

"White Coat, Black Hat: Adventures on the Dark Side of Medicine"

Carl Elliott, 2010, 224 pages, Beacon Press, \$24.95

Review by Norman M. Goldfarb

"White Coat, Black Hat: Adventures on the Dark Side of Medicine" is a thoughtful, entertaining and disturbing discussion of the insidious effects of money on medicine. The author, an MD and Professor in the Center for Bioethics and the Departments of Pediatrics and Philosophy at the University of Minnesota, takes a responsible and reasoned approach to the topic, in contrast to the misleading, ignorant and breathless style of typical muckraking.

The book examines the industry's seamy underside (actually, not so far under) from clinical research to bioethics, which, given his profession, means he probably has a few open spots on his dance card. The book illuminates the issues by relating conversations with disenchanted insiders and by describing embarrassing events the industry just cannot resist providing for exposés. Although much of the evidence is anecdotal, the book makes a persuasive case.

The book includes six chapters:

- The Guinea Pigs
- The Ghosts
- The Detail Men
- The Thought Leaders
- The Flacks
- The Ethicists

The book is available in bookstores.

Reviewer

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