



White Coat, Clenched Fist: The Political Education of an American Physician (Conversations in Medicine and Society)

By Fitzhugh Mullan

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In the sixties, Fitzhugh Mullan was an activist in the civil rights struggle. While in medical school, Mullan was shocked by gaps in what the students learned, and the lack of humanity in the classroom. Later, Dr. Mullan was outraged at the conditions he discovered when he began to practice. He helped found the Student Health Organization, organized the Controversial Medical Collective at Lincoln Hospital in the Bronx, and struggled to offer improved medical care to those who needed it most and could afford it least.

This landmark book charts the state of medical school and practices in the 1960s and 70s. This new edition is updated with a preface in which Dr. Mullan reflects on the changes in the medical field over the last thirty-plus years.

Fitzhugh Mullan is Murdock Head Professor of Medicine and Health Policy at George Washington University. He worked at the U.S. Public Health Service where he attained the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (1991-1996). Dr. Mullan is the co-founder of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship and the author of numerous books, including *Plagues and Politics: The Story of the United States Public Health Service*, and his most recent book, *Narrative Matters: The Power of the Personal Essay in Health Policy*.



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Editorial Review

Review

"This reissue of White Coat, Clenched Fist, the marvelous memoir depicting the shaping of a doctor in the seething sixties, delivers valuable lessons to a twenty-first century audience. If it is to be fixed, our chaotic system of health care must recapture Fitzhugh Mullan's altruism and commitment to social justice. His remarkable journey, both personal and professional, takes the reader through far reaches of community and government. The reward: a deeper understanding of health issues and solutions." - Studs Terkel, author of Hard Times, Working, Race, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning The Good War"

About the Author

Fitzhugh Mullan is Clinical Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health at George Washington University. He worked at the U.S. Public Health Service where he attained the rank of Assistant Surgeon General (1991-1996). Dr. Mullan is the co-founder of the National Coalition for Cancer Survivorship and the author of numerous books, including Plagues and Politics: The Story of the United States Public Health Service, and his most recent book, Big Doctoring in America: Profiles in Primary Care.

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