiology, and haematology

**January 1980 – December 1981 National Service Medical Officer, South  
African Defence Force**

- Medical work at military bases and rural hospitals

**December 1978-December 1979 Pregistration House-Officer Year,  
Christchurch, NZ**

- Surgery, medicine, psychiatry and ENT

## **Qualifications**

- 1978** MB ChB – University of Capetown, South Africa
- 1988** FRACP
- 1989** Registered as a specialist (Internal Medicine) with the NZ Medical Council

## **Publications**

**Cooke DI, Van Der Merwe WM, Pudifin DJ. Hospital admissions for adverse reactions to drugs and deliberate self-poisoning. SAMJ 1985;67:770-772**

**Morris A, Van Der Merwe WM, Simpson I. Fatal Strongyloidiasis in a renal transplant patient.(letter) NZ Med J 1987;100:427**

**Van Der Merwe WM, Collins JF. The haemolytic uraemic syndrome and prostatic carcinoma. NZ Med J 1987;100:483-5**

**Van der Merwe WM, Collins JF Acute renal failure in a critical care unit. N Z Med J. 1989 Mar 8;102(863):96-8.**

**Junor BJR, More IAR, Bradley JA, Briggs JD, Kyle KF, McGregor E, McMillan MA, McPherson SG, Van Der Merwe W, Rodger RSC, Watson MA. Histological changes in renal allografts after successful conversion from Cyclosporin A to Azathioprine. Transplant Proc.1989;21:1677-9**

**Van Der Merwe WM, Rodger RSC, Grant AC, Logue FC, Cowan RA, Bestall GH, Junor BJR, Briggs JD. Low calcium dialysate and high dose oral Calcitriol in the treatment of secondary hyperparathyroidism in haemodialysis patients. Nephrol.Dial.Transplant.1990;5:874-7**

**Harrap SB; Van Der Merwe WM, Griffin SA, Macpherson F, Lever A. Brief angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor treatment in young spontaneously hypertensive rats reduces blood pressure long-term. Hypertension 1990;16:603-614**

**Ellis CJ, Van Der Merwe WM, Travis W, Searle M. Who should do renal biopsies? (letter) NZ Med J.1992;105:180-1**

**Ellis CJ, Van Der Merwe WM, Caruana M. Cholesterol-emboli induced renal failure following cardiac angiography. EJM 1993;2:181-182**

**Madhan KK, Symmans P, Te Strake L, Van Der Merwe WM. Diabetic muscle infarction in patients on dialysis. Am.J.Kidney Dis.2000;35:1212-6**

**Hawkins SP, Homer JA, Murray BB, Voss DM, Van Der Merwe WM. Modified computed tomography peritoneography: clinical utility in continuous ambulatory peritoneal dialysis patients. Australas.Radiol.2000;44:398-403**

**Yehia, Maha; Thomas, Mark; Pilmore, Helen; Van Der Merwe, Walter; Dittmer, Ian . Subcutaneous black fungus (phaeohyphomycosis) infection in renal transplant recipients:three cases .Transplantation. 77(1):140-142, January 15, 2004.**

**Van der Merwe W. Establishment of a difficult hypertension clinic in Whangarei, New Zealand: the first eighteen months. NZ Med J.2008;121:63-72**

**Abbas SA, Haloob IA, Taylor SL, Curry EM, King BB, Van der Merwe WM, Marshall MR. Effect of antimicrobial locks for tunneled hemodialysis catheters on bloodstream infection and bacterial resistance: a quality improvement report. Am J Kidney Dis. 2009 Mar;53(3):492-502.**

**Taylor D, van der Merwe V, van der Merwe W Nurse titration clinics to achieve rapid control of blood pressure.. NZ Med J.2012;125:31-40**

**Van der Merwe W. Malignant Hypertension: A preventable emergency. NZ Med J.2013;126:1380.**

**Chan PL, van der Merwe V, van der Merwe W. Should all hypertensive patients be screened for primary aldosteronism? J.Hypertens.2014;3:1.**

**Van der Merwe W, Cicovic S, van der Merwe V. Thiazide Intolerance - a New Zealand perspective. J.Hypertens.2014;3:1.**

**Ahmed J, Ozorio V, Farrant M, van der Merwe W. Ambulatory vs office blood pressure monitoring in renal transplant recipients. J Clin Hypertens 2015;17:46-50**

**Van der Merwe W, van der Merwe V. Hypertension in young adults (letter) NZ Med J.2015;128:75-77**

**Van der Merwe W, van der Merwe V. Difficult Hypertension Clinic utilising a Nurse Specialist: a Cost-effective Model for the Modern Era? J Clin Hypertens 2015;17: 732-736**

**Van der Merwe W. May we at least have a civilized discussion about primary aldosteronism in New Zealand? (letter) N Z Med J. 2015 Aug 7;128(1419):63-4.**

**Van der Merwe WM. Diastolic pressure above optimal is the most important predictor of subsequent hypertension in normotensive patients younger 50 years (commentary). J Clin Hypertens. 2017;00:1-2.**

**Van der Merwe WM. Long-term efficacy and tolerability of azilsartan medoxomil/chlorthalidone vs olmesartan medoxomil/hydrochlorothiazide in chronic kidney disease (commentary). J.Clin.Hypertens 2018;20 (4) 703-4**

**Van der Merwe WM. Utility of fixed-dose single tablet drug combinations in Cameroonians with type 2 diabetes and newly diagnosed hypertension (commentary). J Clin Hypertens. 2019;21:1009-1010**

**Van der Merwe WM. Ambulatory blood pressure monitoring and management of hypertension at a cardiac clinic in Kumasi Metropolis, Ghana (commentary). J Clin Hypertens (published on-line 12.2.20)**

**Talreja H, Tan J, Dawes M, Supershad S, Rabindranath K, Fisher J, Valappil S, van der Merwe V, Wong L, van der Merwe W, Paton J. A consensus statement on the use of angiotensin receptor blockers and angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors in relation to COVID-19 (Corona virus disease 2019). NZMJ 2020;133:85-87**

### **Published Abstracts**

**Van Der Merwe WM, Ramsey A, Briggs JD, Junor BJR. The early natural history of dialysis catheter-related subclavian vein thrombosis. Nephrol.Dial.Transplant 1988;3:353 (Presented at the 25<sup>th</sup> Congress of the EDTA Madrid 1988).**

**Van Der Merwe WM, Stewart R. Renal transplantation in Glasgow in the 1980's. Nephrol.Dial.Transplant.1988;3:353**

**Van Der Merwe WM, McLigeyo S, Rowe P, Isles CJ, Briggs JD, Anderton J. Benazepril in chronic renal disease: a double-blind controlled study. Kidney Int.1991;40:570**

### **Referees**

**Available on request**