

Pre-Health Books & Documentary Suggestions

Below is a list of literature, documentaries, and references recommended to students interested in pursuing a career in medicine and allied health professions. This list was compiled by the recommendations of health profession advisors, admissions representatives, and current medical professionals across the nation.

*Books denoted with * were highly recommended by multiple sources.*

Ask Me Why I Hurt by Randy Christensen MD

**Being Mortal* by Atul Gawande

County: Life, Death and Politics at Chicago's Public Hospital by David Ansell

Crazy Good Interviewing: How Acting a Little Crazy Can Get You the Job, by John B. Molitor

Cutting for Stone by Abraham Verghese

Every Patient Tells a Story by Dr. Lisa Sanders

Everything written by Atul Gawande

Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital by Sheri Fink

God's Hotel: a Doctor, a Hospital and a Pilgrimage to the Heart of Medicine, by Victoria Sweet.

**How Doctors Think* by Jerome Groopman

I Wasn't Strong Like This When I Started Out: True Stories of Becoming a Nurse by Lee Gutkind (Editor)

Knocking on Heaven's Door, by Katy Butler

Living and Dying in Brick City: Stories from the Front Lines of an Inner-City E.R. by Sampson Davis, Lisa Frazier Page

Medical Apartheid by Harriet Washington

Mindset by Carol Dweck (about Growth Mindset for learning)

My Own Country by Abraham Verghese

Pain Chronicles by Melanie Thernstrom

Resident On Call: A Doctor's Reflections on His First Years at Mass General by Scott Rivkees

Rule Number Two by Dr. Heidi Kraft (about being an army psychiatrist)

Soul of Medicine by Dr. Sherwin Nuland

**Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman

Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Talking with Doctors by David Newman

The Emperor of Maladies by Siddhartha Mukherjee

The Excruciating History of Dentistry by James Wynbrandt

The Human Side of Medicine: What It's Like To Be A Patient; What It's Like To Be A Physician, by Savett, L. A.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot

The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch

The Medical School Interview: From Preparation to Thank You Notes: Empowering Advice to Help You Succeed, by Jessica Freedman, M.D.

The Scalpel and the Silver Bear by Lori Arviso Alvord and Elizabeth Cohen Van Pelt

Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

What Doctors Feel: How Emotions Affect the Practice of Medicine by Danielle Ofri

Videos of interest:

Living in Emergency: The Stories of Doctors Without Borders (2008)

Website: <http://www.doctorswithoutborders.org/living-emergency>

The Conversation Project (PBS Newshour)

Website: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/new-movement-urges-scary-conversations-death-among-friends-family/>

THE STORY OF CANCER: The Emperor of All Maladies examines cancer with a cellular biologist's precision, a historian's perspective and a biographer's passion. The series artfully weaves three different films in one: a riveting historical documentary; an engrossing and intimate vérité film; and a scientific and investigative report.

- Author, Dr. Siddhartha Mukherjee,
- Documentarian, Ken Burns,
- Film maker, Barak Goodman,
- **Trailer:** <http://video.pbs.org/video/2365362396/>

The Waiting Room (2012)

Websites: <http://www.whatruwaitingfor.com/> and <http://itvs.org/films/waiting-room>

New York Times review: http://www.nytimes.com/2012/09/26/movies/the-waiting-room-about-highland-hospital-by-peter-nicks.html?_r=0

Twice Born: Stories from the Special Delivery Unit The work of the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia's fetal surgery center is chronicled in this documentary series, which follows families from around the country as they learn of and decide to act on the medical challenges facing their unborn children.

- **Trailer** <http://www.pbs.org/program/twice-born/>

Vice Special Report: Killing Cancer Full Episode (HBO)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e8SvBAjXGyQ>

