

Writing about Patients (Memoirs)

Writing about Patients: Truth and Consequences. A Lecture by Jay Baruch, MD

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Writing about Patients: Truth and Consequences. A Lecture by Jay Baruch, MD

Writing about Patients: Truth and Consequences. A Lecture by Jay Baruch, MD



Monday, October 18, 2010 at 12:00pm

[Health Sciences Campus](#), Mayer Auditorium

Admission is free

"The recent era has seen a rise in writing about illness, including physician and patient memoirs, blogs about illness and the practice of medicine and fiction based on the experiences of patients. Such writing can be illuminating and healing and can foster important conversations about health and the nature of suffering. But at a time when information can be shared with a keystroke, issues of privacy and confidentiality demand our careful consideration and thoughtful reflection. Jay Baruch, MD, will discuss the moral and ethical implications of this kind of writing. [Dr. Baruch](#) is an assistant professor of emergency medicine at the Warren Alpert Medical School at Brown University. His collection of short fiction, [Fourteen Stories: Doctors, Patients, and Other Strangers](#) received an honorable mention in the short-story category in [ForeWord magazine's 2007 Book of the Year Awards](#). His fiction has also appeared in numerous print and online literary journals. In addition to his emergency-medicine practice, he serves as director of the medical-ethics curriculum and of the medical-ethics scholarly concentration at Brown's medical school."¹

Organized by: [Pamela Schaff, M.D.](#) (Associate Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Family Medicine; Assistant Dean for Curriculum; Director, Introduction to Clinical Medicine. USC Keck School of Medicine.), [Erin Quinn, Ph.D.](#) (Associate Dean of Admissions, USC Keck School of Medicine) and [Lyn M. Boyd-Judson, Ph.D.](#) (Director, USC Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics).

Co-sponsored by: the Keck School of Medicine's [Program in Humanities, Economics, Arts and the Law](#); [USC Pacific Center for Health Policy and Ethics](#); and [Levan Institute for Humanities and Ethics](#).

¹ [Visions and Voices. Writing about Patients: Truth and Consequences A Lecture by Jay Baruch, MD](#).

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Physician Memoirs

- After harm : medical error and the ethics of forgiveness. By Nancy Berlinger
- Blue collar, blue scrubs : the making of a surgeon. By Michael J. Collins, M.D.
- Complications : a surgeon's notes on an imperfect science. By Atul Gawande
- Conversations in medicine : the story of twentieth-century American medicine in the words of those who created it. By Allen B. Weisse
- Doc : then and now with a Montana physician. By R.E. Losee
- Final exam : a surgeon's reflections on mortality. By Pauline W. Chen
- Getting better : a medical student's story. By Kenneth Klein
- Heirs of general practice. By John McPhee
- Inside Russian medicine : an American doctor's first-hand report. By William A. Knaus
- Journal of a neurosurgeon, by Edgar A. Kahn. With a foreword by Bronson S. Ray.
- Learning how the heart beats : the making of a pediatrician. By Claire McCarthy.
- Life, death, and in between : tales of clinical neurology. By Harold L. Klawans
- My own country : a doctor's story of a town and its people in the age of AIDS. By Abraham Verghese.
Topic: AIDS
- On doctoring : stories, poems, essays. Edited by Richard Reynolds and John Stone
- One man's medicine. By Charles Harris
- Pain : the gift nobody wants. By Paul Brand and Philip Yancey
Topic: Leprosy
- Raising the dead. By Richard Selzer
Topic: Legionnaires' Disease
- Ring the night bell; the autobiography of a surgeon. Edited by Finley Peter Dunne, Jr.
- Someday. By Andrew H. Malcolm
Topic: Euthanasia
- Sparks. By Karl Menninger
Topic: Psychiatry
- Talking medicine : America's doctors tell their stories. By Peter MacGarr Rabinowitz.
- The anatomy of hope : how people prevail in the face of illness. By Jerome Groopman
- The double helix : a personal account of the discovery of the structure of DNA. By James D. Watson

Physician Memoirs - Historical

- A doctor in the house. By Henry Plesants
- A surgeon in khaki. By Arthur Anderson Martin
- A surgeon's life; the autobiography of J.M.T. Finney
- Addict; a doctor's odyssey. By James DeWitt with Al Hirshberg
Topic: Substance-Related Disorders
- Amid masters of twentieth century medicine; a panorama of persons and pictures. With an introd by George F. Lull
- Autopsy : the memoirs of Milton Helpern, the world's greatest medical detective. By Milton Helpern
- Burma surgeon. By Gordon S. Seagrave
- Leaves from a surgeon's case-book. By James Harpole
- Life and confessions of a psychologist. By G. Stanley Hall
- Quest for dignity; an autobiography of a Negro doctor.
- The anatomist : a true story of Gray's anatomy. By Bill Hayes
- The case books of Dr. John Snow. Edited by Richard H. Ellis

