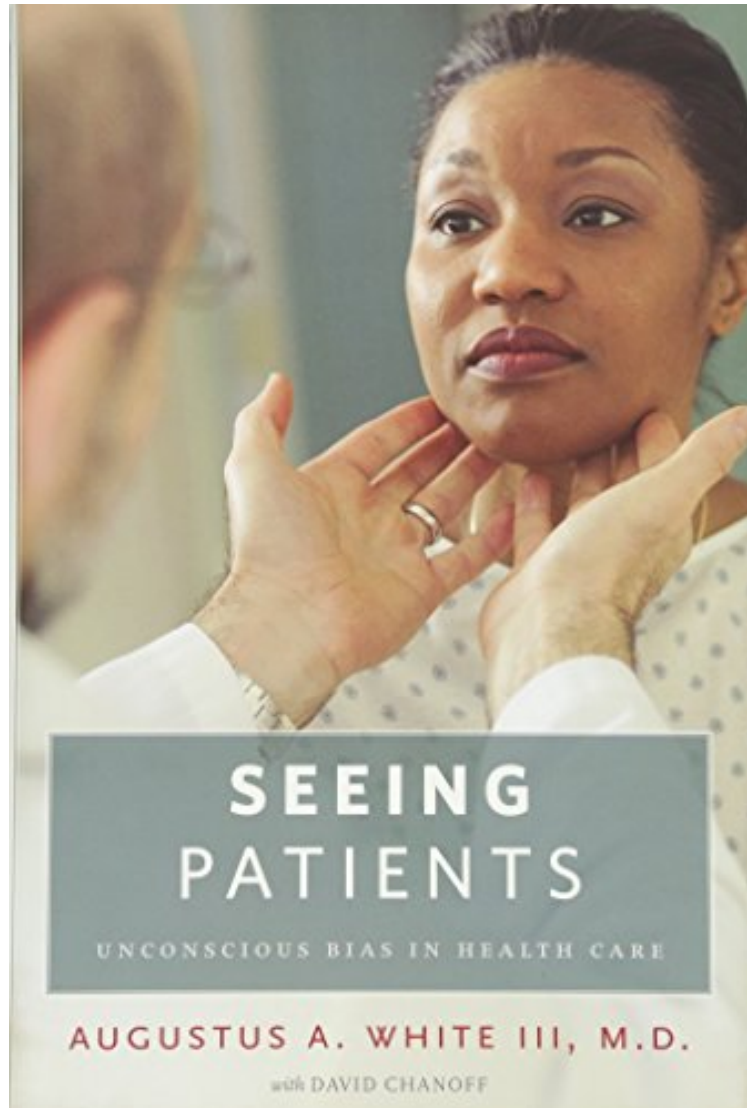


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## Seeing Patients: Unconscious Bias in Health Care

*Augustus A. White III*

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#255528 in Books White Augustus A Chanoff David 2011-01-15 2010-11-29Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.84 x 1.10 x 6.16l, 1.53 #File Name: 0674049055352 pagesSeeing Patients Unconscious Bias in Health Care | File size: 27.Mb

**Augustus A. White III : Seeing Patients: Unconscious Bias in Health Care** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Seeing Patients: Unconscious Bias in Health Care:

23 of 23 people found the following review helpful. It's slow growing but getting betterBy Roger J. MalebrancheI am in my 70s and can identify with Dr White's experiences. Being from Haiti I was not prepared for the harsh realities of the White American racism of the early 60s, but like Dr White I managed to persevere and survive. I wish I could have reached the position of power he is in but few physicians, Black or White, will and the advice I would give a fellow

