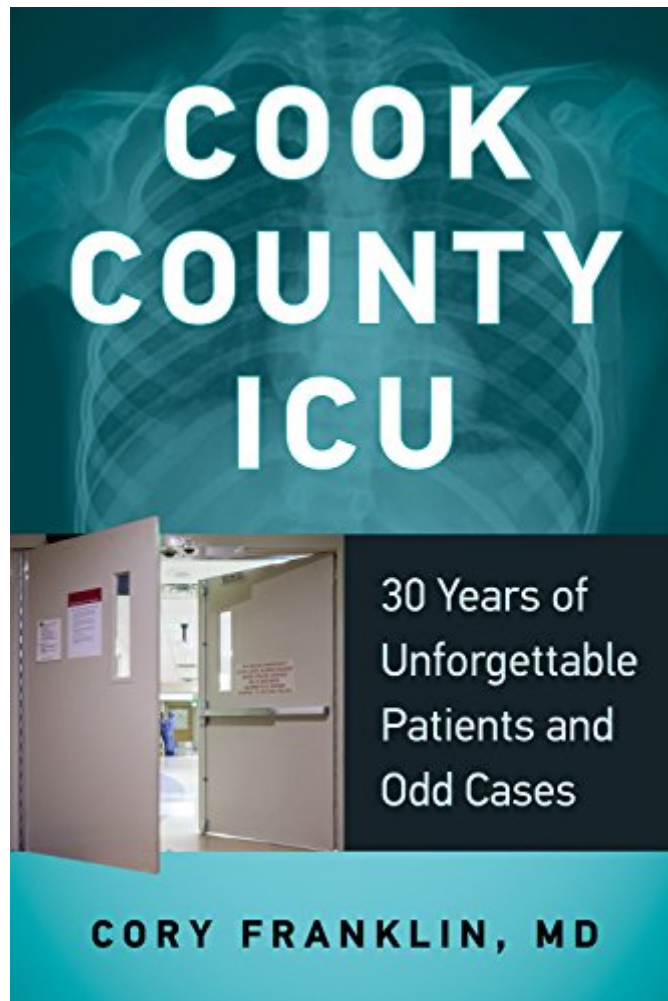


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# Cook County ICU: 30 Years Of Unforgettable Patients And Odd Cases



## Synopsis

An inside look at one of the nation's most famous public hospitals as seen through the eyes of its longtime director of intensive care. Filled with stories of strange medical cases and unforgettable patients culled from a 30-year career in medicine, Cook County ICU offers readers a peek into the inner workings of a hospital. Author Dr. Cory Franklin, who headed the hospital's intensive care unit from the 1970s through the 1990s, shares his most unique and bizarre experiences, including the deadly Chicago heatwave of 1995, treating the first AIDS patients in the country before the disease was diagnosed, the nurse with rare Munchausen syndrome, the only surviving ricin victim, and the professor with Alzheimer's hiding the effects of the wrong medication. Surprising, darkly humorous, heartwarming, and sometimes tragic, these stories provide a big-picture look at how the practice of medicine has changed over the years, making it an enjoyable read for patients, doctors, and anyone with an interest in medicine.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Dr. Cory Franklin graduated from the Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, in 1973, and interned at Cook County Hospital in 1978. He spent many years at Cook County,

including spending 25 years as its Director of Intensive Care. Now that he has retired, or at least semi-retired, he has sat down to related some of the many unforgettable patients and cases that he encountered during his 30 years as a doctor. Overall, I found this to be a very entertaining read. Dr. Franklin saw many amazing things, and experienced many strange, and fun, and just plain weird things. I enjoyed his story of the conniving patient with Munchausen Syndrome, the dead patient who got an ECG, the Duke of Spain, and even Dr. Franklin's time as technical advisor for the film *The Fugitive*. Yeah, if you want an interesting look at being a doctor, and how medicine has changed over the last 30 years, then you should read this book. I highly recommend it!

This was not what I anticipated. I thought it would be predominately about interesting medical cases, but those are just sprinkled among personal anecdotes of little interest to me. Get this at the library and save some money.

Not only is this book full of amusing stories about patients and the odd environment doctors work in, it ends with an important reflection on the direction medicine has taken. As a person with metastatic cancer, I'm all too familiar with one side of the equation, and in just the few years I've been sick, I've seen corporate, bureaucratic forces become ever more prominent. It has changed before my eyes and not for the better. Dr Franklin had his career when medicine was as good as it was going to get as far as the autonomy of doctors and it's a sad thing to know my oncologist can't order a simple test that I've had dozens of times, without a mountain of paperwork and pleading against denials. He is no longer the decision maker in my healthcare, he is the paper pusher, getting the right forms to the right department. Today's healthcare will ensure my death, Dr. Franklin would have been allowed to save me. Aside from that, if you are curious to know what it is like to have been a doctor in Chicago and hear stories about some of the patients Dr Franklin remembers today, get this book.

This book was not written very well-it tended to jump around and was somewhat confusing at times. I thought a chronological presentation would have been better. I have been a nurse for years and I would have appreciated a little more in depth reporting of the unusual cases and more about the pathophysiology. Nonetheless I appreciated the author's candidness about the manner in which physicians present themselves and the manner in which they treat nurses, residents and patients. I would recommend this book to all med. students.

This book is well written and an interesting read. I decided to download the book because I was

familiar with Cook County years ago, during a time when several friends trained there and others were treated there. Interestingly enough, while reading this book, I realized that I know the author - or at least knew him - more than 35 years ago. Back to the review...the book is eye opening and interesting. It's a two-fold journey. A shiny young med student evolves into a well respected and accomplished physician while navigating the ever changing practice of medicine. The focus is more on the process and it's good food for thought.

I love the fascinating stories in this book of patient histories and diseases. As a nurse its very interesting to me. Dr Franklin is dedicated and compassionate and like me a medical person of the 70s,80s and 90s sort of "old school"Cook county was a huge charity hospital in Chicago so he's seen it all.I highly recommend this book.

Excellent written. Insightful look at the practice of medicine. Especially enjoyed the chapters on the electronic medical record. All doctors my age feel the depersonalization described in this book. I highly recommend this book for young doctors entering the profession who are were not fortunate to experience medicine as Dr. Franklin describes it. The last chapter hits the nail on the head. The art of medicine is slowly losing its place and is being replaced by dispassionate technology and rigid thinking.

This is a fast, entertaining read. I've been in the medical field for a lot of years, and it's so great to read the writing of a kind, compassionate physician who isn't afraid to admit his shortcomings. I recommend it for anyone who is a nurse, possibly slightly jaded from working for a lot of years in large hospitals with some physicians who have an ego bigger than the ICU they are working in. I would let this doctor treat me any day and would trust him with my life.

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