Leadership Book Recommendations

At the Top of Their Game: Profiles of Successful Health Care Leaders, by Stephen E. Gordon

Stephen Gordon's book features 30 captivating profiles of successful health care leaders who've made a huge impact on the practice of medicine.

Authentic Leadership: Rediscovering the Secrets to Creating Lasting Value, by Bill George

Bill George expounds on what he considers to be the cause of the current leadership crisis — a crisis that is apparent in the business world. Looking back on his thirty years of experience as a corporate executive, George offers authentic leadership as a means for building people and companies capable of making a positive contribution to the world.

Credibility: How Leaders Gain and Lose It, Why People Demand It, by James Kouzes and Barry Posner

Behavioral savants James Kouzes and Barry Posner provide philosophical and practical guidance for business executives at a time when computers, consultants, coproduction, and ever-growing employee empowerment leave less for managers to do. From a penetrating survey of business methods and employee attitudes worldwide, Kouzes and Posner pinpoint future trends (e.g., more authority for customer contact personnel) in a logical, integrated and symbiotic organizational plan to replace a now-outdated omnipotent-boss system.

Dr. Mayo's Boy: A Century of American Medicine, by Rob Tenery, MD

Dr. Mayo's Boy traces the medical experiences of three generations of Texas physicians in small town Waxahachie and big city Dallas. Full of stories that are often heartening in their humanity and sometimes disturbing in what they reveal about contemporary health care, Dr. Mayo's Boy explores how physicians have viewed their commitment to their patients, how they sacrifice to meet the challenges they face and how the practice of medicine has, sadly, changed over almost sixty years. While this book is by no means a policy statement, it offers a nostalgic but clear-eyed look at the past and, through its tales of three doctors' lives, asks implicit questions about how we manage health care today. There must remain one constant--the need for a patient to know that their doctor cares about them as an individual.

Fierce Conversations, by Susan Scott

Numerous useful principles that will help anyone become a better conversationalist and a more responsive listener.

Death by Meeting, by Patrick Lencioni

Patrick Lencioni focuses on a cure for the most painful yet underestimated problem of modern business: bad meetings. And what he suggests is both simple and revolutionary. Death by Meeting is nothing short of a blueprint for leaders who want to eliminate waste and frustration among their teams, and create environments of engagement and passion.

Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century, by Eileen E. Morrison

Building on the wisdom and forward thinking authors John Monagle and David Thomasa, this thorough revision of Health Care Ethics: Critical Issues for the 21st Century brings the reader up-to-date on the most important issues in biomedical ethics today. Designed for upper-level programs, this text will challenge the reader to think beyond the existing system of medicine and inspire further exploration and thought.

In Their Own Words: 12,000 Physicians Reveal Their Thoughts on Medical Practice in America, by Louis Goodman, PhD (Executive Vice President and CEO of Texas Medical Association), Phillip Miller, and Tim Norbeck.

Insights from hundreds of doctors who reveal in candid comments exactly how they feel about being physicians and why it matters to patients. Read why…Close to half of all doctors plan to opt out of medical practice in the next one to three years, or reduce the number of patients they see.
- Many physicians are compelled to close their practices to Medicare and other patients
- Health reform could reduce access to physicians
- Most physicians would not recommend medicine as a career
- Many physicians say they are strained to the breaking point

Masterpieces in Health Care Leadership Cases and Analysis of Best Practice, by Rachel Naomi Remen, MD

In a deeply moving and down-to-earth collection of true stories, Rachel Naomi Remen, MD shows us life in all its power and mystery and reminds us that the things we cannot measure may be the things that ultimately sustain and enrich our lives.