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Dentist Memoirs

- "This won't hurt a bit" : the musings and memories of a dental surgeon. By Haddon Rowat
- A modern pioneer in preventive dentistry : Sumter S. Arnett, DDS, PhD, teacher, researcher, and national dental consultant ; an interview. By Arden G. Christen
- An American dentist's unique experiences in foreign lands. By H. Earle Blunt
- Men manners and molars. By Edward Samson
- Open wide, it won't hurt. By Leonard Wilder
- Open wider, please. By Morton Crossman
- Over half a century as educator, leader, dental author, practitioner, and scientist : an oral history of Maynard K. Hine, D.D.S., M.S. : an interview. By Arden G. Christen
- Recollections of a dental researcher : fifty years at the U.S. National Bureau of Standards, interviews with George C. Paffenbarger. By William R. Forrest, Arden G. Christen
- Routes of a dentist. By Sylvan Myron Elliot Shane

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- The island of the colorblind ; and, Cycad island. By Oliver Sacks
Topic: Neurodegenerative Diseases
- The seven ages of a medical scientist : an autobiograph. By George W. Corner
- The soul of the caring nurse : stories and resources for revitalizing professional passion. Edited by Linda Gambee Henry and James Douglas Henry
- The year of the intern. By Robin Cook
- When a child dies : how pediatric physicians and nurses cope. By Robert S. McKelvey
- When a doctor hates a patient, and other chapters in a young physician's life. By Richard E. Peschel and Enid Rhodes Peschel
- When doctors become patients. By Robert Klitzman

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Patient Memoirs

- [A bomb in the brain : a heroic tale of science, surgery, and survival. By Steve Fishman](#)
Topic: Cerebral Hemorrhage
- [A child called "it" : an abused child's journey from victim to victor. By Dave Pelzer](#)
Topic: child abuse
- [A man named Dave : a story of triumph and forgiveness. By Dave Pelzer](#)
Topic: child abuse
- [A mind that found itself; an autobiography](#)
Topic: Mental Disorders
- [Autobiography of a face. By Lucy Grealy](#)
Topic: Jaw Cancer
- [Breast cancer : twenty women's stories : becoming more alive through the experience. By Susan Diemert Moch](#)
Topic: Breast Cancer
- [Dancing with broken bones : portraits of death and dying among inner-city poor. By David Wendell Moller](#)
- [Drug store days : my youth among the pills & potions. By Richard Armour](#)
- [Dying to teach : a memoir of love, loss, and learning. By Jeffrey Berman](#)
Topic: Pancreatic Cancer
- [In love with daylight : a memoir of recovery. By Wilfrid Sheed](#)
Topics: Polio, Depression, Tongue Cancer
- [In search of sanity; the journal of a schizophrenic. Postscript by Humphry Osmond](#)
Topic: Schizophrenia
- [Intoxicated by my illness : and other writings on life and death. By Anatole Broyard](#)
Topic: Prostate Cancer
- [Launching the antibiotic era : personal accounts of the discovery and use of the first antibiotics. Edited by Carol L. Moberg, Zanvil A. Cohn](#)
- [Memoirs of my nervous illness. By Daniel Paul Schreber](#)
Topic: Schizophrenia
- [Miracle at Carville. By Betty Martin](#)
Topic: Leprosy
- [My stroke of insight : a brain scientist's personal journey. By Jill Bolte Taylor](#)
Topic: Stroke
- [Out here by ourselves : the stories of young people whose mothers have AIDS. By Diane Duggan](#)
Topic: AIDS
- [Pain and suffering. By William K. Livingston](#)
- [Perceval's narrative; a patient's account of his psychosis, 1830-1832. Edited by Gregory Bateson.](#)
Topic: Mental Disorders
- [Poets on Prozac : mental illness, treatment, and the creative process. Edited by Richard M. Berlin](#)
Topic: Mental Disorders
- [The anatomy of hope : how people prevail in the face of illness. By Jerome Groopman](#)
- [The body silent. By Robert F. Murphy](#)
Topic: Quadriplegia
- [The center cannot hold : my journey through madness. By Elyn R. Saks](#)
Topic: Schizophrenia

