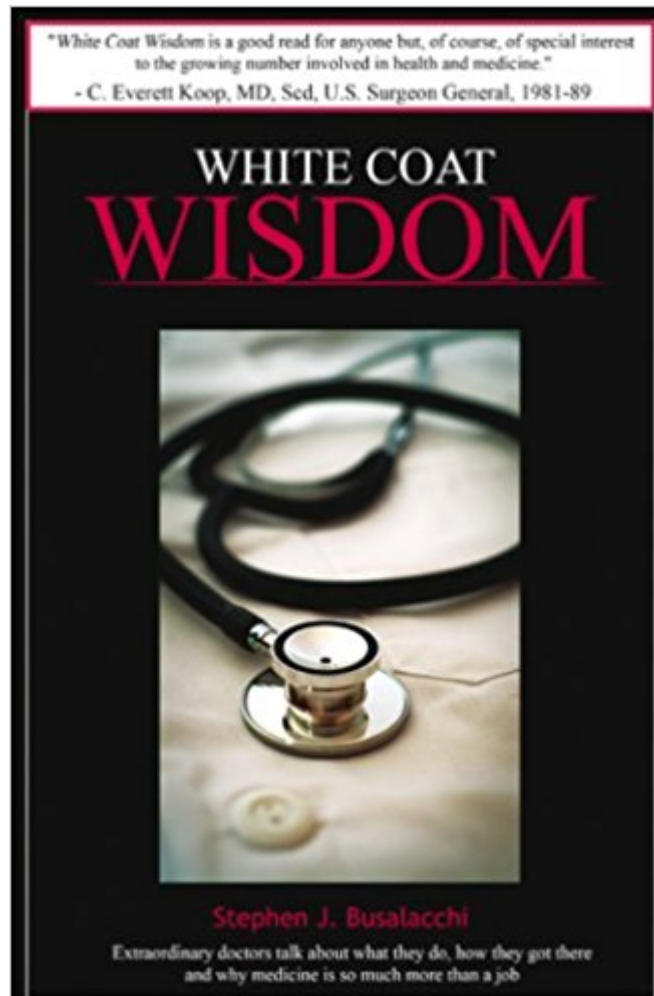




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White Coat Wisdom



Synopsis

White Coat Wisdom is an award-winning oral history featuring extremely accomplished professionals who've found true fulfillment in life through service to others. It is the 2009 Winner of the Eric Hoffer Awards, in the Health category. This title endured rigorous judging and surpassed dozens of books within its category. It was also a 2009 Finalist for the Montaigne Literary Medal, awarded to the most thought-provoking titles. These are books that either illuminate, progress, or redirect thought. It also earned Finalist ranking for the 2009 Indie Awards. They recognize and honor the most exceptional independently published books in 60 different categories.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Busalacchi has compiled oral histories from a wide variety of Wisconsin physicians. The author tells us in his introduction that he is an admirer of the work of Studs Terkel. Even had he not so informed us, isn't it the case that all works of this kind are compared to that of the late Studs, and most found wanting? Busalacchi makes a solid, workmanlike effort to walk in the steps of his role model, and he succeeds more often than not. He has mastered the ability to allow his subjects the floor, and the practice of medicine from the view of the dear and glorious physician is expressed with all the triumphs and tragedies that are part of that world. --U.S. Review of Books **FIVE STARS** (Outstanding) The book is clear, concise and well-written. --Mayo Clinic White Coat Wisdom endured rigorous judging and surpassed dozens of titles within its category. Each winner was determined to be unique, worthy and well produced in all aspects of writing and publishing. --Eric Hoffer Awards Committee Inspiring...What treasure this state has in its medical professionals.

--Wisconsin State Journal
It is Busalacchi's interview style and the open and honest answers that give the book an air of integrity and intimacy making it a worthwhile read. --Beaver Dam Daily Citizen
To read this book is to get a fascinating peek underneath that white coat at the heart and soul of a doctor. A sentiment expressed throughout the book: "Medicine is not a job. Medicine is a lifestyle and you live it 24 hours a day. You live to serve. | You give back to society in any way that you possibly can. But that's what makes it fun. I don't work for a living. I get up every morning and I have fun. Then, I go to bed." (Dr. Wik, p.50)
For a memoir loving, medical topic interested reader like me this was a very hard book to put down. Every doctor highlighted in these pages is a hero of sorts, and each had an interesting story to tell. --Cynthia Hartline, LibraryThing.com
Doctors try to keep to a schedule and that precludes much casual conversation in a typical office visit. So unless there's a physician in your family or circle of friends, you really don't know much about them. You now have an opportunity to gain insight into lives of doctors in "White Coat Wisdom: Extraordinary Doctors Talk About What They Do, How They Got There and Why Medicine Is So Much More Than A Job," by Stephen J. Busalacchi.
In their own words, 37 Wisconsin physicians relate true stories of defining moments in their lives. One doctor performed his own vasectomy, one works for no monetary compensation and another discovered a treatment for eyelid cancer when only 16. They admit to mistakes they have made and they speak of relating to families of dying patients. They also recall humorous times, such as when an elderly patient looked up as the doctor was doing a pelvic exam and said, "Does your mom know what you do all day?" This is oral history at its best. Perhaps best of all, their stories are page-turner interesting. I no longer see doctors as all-knowing and infallible. They are human and medicine is an art as well as a science. The personal stories in "White Coat Wisdom" do not deify physicians, but they do make readers appreciate the intense dedication to their profession that doctors consistently demonstrate. If you know someone considering a life in medicine, I recommend "White Coat Wisdom" as essential reading. The stories are wonderful mini-memoirs and hard to put down once you start. I love the book and so do professional reviewers.
--Carol Petrowski is a La Crosse County Library System staff member at the Onalaska branch.