Black physician is to be as knowledgeable and competent as he can, be a caring role model and show the young African American, that he or she could also be a successful professional. I still remember a 6 years old black child I was checking for hernia, looking at his mother with disbelief and asking her : "Is he a doctor" ? and the pride on the mother's face when she answered " yes Honey he is, and one of the best ". We need the "Dr Whites", they are the visible ones but we also need the foot soldiers, the average, competent Black generalist slaving on every city's hospital ward. We need the Super Blacks but we still need thousands of just good ones. The more good minority physicians there are out there, the more defenseless minority patients will benefit from being seen through understanding brotherly and sisterly eyes. One thing Dr White did not mention was a tendency in the 60s and 70s for minority patients to consciently make the choice to go to White surgeons because they did not think minority surgeons were as good as their White counterparts. Projected ingrained feelings for having been looking as inferiors for so many years. I saw that often and it broke my heart. Thank God I noticed a reversal in my later years, when I became well known and a White patient would insist on having me instead of one of the White surgeons on the staff. Yes, Thanks to Dr Augustus White and many unsung Black physicians, better days are coming, at last. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Not what I expected it to be at all by ...By Howard Not what I expected it to be at all by the title. One has to cheer Dr. White for his accomplishments and focus 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. This is a very useful personal history expanded to the larger issue of healthcare ...By shepard hurwitz This is a very useful personal history expanded to the larger issue of healthcare inequality in the US. While not condemning anyone, the book points out the systemic problems we have in the US in recognizing differences among race and socio-economic (class) status.

If you're going to have a heart attack, an organ transplant, or a joint replacement, here's the key to getting the very best medical care: be a white, straight, middle-class male. This book by a pioneering black surgeon takes on one of the few critically important topics that haven't figured in the heated debate over health care reform—the largely hidden yet massive injustice of bias in medical treatment. Growing up in Jim Crow—era Tennessee and training and teaching in overwhelmingly white medical institutions, Gus White witnessed firsthand how prejudice works in the world of medicine. And while race relations have changed dramatically, old ways of thinking die hard. In *Seeing Patients White* draws upon his experience in startlingly different worlds to make sense of the unconscious bias that riddles medical treatment, and to explore what it means for health care in a diverse twenty-first-century America. White and co-author David Chanoff use extensive research and interviews with leading physicians to show how subconscious stereotyping influences doctor-patient interactions, diagnosis, and treatment. Their book brings together insights from the worlds of social psychology, neuroscience, and clinical practice to define the issues clearly and, most importantly, to outline a concrete approach to fixing this fundamental inequity in the delivery of health care.

From Publishers Weekly When White attended Stanford in the late '50s he was one of four students of color. A recommendation letter written by a mentor then included "this is a pale, colored boy" to avoid misunderstanding. Now White recounts his ground-breaking life in an engaging, matter-of-fact manner. Eight of the 12 chapters tell his amazing story, from his birth in 1936 in a segregated Memphis (his trailblazing father, a doctor, died when White was only eight), to a 1967 tour of Vietnam wherein White worked in a leprosarium, to a fellowship at a biomechanics lab in Sweden, to his appointment to head a new orthopedic academic program at Harvard. A chance encounter with a woman who felt doctors judged her by her full-body tattoo led White to consider disparities in health care. Challenges exist on both sides of the stethoscope, White argues, noting that the uncertainty felt by many African-American patients over how they will be perceived also impacts the medical encounter; the burden for alleviating racial and other disparities (such as those based in age, gender, and sexual orientation) falls on the medical and educational communities. Accessible, thought-provoking, and valuable. 17 halftones. (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. From Booklist Armed by the unique perspective afforded by being both within the American medical establishment and an African American whose grit and talent put him there, highly respected Harvard Medical School professor White is a crystal-clear visionary. The best means to improve health care for all, he says, is for medical schools to produce physicians who are not only scientifically competent but also equally culturally competent. A culturally competent physician is one who can individuate patients, separating them from the physician's own ingrained racial, religious, gender, or other minority stereotypes. Although many would argue otherwise, study after study has proven that physicians and hospital staff on the whole dispense a lower quality of care to minority patients. Females white and non-white, homosexuals, and the elderly, among other minorities, are also treated differently than white, middle-class males. The result of this poorer quality of care is measurably higher mortality rates among minority populations. Part stirring autobiography, part reasoned apology for egalitarian health care, White's book makes a powerful case. --Donna Chavez As vital to medicine as mapping the rhythm of the heart and the firing of the nerves is an understanding of the diversity of the human family. Gus White takes us on a marvelous personal journey that illuminates what it means to care for people of all races, religions, and cultures. The story of this man becomes the aspiration of all those who seek to minister not only to the body but also to the soul. (Jerome Groopman, M.D., author