Doctors Make Mistakes. Can We Talk About That? - TED Talk, by Brian Goldman, MD

Dr. Brian Goldman is an emergency-room physician in Toronto, and the host of CBC Radio’s “White Coat, Black Art.” This may not be a book, but this TED talk is worth watching as Dr. Goldman shares his experiences.
Now, Discover Your Strengths, by Marcus Buckingham and Donald Clifton, PhD

Effectively managing personnel—as well as one's own behavior—is an extraordinarily complex task that, not surprisingly, has been the subject of countless books touting what each claims is the true path to success. This book focuses on enhancing people's strengths rather than eliminating their weaknesses: it describes 34 positive personality themes (such as Achiever, Developer, Learner, and Maximizer) and explains how to build a "strengths-based organization" by capitalizing on the fact that such traits are already present among those within it.

Physicians as Leaders, by Mindi McKenna and Perry Pugno

Packed with questions for reflection or discussion, and supported by evidence-based references to current best practices, this book by McKenna and Pugno provides actionable guidance for physicians. Readers will discover how to build upon their unique strengths and passions, enhancing their leadership impact through coaching, education and on-the-job experiences.

Practicing Medicine in the 21st Century, by David B. Nash, MD, MBA

This book covers medical management from head to toe including: clinical management, information management, the practice environment, practice administration, financial management and future trends.

Primal Leadership: Learning to Lead with Emotional Intelligence, by Daniel Goleman, Richard Boyatzis, and Annie McKee

The authors of this book draw on in-depth research and numerous studies in the fields of psychology and neurology to make their case that great leadership is primarily and essentially a matter of emotional intelligence.

Sustaining the Dignity and Nobility of Medical Care: A Collection of Essays, by Joseph Simone, MD

This collection of essays by Dr. Joseph Simone provides advice and insights that speak to the challenges, opportunities, and nobility of being a doctor. Unlike other non-fiction books that are about being a doctor, Dr. Simone's is to-the-point, easy to access and reference throughout a busy day, and speaks to the hard truths of professional medical life.

The Leadership Challenge, by James Kouzes and Barry Posner

This book was written to help managers and non-managers alike improve their abilities to lead others to get extraordinary things done in organizations.

The Five Dysfunctions of a Team, by Patrick Lencioni

Lencioni weaves his lessons around the story of a troubled Silicon Valley firm and its unexpected choice for a new CEO. Showing exactly how existing personnel failed to function as a unit, and precisely how the new boss worked to reestablish that essential conduct, the book's first part colorfully illustrates the ways that teamwork can elude even the most dedicated individuals — and be restored by an insightful leader.

This Side of Doctoring, Reflections from Women in Medicine, by Eliza Lo Chin, MD

A penetrating analysis of what it's like to be a woman in the highly competitive field of medicine. Written over the last century and a half, this collection of personal stories, poems, essays, and quotations reveals the intimate lives of over a hundred female physicians.

Presentation Zen: Simple Ideas on Presentation Design and Delivery, by Garr Reynolds

Presentation designer and internationally acclaimed communications expert Garr Reynolds, creator of the most popular Web site on presentation design and delivery on the net — presentationzen.com — shares his experience in a provocative mix of illumination, inspiration, education, and guidance that will change the way you think about making presentations with PowerPoint or Keynote. Presentation Zen challenges the conventional wisdom of making "slide presentations" in today's world and encourages you to think differently and more creatively about the preparation, design, and delivery of your presentations. Garr shares lessons and perspectives that draw upon practical advice from the fields of communication and business. Combining solid principles of design with the tenets of Zen simplicity, this book will help you along the path to simpler, more effective presentations.

How Women Decide, by Therese Huston

This book delivers lively, engaging stories of real women and their experiences, as well as expert, accessible analysis of what the science has to say. Cognitive psychologist Therese Huston breaks open the myths and opens up the conversation about how we can best shape our habits, perceptions, and strategies, not just to make the most of our own opportunities, but to reshape the culture and bring out the best decisions regardless of who’s making them.

Start with Why, by Simon Sinek

Leaders who’ve had the greatest influence in the world all think, act, and communicate the same way - and it’s the opposite of what everyone else does. Sinek calls this powerful idea The Golden Circle, and it provides a framework upon which organizations can be built, movements can be led, and people can be inspired. And it all starts with why.