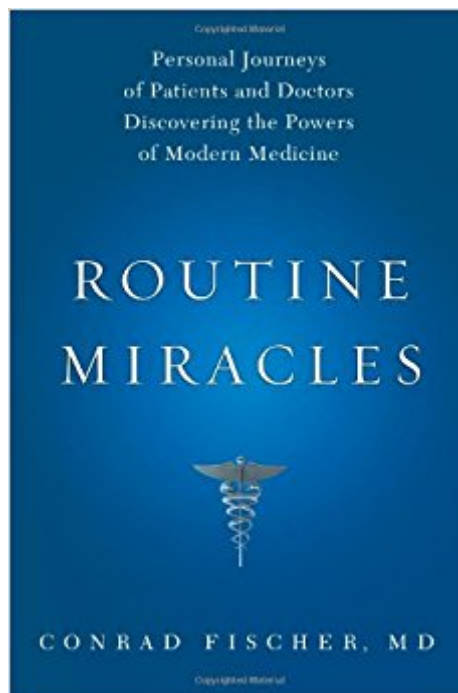




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# **Routine Miracles: Personal Journeys Of Patients And Doctors Discovering The Powers Of Modern Medicine**



## Synopsis

“This book covers medical advances that would once have been called miracles but have now become routine. The patients’ stories within this book yield hope, optimism, and triumph. This is the best time ever to come out of medical school and training. This fact will inspire and uplift everyone in the medical profession as well as all of us who must, at some point, rely on the art of medicine to see us through.” —Conrad Fischer, MD

What has ruined today’s medical students’ interest in devoting their lives to finding cures for the most rampant diseases riddling our population? How can young doctors not be energized and excited by modern breakthroughs? Why are they not inspired by the ability of current AIDS drugs to increase life expectancy by twenty-five years? In *Routine Miracles*, award-winning internist and medical educator Conrad Fischer investigates the disconnect between medical advances and the rise of physician dissatisfaction. Fischer surveyed more than 3,000 physicians and interviewed hundreds of patients to uncover the seeds of doctors’ discontent. Based upon his findings, he offers a deeply personal and compelling call to action for all of us, doctor and patient alike, to celebrate the present and the future of medicine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Fischer injects both passion and verve to this account of medical breakthroughs. I am a physician writing a book on hope, says Fischer, who works at the SUNY Downstate Medical Center’s Health Sciences Center at Brooklyn. He’s also urging doctors to better communicate the impressive list of

routine miracles the profession regularly performs: minimally invasive spinal surgery on pain-wracked patients that gets them on their feet immediately afterward; tiny catheters that reverse a stroke; drugs that lower the mortality rate of congestive heart failure; laser procedures that cure deafness; advances in pain management and targeted cancer therapies, to name just a few. Fischer also shows how a doctor's empathy—•even when it has to be learned—•is the real glue between physician and patient. Most patients I approached about this project readily agreed to be interviewed, and many seemed hungry to be heard, to have the ear of a doctor who at least was deeply interested in the emotional aspect of their illness, he notes. That's a miracle that should always be routine. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"Fischer injects both passion and verve to this account of medical breakthroughs." --Publishers Weekly  
"Fischer injects both passion and verve to this account of medical breakthroughs."  
Publishers Weekly"

This book was written with foresight, happenings finally taking place today. This author also puts a human face on the mind of a physician along with the challenges they face, the mental stress and dedication of time they commit to doing their job. I am not sure if he realizes that the newly established Doc may not be as committed as the ones when this book went to print. Do they have the same dedication or are they more self centered? Do they feel they need to see their surgical patients post op or do they have a PA instead? I wish I had read this book when it was printed. Dr. Fisher you may be few and far between but I feel that the young Docs you teach may be inspired to emulate you. You are an amazing teacher, you treat your class room like a theater, totally mesmerizing. You inspire me. Thank You

