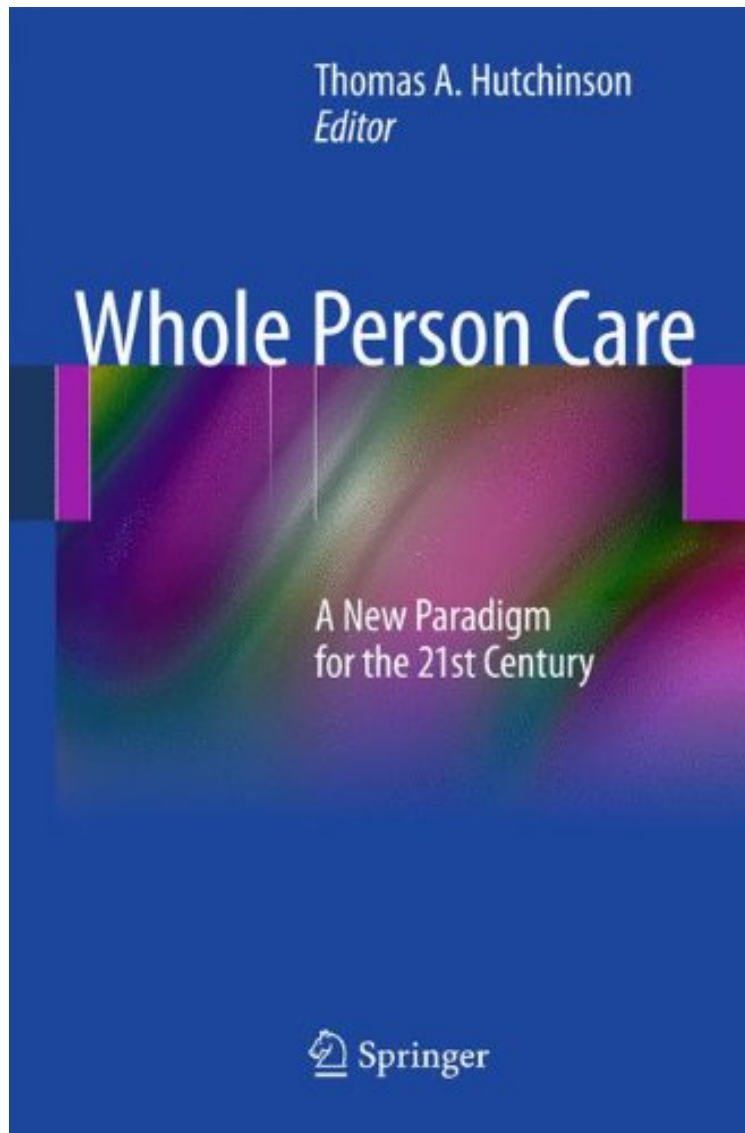


(Get free) Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century

## Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century

*From Thomas A Hutchinson*  
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**From Thomas A Hutchinson : Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Curing and Caring: Biomedicine meets Whole Person Care By PatIt is rare that an academic book keeps me up all night reading, but I found this book riveting and deserving of an

audience far broader than the physicians, medical students and allied health professionals to whom it is directed. This is one of those rare physician-authored books that recognizes the lived experience of illness and the myriad ways in which health-care professionals can either heal or wound simply by the way in which they listen to or speak to patients. Topics addressed include suffering, whole person care in a busy medical setting, death anxiety, complementary and alternative therapies, spiritual dimensions in whole person care, teaching young doctors that whole person care is as much a part of professionalism as technical competence. Tom Hutchinson, in a chapter on the healing journey (written with Balfour M. Mount and Michael Kearney) compellingly recounts a personal experience to describe the way in which individuals journey from "pain" and "anguish" towards "wholeness" and "peace" (pp.23-25). Psychiatrist Gregory Fricchione uses the theories of childhood attachment (Bowlby, Winnicott and others) as a lens through which physicians, other health care professionals and patients can see and understand the dynamics of the encounter between the sick person and the healer. Abraham Fuks offers a brilliant analysis of the power of words. Medicine and medical practitioners use words, often unconsciously, that have the potency of a shamanistic curse or, alternatively, that can heal the spirit in the face of hopelessness. Most of the authors are well-known senior physicians, surgeons, psychiatrists and scientists affiliated with McGill University. This adds greatly to the credibility of a book that addresses themes seen by some as too "touchy-feely" for the biomedical establishment. Whole Person Care is a work to which I will refer frequently, both to prepare university lectures and in my own personal journey.