Stephen J. Busalacchi reported for National Public Radio and Wisconsin Public Radio for 15 years, and in the process, won more than two dozen journalism awards. Most recently, the Wisconsin Medical Society honored him with the 2007 Medical Issues Reporting Award. Busalacchi has spent a decade as a communications specialist for the Society, and more recently, as the principal of a

health communications firm in Madison, Wisconsin, where he lives with his wife and two young daughters.

I had read *White Coat Wisdom* not really knowing what to expect. As I began reading and started to turn every page, I did so with a progressive sense of anticipation. The author of this book lets the reader truly feel the lives of the doctors within the book. Each one has a unique and telling story about their passions, art of healing, hobbies and their overall life in general. The doctors that you encounter in *White Coat* are some of the most gifted and humanistic of all the profession. You will get a true sense of what you can expect if your considering a career, or should I say life in medicine. What would you do if you were a highly successful surgeon, who had spent their life forming their practice and crafting their art, only to have it all taken away one day by developing partial paralysis? You will find out in *White Coat*. Never before of all the medical books and interviews I have read by Doctors and those in the profession have I truly gotten the sense of what their really going through, and what it had taken to get there. I highly recommend reading this work of art, even if your not planning on entering medicine. If you have a loved one who is considering going into medicine, or have a loved one who is already going through the process this book will open your eyes and give you a better sense of appreciation. It will also provide you with a sense of motivation and determination, for everyone. You will here of Doctors who work for next to nothing, but still do so happily, because they know they are providing society with a service unlike any other that no amount of money can substitute. I strongly suggest anyone who is about to walk across the stage and enter this blessed profession to eagerly anticipate reading this book and use this as a guide for "How to use my gifts in everyway I know how to help my fellow man" The people you will read about in this book will serve as your guides.

White Coat Wisdom By Stephen J. Busalacchi December 4, 2010 ISBN 978-0-0794222-0-1-
HC \$34.95 590 pp; Hardcover Apollo's Voice LLC c. 2008 Non-fiction,

Physicians/Medicine-Anecdotes Stephen Busalacchi is a veteran medical journalist whose work has appeared on National Public radio and Wisconsin Public Radio. He is a former director of public relations for the Wisconsin Medical Society and is the owner of a health communications firm in Madison, Wisconsin. During his years at a health reporter for WPR, he met many physicians. His stories are the seeds for this book. Described in some reviews as an oral history, this large collection of interviews across many ages, types of practice, and specialties of Wisconsin physicians is a candid look inside the professions of thirty-five doctors who share their fascination,

love, triumphs and despair with the author. Busalacchi states in the introduction that he feels his book is something "everyone can relate to" and that everyone should have a trusting relationship with his doctor. "My goal was to personalize the profession" and let doctors tell their own stories. The interview style of asking questions and recording the responses doesn't quite accomplish this purpose, but Busalacchi's questions are interesting and the answers often enthralling. I often include medical issues in my novels, and last year underwent major surgery with a spinal so I could experience as much of my procedure as they would allow. My open-minded surgeon answered my questions about what it was like in the operating room. If you prefer to hold your doctor at arm's-length awe and have no desire to know how the magic happens, you won't want to read this book. However, if you're curious about things like how long it takes to get used to dissecting a cadaver, funky little rhymes about certain professors, the unspoken hierarchy of the different types of education and degrees, or why some current medical students choose their specialties, you'll love it. As a historian, I collect oral histories so I was particularly interested in the author's style for this project. While Busalacchi obtained stunning and stellar endorsements, such as the cover copy from former US Surgeon General C. Everett Koop, MD, and the Eric Hoffer Award for Excellence in Independent Publishing, the few typos and inconsistent or misused punctuation is distracting. The author chose to use pencil drawings of his subjects instead of photographs. Busalacchi tackles a huge and compelling topic. For readers of biography and medical issues, *White Coat Wisdom* is an inspiring and truly intriguing read. Reviewed by Lisa J Lickel[...]author of the novels *Healing Grace* and *Meander Scar* A copy of this book was provided by the author

This is how your review will appear: *The Central Figures of American Medicine in their Own Words*, September 27, 2009 By Dennis Costakos "Simpledoc" (LaCrosse Wisconsin, USA) - See all my reviews The physicians are at the center of the system, explains experienced physician and medical profession thought leader Dr. Robert Jaeger in Chapter 18. "Ignore all the griping...the system does not operate without physicians." In the one chapter about a medical student the reader gets a view of medical school that reminds the reader of "one L" revealing look at Harvard Law School. The chapter Dr D Tox reveals why a doctor devotes his life to help the addicted patient. The altruism of a doctor running a free clinic contrasts with the doctors wishing for tort reform. "Somehow, they've developed unrealistic expectations. There was a gal I removed a hemorrhoid on. She came back in the office, and I could tell by the way she was looking at me, that she was really mad. She said, "I don't like the way my [...] looks." I kept the shock off my face. "What don't you like about it? There is a scar where you took the hemorrhoid off." I thought "God, is she an exotic dancer or what? It was

probably the most shocking thing anybody ever said to me."The physicians live and work in Wisconsin but are born in Turkey, educated at Columbia University, trained at Mayo, Cornell, Dartmouth and Yale. Certainly, a great read for patients, students, nurses, and the movers and shakers contemplating change in the way health care works. The introduction mentions famed astrophysics Professor and author Neil deGrasse Tyson: no wonder, this book is so good it truly is an experience from out of this world. Harvey Cushing: A Life in Surgery

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