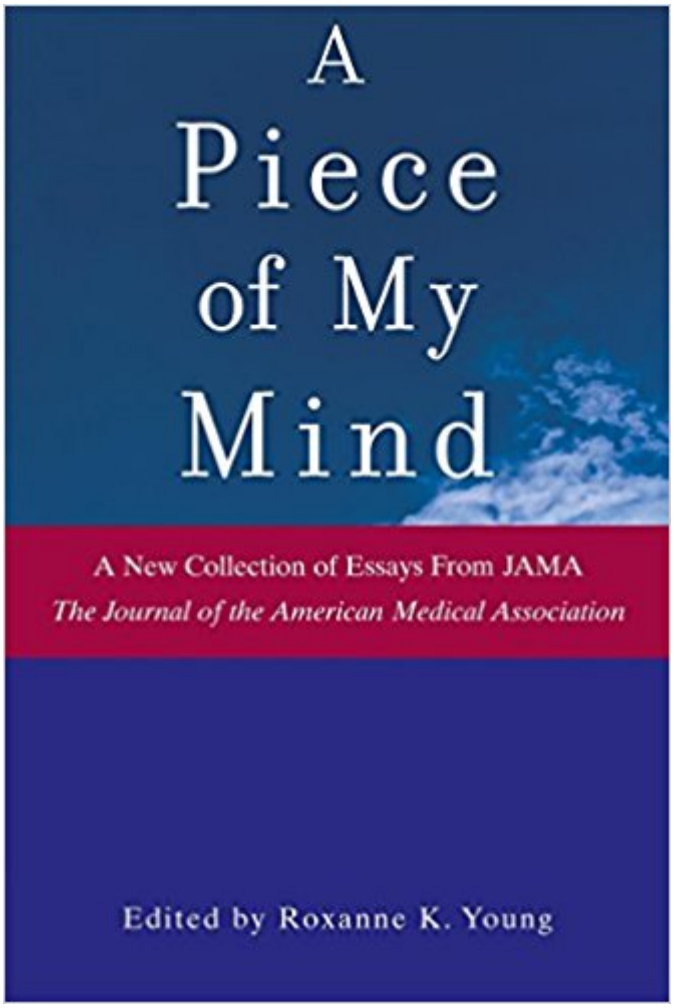
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# A Piece Of My Mind (Jama & Archives Journals)




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## Synopsis

reflections and insights on health, disease, and healingNow in paperback for the first time, A Piece of My Mind brings together revealing personal essays that first appeared in The Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA). These engrossing, moving vignettes--written by physicians, patients, family members, medical students, and others--offer a unique glimpse into the everyday experiences and relationships in the medical world.Baring their souls and opening their hearts, the authors share their most personal moments, stories, and observations. You'll hear from the intern who could not hide her emotions, earning reprimand from her supervisors but appreciation from her patients . . . meet an alcoholic whose indomitable spirit helped her defy all the odds . . . experience the heartbreaking comedy of a Monday morning HIV clinic . . . be inspired by the oncology social worker who found a new love of life during her own struggle with breast cancer . . . and learn from the physician who realized that by witnessing her patients' courage she became a better physician.Compelling, touching, and at times humorous, A Piece of My Mind offers a deeper understanding of physicians, patients, medicine, and the simple human act of helping another person.""These stories, based in science, are transmitted to readers . . . after filtering through a human heart . . . consistently succeeds in bridging science and the humanities.""--William H. Foege, MD, Emory University

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"Bridge(s) the gap between science and the humanities and look(s) at human experiences with disease, healing, violence, heartbreak and death."

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This book is a collection of essays written through multiple viewpoints by people involved with the medical system -- doctors, nurses, patients, even the relatives of patients. It will make you understand more fully how, for so many in medicine, their hearts and minds are part of their decisions. It sometimes shows regrets. It ultimately shows their humanity, our humanity as we partake of their skills, and the blessing upon all of us that they serve us the way they do.

I bought this after looking for a copy of the original edition of A Piece of My Mind, published in the late '80's. This one is a little different, and really shows the changes in training and practice that occurred since the last one came out. (I graduated from Med School in 1984 and the first one could have been written by me and my cohorts.) Still excellent, and well edited.

A very feeling set of essays. I would love to have fifteen minutes' conversation with some of these physicians. I am sure I could learn much.

Roxanne K. Young, the editor of this book, is Director of the Department of Medical Humanities of the Journal of the American Medical Association. As a practicing physician, each week I and many of my colleagues turn first to the Journal's "A Piece of My Mind" column from which the essays in the book come. Mostly written by physicians, essays also come from other health care professionals, patients, families, and others. In reading this work, the reader will find the hopes, fears, feelings, dreams, concerns, and clear and poignant observations of those who heal. If you desire to know not just the science of medicine, but its heart and soul, read this book.

There seems to be quite a disparity in the quality of the prose. Although some stories were interesting, most were hackneyed. However, the story on page 55, entitled Hands On, is certainly of a professional demeanor. The problem with a collection of essays from different authors is not merely the variation in style but quality. I would much prefer to see a book filled with this one authors essay's. The others need tighter editing.

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