Pat O'Rourke  
1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Still separate, not whole  
By D Kirby  
Though Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century attempts to engage in a "radical reframing" of current medical diagnosis and therapeutics, it does so with the framework of Western medicine. The book is a series of essays by physicians and, at the outset, editor Tom Hutchinson unapologetically defines the book's audience as primarily physicians and medical students, acknowledging the absence of the patient voice. A genuine discussion of whole person care with Western physicians is long overdue and, as such, the intent of this book could make inroads in how physicians and medical students learn to engage with their patients. The fact that the patient has been left out of a book about a new paradigm for whole person care is curious. I was also struck by the predominant theme of the essays being separation (clinical and emotional, physical and psychological, physician and patient, diagnosis and compassion). It seems difficult for the essay authors to reconcile these aspects of the whole to truly respond in a holistic way. This may be a worthwhile book to meet Western physicians where they are with patient care and gently move them toward a new attitude of care. Mary Grossman, in her essay, addresses one of the reasons the medical community does not embrace complementary therapies (CT) is the lack of rigorous scientific evaluation, leading to alternative medicine being largely discredited. She cites in her essay that "An estimated 83-90% of patients turn to some form of complementary therapy following a cancer diagnosis..." It seems the medical community is not fully aware of the progress patients have made in proactive alternative treatments. A revolutionary paradigm shift is needed as the book's authors point out, though they seem a bit stymied about what should be done (other than compassion training in medical school) and the tone and language of the essays is still too entrenched in rigid medical jargon. Each essay sports upwards of 20 references to make sure the author's arguments are rigorously structured. What will it take to make the shift to whole person care? Perhaps, engaging patients who have already figured out how to integrate Western medical technology with Eastern and alternative systemic care (versus symptom treatment) in genuine dialogues and then shifting the tone and jargon to better reflect the new paradigm and its inclusion of the patient.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Very important read for all doctors  
By Paul Preston  
This is a Fantastic book I am a practising physician for 27 years this book covers the spectrum of the Art of Medicine , more than any other I have seen This text and course needs to be in EVERY medical school.

A ground-breaking new volume and the first of its kind to concisely outline and explicate the emerging field of whole person care process, Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century organizes the disparate strains of literature on the topic. It does so by clarifying the concept of 'whole person' and also by outlining the challenges and opportunities that death anxiety poses to the practice of whole person care. Whole person care seeks to study, understand and promote the role of health care in relieving suffering and promoting healing in acute and chronic illness as a complement to the disease focus of biomedicine. The focus is on the whole person -- physical, emotional, social, and spiritual. Using concise, easy-to-read language, the early chapters offer practitioners a thorough understanding of the concepts, skills and tools necessary for the practice of whole person care from a clinician-patient interaction standpoint, while the last two chapters review the myriad implications of whole person care for medical practice. An invaluable resource for all areas of medical practice and for practitioners at all stages of development, from medical students to physicians and allied health providers with many years of experience, Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century will have a profound impact on western medical practice in North America and elsewhere.

From the reviews: The book is written by and for physicians (and medical students) and explores the existential challenges of the illness experience, the healing process and the nature of the clinical interaction. This is a thought-

provoking book. this volume has provided many opportunities for reflection. I also found the extensive and up-to-date references very useful. I would recommend this book to those wanting to develop their own practice or to teach others. (Ofra Fried, Royal Australasian College of Physicians, February, 2012)It is the internal resources of the individual persons who become patients that constitute the major untapped resource that the whole person care and medicine needs to harness effectively in the twenty-first century. The audience is everyone who is in the practice of medicine consumer of medical practice. the book is a very easy read . extremely worthwhile book to sensitize students to how medicine became what it is today, making it essential to every library associated with a teaching program. (Vincent F. Carr, Doody's Book s, August, 2011)From the Back CoverA ground-breaking new volume and the first of its kind to concisely outline and explicate the emerging field of whole person care process, Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century organizes the disparate strains of literature on the topic. It does so by clarifying the concept of 'whole person' and also by outlining the challenges and opportunities that death anxiety poses to the practice of whole person care. Whole person care seeks to study, understand and promote the role of health care in relieving suffering and promoting healing in acute and chronic illness as a complement to the disease focus of biomedicine. The focus is on the whole person -- physical, emotional, social, and spiritual. Using concise, easy-to-read language, the early chapters offer practitioners a thorough understanding of the concepts, skills and tools necessary for the practice of whole person care from a clinician-patient interaction standpoint, while the last two chapters review the myriad implications of whole person care for medical practice. An invaluable resource for all areas of medical practice and for practitioners at all stages of development, from medical students to physicians and allied health providers with many years of experience, Whole Person Care: A New Paradigm for the 21st Century will have a profound impact on western medical practice in North America and elsewhere.