What will we do when all of the best and the brightest medical students of our generation go into lucrative subspecialties, like dermatology and radiology, instead of searching for a new cure in research? Will we be without the possibility of eradicating HIV, or curing diabetes and high blood pressure? Routine Miracles by Conrad Fischer, MD has given "hope" a new meaning in medicine. I am a recent medical school graduate, and I, too, have fallen victim to the notion that medicine was better 25 years ago. The story of Ms Frost, a patient stricken with rheumatoid arthritis, was most inspirational. The transformation from her debilitating illness to a life that enabled her to not only partake in physical activity but also engage in more meaningful relationships is passionately

described in Routine Miracles. Her relationships now centered on hope rather than the pain that once surrounded her daily life. This deeply personal account of patients and doctors and how medicine has changed their lives, has inspired me to be a better physician.

I first heard of Dr. Fischer when I was studying for Step 2; he does the internal medicine lectures for Kaplan. When I saw that he had written a book about exciting and cool advances in medicine, I decided to buy it based on my strongly positive experience with his Step 2 prep materials. Overall, I thought the book was a good read. It has two major themes that are tied together. The first is the "wow, medicine is so cool!" theme. Much of his book tells about his meetings with dozens of other physicians in various departments at his institution (SUNY Downstate) and learning about what they're doing. It's amazing, but he hadn't ever heard of most of these new and improved techniques being developed right at his own hospital until he started interviewing other doctors for the book. I hadn't ever heard of most of these techniques, either, so I enjoyed learning about them. Also, he is so excited about medicine and the new developments coming out that it's hard not to pick that up and feel enthusiastic about medicine yourself. Getting people excited about medicine and what medicine can do to help people is his stated goal, and I think he accomplished it. The second theme relates to medical training. At multiple points in the book, he discusses his view that our system of medical training can sometimes suck the enthusiasm for medicine out of trainees (residents and medical students). In particular, he bemoans the fact that many attendings tell trainees about how the golden days of medicine are over, and that the current generation of trainees is "soft" or otherwise not as good as the previous generations. Dr. Fischer is absolutely right about some doctors talking about how the profession is losing its luster and how things were "back in the day." But I have also met plenty of doctors who take his viewpoint, which is that this is the best time ever to be practicing medicine. We have more ways to help patients now than we did at any other time in the history of humanity. I will be graduating from medical school in a few months to start residency, so that second theme was especially relevant for me. I think he is right that I will have to take care to guard against forgetting to see the wonders of medicine. As it is, there are so many great things we can do to help people today that we couldn't do even four years ago when I first began medical school. By the time I finish residency several more years from now, there will be new things we can do for people that we can't even conceive of yet. That really is exciting and cool.

Great book! Written with all the passion to Medicine. If you want to know more about Conrad Fischer personality, you cannot read it anywhere better than his own book. Feel lot better educated

about medical system in general after reading this book by the hyperkinetic, cynic but #1 medical educator indeed and everyone's extremely lovable teacher.

It's great to see clinical medicine from a point of view not limited by science, and Dr Fischer's honest and narrative is personal and compelling to boot. Just understanding the forces that shaped his personality and career is reason enough to read this book, which focuses equally on the small miracles of which most people do not take enough notice. This will enrich your understanding of the fast pace of modern medicine, the need to reform health care, and how much our society really takes for granted.

Highly recommended! To anyone who feels passion about medicine and wants to hear the journeys of a doctor who has devoted his life in this profession. It's like chicken broth for a doctor's soul...Dr. Fischer cares so much about his readers who are mainly students, and he encourages them to continue pursuing their dreams.. The book is very inspirational, very fun to read, touches sensitive areas in a very gentle way...If you are a doctor who wants to go an extra mile...this book is great, Is a must have. It has made a big impact in my life.

I absolutely love this man!!!! I love his humor and his excitement for medicine. This book is so refreshing. It seems like all we ever hear is bad news, its so good to be reminded that NOW is a wonderful time to be alive. I also love to watch his lecture on youtube. He is an outstanding teacher. There are so few people in the world that I feel like I can look up to. This guy is my hero.

Every young doctor should read this book. Whenever you feel low....read few chapters it will definitely help !Excellent work Dr. Fischer. I have read most of your books, and you never disappoint.

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