



Title:
A Matter of Life and Death: Conversations with Pathologists

Author: Sue Armstrong

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Summary:

This book aims to inform public opinion by giving eminent pathologists an opportunity to talk about themselves and what they do. It explores some of the philosophical, ethical and practical issues facing the profession today.

Pathologists have been dubbed by the media 'doctors of death' but this is a misnomer. Post mortems are a very small, though vital, part of the pathologist's job, which is mainly to identify, from specimens sent to the lab from hospital wards, clinics and operating theatres, exactly what a patient is suffering from, and what treatment he or she is likely to respond to. Pathologists are disease specialists – some are experts in diseases of the tissues, the brain or blood, others in diseases caused by bacteria and viruses; only a small proportion are experts in forensic science.

Contents:

Conversations with 14 pathologists who have trained and worked in the UK, the US, South Africa, Latin America and Italy, and have a diversity of special interests.

Topics include:

- AIDS in East Africa when it first began to overwhelm hospitals
- the recognition of a new form of CJD associated with mad cow disease
- the search for the mutations that make flu viruses specially deadly
- doubts about shaken baby syndrome
- the quest to 'build' new organs for transplantation
- efforts to unravel the deep mysteries of cancer
- what you can read in bones
- what pathologists have learnt about life and death from their work

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This is a hidden world, yet one we will all inevitably encounter at some time in our lives, for pathology lies at the cornerstone of modern medicine. It is pathologists who are responsible for recognising new diseases such as AIDS, SARS or bird flu, and for diagnosing which cancer a patient is suffering from. And it is pathologists who must explain the Read Full Overview. Goodreads helps you keep track of books you want to read. Start by marking "A Matter of Life and Death: Conversations with Pathologists" as Want to Read: Want to Read savingâ€¦! Want to Read.Â See a Problem? Weâ€™d love your help. Let us know whatâ€™s wrong with this preview of A Matter of Life and Death by Sue Armstrong. Problem: Itâ€™s the wrong book Itâ€™s the wrong edition Other. Conversations with Pathologists grew out of a book project for which Sue Armstrong interviewed pathologists from varied backgrounds and working in a wide range of specialised fields in the USA, UK, Italy, South America and South Africa. A Matter of Life and Death -- sponsored by the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland â€” was published by Dundee University Press in 2008. A new edition was published by Canongate in 2010. The bookâ€™s objective was to challenge the popular misperception of pathologists as "doctors of death" and to raise awareness of the vital role they play in the live... Beyond this, it is pathologists who must explain the cause of death at the autopsy table. A Matter of Life and Death tells fascinating stories of mysterious illnesses and miraculous scientific breakthroughs. But it is also crammed full of extraordinary characters - from the forensic anthropologist with his own Body Farm in Tennessee to the doctor who had a heart-and-lung transplant and ended up using her own lungs for research. "If you're interested in criminal investigation, this is the must-read of the year.