of How Doctors Think)Gus White has written a tour de force--a compelling story about race, health and conquering inequality in medical care. Growing up in the segregated South, receiving medical training at all-white Stanford, caring for Americans and Vietnamese in Vietnam, Dr. White has a uniquely perceptive lens with which to see and understand unconscious bias in health care. He offers astute analysis and prescriptions for eliminating inequalities, and his journey is so absorbing that you will not be able to put this book down. (Charles J. Ogletree, Jr., author of All Deliberate Speed)Seeing Patients is a powerful and extraordinarily important book. Dr. White uses his own experience to enable us to take a close look at the sensitive issue of bias in health care, and the damage it does. He knows from the inside how good people can be negatively affected by historical and cultural forces they are not even aware of. He acknowledges the magnitude and complexity of the problem, and encourages medical schools and physicians to work together to solve it. (James P. Comer, M.D., author of Leave No Child Behind: Preparing Today's Youth for Tomorrow's World)This is first and foremost the immensely enjoyable story of Gus White's astonishing life's journey. With all his achievements, he has not lost sight of his roots. Recruiting minorities into medicine has been one of his life's priorities, and he has been a leader in promoting cultural literacy in all physicians. Seeing Patients is both exciting and insightful. (Alvin F. Poussaint, M.D., Professor of Psychiatry Harvard Medical School)In this autobiography, White, Harvard's first African American department chief, writing with Chanoff, chronicles his experiences growing up in Tennessee and his professional journey through medical school. Along the way, readers are shown how racism has impacted and still affects African Americans and others in the medical profession and in the medical system in general. (A. W. Klink Library Journal 2010-10-15)Armed by the unique perspective afforded by being both within the American medical establishment and an African American whose grit and talent put him there, highly respected Harvard Medical School professor White is a crystal-clear visionary. The best means to improve health care for all, he says, is for medical schools to produce physicians who are not only scientifically competent but also equally culturally competent...Part stirring autobiography, part reasoned apology for egalitarian health care, White's book makes a powerful case. (Donna Chavez Booklist 2010-12-01)The intertwining journeys of both orthopaedics and civil and human rights are chronicled in Dr. White's life and career. Despite the progress made in these areas, unequal medical treatment in this country still exists due to biases, stereotypes, generalizations, language differences, and cultural barriers. (Steven L. Frick, MD AAOS Now 2011-01-01)When White attended Stanford in the late '50s he was one of four students of color. A recommendation letter written by a mentor then included "this is a pale, colored boy" to avoid misunderstanding. Now White recounts his ground-breaking life in an engaging, matter-of-fact manner...A chance encounter with a woman who felt doctors judged her by her full-body tattoo led White to consider disparities in health care. Challenges exist on both sides of the stethoscope, White argues, noting that the uncertainty felt by many African-American patients over how they will be perceived also impacts the medical encounter; the burden for alleviating racial and other disparities (such as those based in age, gender, and sexual orientation) falls on the medical and educational communities. Accessible, thought-provoking, and valuable. (Publishers Weekly 2011-02-07)White, noted professor of orthopedic surgery at Harvard University, addresses the pervasive but hidden problem of prejudice in medicine in this revealing book. He uses extensive research to show how subconscious stereotyping of Blacks, women, and other minorities influences the doctor-patient relationship and how many people, therefore, receive substandard treatment. (Clarence Waldron Jet 2011-03-07)White's story--part autobiography, part call to action--is a compelling and often uncomfortable read about a hidden world where even the most compassionate and egalitarian caregivers often fail a basic command of the Hippocratic oath: to do no harm. (Sean Silverthorne Harvard Business School Alumni Bulletin 2011-06-01)White grew up in Memphis during the Jim Crow era. Affected deeply by the blatant racial prejudice he encountered in the South, as a student in Ivy League universities, as a physician during the Vietnam War, and as an orthopedic surgeon, White offers a deeply personal account. Part autobiography, and part sociological treatise on issues including race, the book chronicles how White's epiphany in Vietnam ("When I came out of that carnage in Vietnam, I came out with an even stronger sense that in the final analysis we are all so much more similar than different") led to his realization that "the persistent derogation of out-groups" results in unequal treatment of many categories of people. This understanding inspired him to become an activist dedicated to increasing knowledge and awareness of diversity issues. A fascinating account of how White became a professor of medical education/orthopedic surgery and the first African American department chief at Harvard's teaching hospital, this book explains such sociological principles as race, class, and in-group/out-group processes in clear, uncomplicated prose. His a very enjoyable account of the remarkable life of an individual who did what a lot of people say they want to do: make a difference. (C. Apt Choice 2011-08-01)