[The covered smile : a true story.](#) By Sonja Lauren

Topic: Child Abuse

- [The diving bell and the butterfly.](#) By Jean-Dominique Bauby. Translated from the French by Jeremy Leggatt

Topic: Quadriplegia

- [The glass castle : a memoir.](#) By Jeannette Walls

- [The lonely patient : how we experience illness.](#) By Michael Stein

- [The lost boy : a foster child's search for the love of a family.](#) By Dave Pelzer

Topic: Child Abuse

- [Through the Northern looking glass : breast cancer stories told by Northern native women.](#) By Lorelei Anne Lambert Colomeda

Topic: Breast Cancer

- [Who walk alone.](#) By Perry Burgess

Topic: Leprosy

- [Wrestling with the angel : a memoir of my triumph over illness.](#) By Max Lerner

Topic: Cancer

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Fiction Books



Fourteen stories : doctors, patients, and other strangers. By Jay Baruch, M.D.

- Adam's rib; essays on Biblical medicine. By Simon S. Levin
- Anatomy live : performance and the operating theatre. Edited by Maaike Bleeker
- Articulations : the body and illness in poetry. Edited by Jon Mukand
- Dickens and medicine; an exhibition of books, manuscripts and prints to mark the centenary of his death
- Fourteen stories : doctors, patients, and other strangers. By Jay Baruch, M.D.
- Haunted by parents. By Leonard Shengold
- James Joyce & medicine. By J. B. Lyons
- Medicine and humanistic understanding the significance of literature in medical practices. By Jerry Vannatta, Ronald Schleifer, & Sheila Crow
- Medicine and literature. Edited by Enid Rhodes Peschel
- Medicine in literature. Compiled by Joseph Ceccio
- Soulskin. By Marilyn Krysl
- Stories of sickness. By Howard Brody
- Sutured words : contemporary poetry about medicine. Edited by Jon Mukand
- The abnormal personality through literature. Edited by Alan A. Stone and Sue Smart Stone
- The culture of pain. By David B. Morris
- The disease of the soul; leprosy in medieval literature. By Saul Nathaniel Brody
- The doctor on the stage; medicine and medical men in seventeenth-century England. By Herbert Silvette
- The inner world of medical students : listening to their voices in poetry. By Johanna Shapiro
- The last half hour of the day : stories and essays that have inspired physicians. Edited by Michael A. LaCombe, Christine Laine
- The medical mind of Shakespeare. By Aubrey C. Kail
- Vital lines : contemporary fiction about medicine. Edited by Jon Mukand
- Vital signs : medical realism in nineteenth-century fiction. By Lawrence Rothfield

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Physician Blogs

- [DB's Medical Rants](#)
A general internist writes on medical issues and the medical industry
- [Doctor David's Blog](#)
Musings of a pediatric oncologist
- [From a Clinician's Bioscope](#)
General and laparoscopic surgeon shares his thoughts on health news and issues
- [GruntDoc](#)
Ramblings of an emergency physician in Texas
- [KevinMD](#)
A practicing primary-care physician discusses health related issues
- [StraightFromTheDoc](#)
Healthcare commentary from an internal medicine physician
- [The Orthopedic Logbook](#)
Orthopedic surgeon practicing in the Phillipines writes about medical encounters and news

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Blog Suggestions?

Do you read a blog that's not included on this list? Share the link with us!

- [Hospital-Physicians.com](#) by Tim Jea
News, thoughts, and commentary about hospital physicians, healthcare, and the law.

[!\[\]\(488d36215f31304317ffb20d512ebb61_img.jpg\) Submit](#)

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Patient Blogs

- [Adam's Heart Valve Surgery Blog](#)
Heart valve patient and author of *The Patient's Guide To Heart Valve Surgery*
- [CarePages](#)
CarePages websites are free patient blogs that connect friends and family during a health challenge
- [Dealing with Alzheimer's](#)
By a patient with early-onset Alzheimer's
- [Diabetesaliciousness](#)
By someone with type 1 diabetes
- [LupasRanting](#)
By someone with systemic lupus (SLE) and subacute cutaneous lupus (SCLE), autoimmune hypothyroidism and Sjogren's Syndrome
- [My New York Minute](#)
By Vice President of Communications for the Prostate Cancer Foundation (PCF) and newly diagnosed prostate cancer patient
- [Tales of a Stroke Patient](#)
About the wondrous and horrific events by a stroke patient
- [The Assertive Cancer Patient: Living with cancer - and an attitude](#)
By a woman with breast cancer

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Please contact [Emily Brennan](#), who authored this guide, if you have any questions.

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