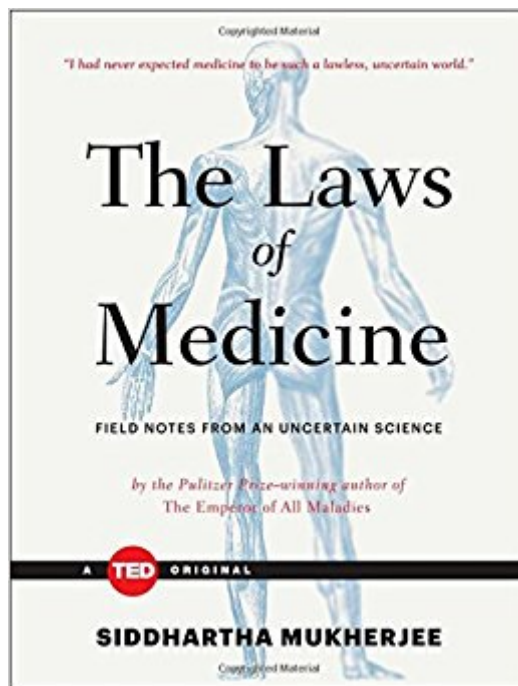




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# The Laws Of Medicine: Field Notes From An Uncertain Science (TED Books)



## Synopsis

Essential, required reading for doctors and patients alike: A Pulitzer Prize-winning author and one of the world's premiere cancer researchers reveals an urgent philosophy on the little-known principles that govern medicine—and how understanding these principles can empower us all. Over a decade ago, when Siddhartha Mukherjee was a young, exhausted, and isolated medical resident, he discovered a book that would forever change the way he understood the medical profession. The book, *The Youngest Science*, forced Dr. Mukherjee to ask himself an urgent, fundamental question: Is medicine a "science"? Sciences must have laws—statements of truth based on repeated experiments that describe some universal attribute of nature. But does medicine have laws like other sciences? Dr. Mukherjee has spent his career pondering this question—a question that would ultimately produce some of most serious thinking he would do around the tenets of his discipline—culminating in *The Laws of Medicine*. In this important treatise, he investigates the most perplexing and illuminating cases of his career that ultimately led him to identify the three key principles that govern medicine. Brimming with fascinating historical details and modern medical wonders, this important book is a fascinating glimpse into the struggles and Eureka! moments that people outside of the medical profession rarely see. Written with Dr. Mukherjee's signature eloquence and passionate prose, *The Laws of Medicine* is a critical read, not just for those in the medical profession, but for everyone who is moved to better understand how their health and well-being is being treated. Ultimately, this book lays the groundwork for a new way of understanding medicine, now and into the future.

## Book Information

Series: TED Books

Hardcover: 96 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster/ TED; 1 edition (October 13, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1476784841

ISBN-13: 978-1476784847

Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.7 x 7 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars 74 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #61,858 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #48 in Books > Textbooks >

Medicine & Health Sciences > Administration & Policy > Ethics #70 in Books > Medical Books

## Customer Reviews

"This mininarrative, packed with complex ideas translated into easily accessible language and an engaging style, leaves the readers time to ponder the author's ideas at greater length, and the result is a fascinating and illuminating trek through a beautiful mind. A splendid exploration of how medicine might be transformed." (Kirkus (starred)) "The prose is lovely, often witty, always clear.... a fast and informative read." (Booklist) "What he writes is important, and he does so in an elegant, engaging fashion. This is a moving, deeply humane book." • Los Angeles Review of Books

Siddhartha Mukherjee is the author of [The Emperor of All Maladies: A Biography of Cancer](#), winner of the 2011 Pulitzer Prize in general nonfiction, and [The Laws of Medicine](#). He is the editor of [Best Science Writing 2013](#). Mukherjee is an assistant professor of medicine at Columbia University and a cancer physician and researcher. A Rhodes scholar, he graduated from Stanford University, University of Oxford, and Harvard Medical School. He has published articles in *Nature*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, *The New York Times*, and *Cell*. He lives in New York with his wife and daughters. Visit his website at: [SiddharthaMukherjee.com](http://SiddharthaMukherjee.com)

After becoming disillusioned and frustrated from 7 years as an ICU RN, plus hospice and clinic service, this book restored my faith in the nobility of the "practice" of medicine, and brought me back to my vocation with fresh eyes and a renewed heart.

interesting for science nerds and for almost nerds as well. Entertaining and educational.

I loved how the author argued that the very thing that people challenge about medicine is the thing that is most fundamental to it - people. I would recommend this book to anyone who would enjoy a new perspective on thought and how human's impact the world through thought.

Worthwhile read. Does not expand, but leaves many paths of thought open to investigation. I now want to read more about drug trials and outliers.

This thin volume was disappointing. Mukherjee has discovered the importance of Bayes' theorem, but neglects many of the other important mathematical concepts that are critical to clear medical thinking. "How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking" by Jordan Ellenberg provides a much wider and clearer view of the issues.

My son is really enjoying reading it.

Interesting perspective on the status of medical research. It provides a realistic view of medicine as a science which enables one to have better expectations on treatment. Medicine is not an exact science yet many of us view it as such. However, progress is being made toward that direction. I look forward to a follow on a few years from now.

Great read and arrived ahead of schedule. I am thoroughly satisfied.

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