

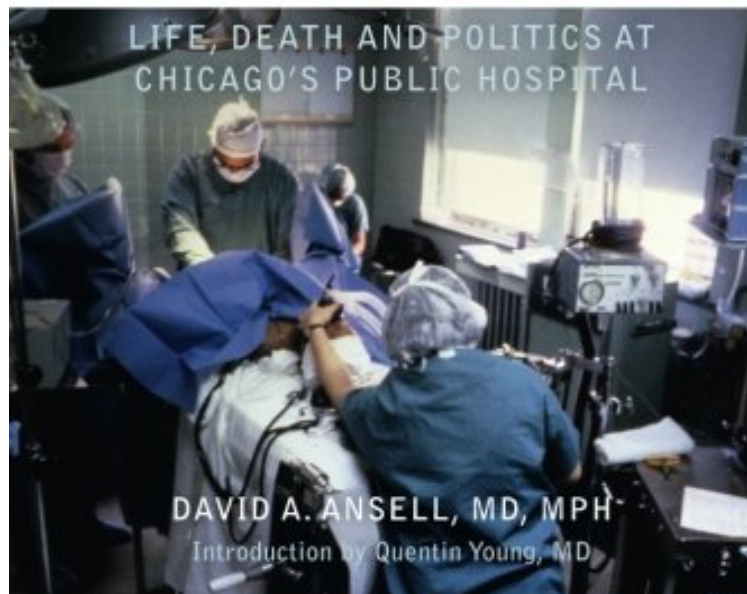
## County: Life, Death, and Politics at Chicago's Public Hospital

David A. Ansell

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# COUNTY



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**David A. Ansell : County: Life, Death, and Politics at Chicago's Public Hospital** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised County: Life, Death, and Politics at Chicago's Public Hospital:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I had some great opportunities in my early training years to shadow in ...By Craig H. JacobusThis is another look at a grand institution. I had some great opportunities in my early training years to shadow in the Trauma Unit. I was quickly made aware that it wasn't the "HI TECH" equipment (there was

none), it was the practitioners who manned the room that made the unit so great. I also got a taste, as a paramedic, of the ED when I again, did clinical rotations many many years ago....I never experienced the 300+ patients waiting for care and getting the best.... I added this to my previous read HOSPITAL which looked at CCH as well.1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Revitalize my thinking about starting medical school next year.By JpchunkA friend of mine recommended this book to me. I haven't read something so good, or so important in a while. The story of Dr. Ansell's time at Cook County is absolutely intense. Working not at a hospital, but a battleground. Fighting for individual patients, while at the same time working with fellow doctors to keep the doors of the public institution open. This reminded me very clearly why I wanted to do medicine: to help people. This book will give you a very clear look at the health gap in America and what it means for the poor and uninsured. This isn't an isolated problem, but Cook County was a unique place in that it is the most stark example of what this problem means for people in the inner city. Dr. Ansell's story is well worth your time. Get this book!0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved this bookBy La fleurLoved this book...could not put it down.... especially since I worked there in the mid 1960's..RN in Women and Men's admitting.

"Named by the "Wall Street Journal "as one of the five best health books of 2011!County" is the amazing tale of one of America's oldest and most unusual urban public hospitals. From its inception as a "poor house" dispensing free medical care to indigents, Chicago's Cook County Hospital has been both a renowned teaching hospital and the health care provider of last resort for the city's uninsured. "County" covers more than thirty years of its history, beginning in the late 1970s when the author began his internship, to the "final rounds" in 2002, when hundreds of former trainees and personnel, many of whom shared Ansell's vision of resurrecting a hospital in critical condition, gathered to bid the iconic Victorian hospital building an emotional farewell before it was closed to make way for a new facility."County" is about people--from Ansell's mentors, including the legendary Quentin Young, to the multitude of patients whom he and County's medical staff labored to diagnose and heal. It is a story about politics; from contentious union strikes, to battles against "patient dumping." Most importantly, it chronicles the battles for instigating new programs that would help to prevent, rather than just treat, serious illnesses, including the opening of County's HIV/AIDS clinic (the first in the city), as well as an early-detection breast cancer screening program. Finally, it is about an idealistic young man's medical education in urban America, a coming-of-age story set against a backdrop of race, segregation, and poverty.

"When it comes to the stories of his patients, many of whom he cared for over decades, from clinic to hospital to funeral, Dr. Ansell soars . . . We cannot have too many of these stories in circulation, to bear witness, to inform and to inspire." --New York Times"Heartbreaking and important . . . County is written with a kind of lilting rage. Not the dark, destructive kind of rage that hurls rocks and obscenities at anything in its path but an uplifting and creative rage. A rage that says, 'We can do better than this.' A rage that steadily pushes its way toward hope . . . County is a landmark book, brave and angry and indispensable." --Chicago Tribune"Ansell . . . weaves strands of memoir and policy analysis into a heartfelt account of the hospital's challenges, failures, and successes over three decades, from the civil rights movement to the AIDS crisis, in the process educating and moving the reader to both anger and compassion. His gift for describing the connections between social forces and medical care, coupled with the vivid patient stories interspersed with trenchant critiques of the politics of health care, makes this work stand out. Ansell skillfully humanizes questions of health-care policy by describing real-life scenarios. Those who enjoyed such books as Richard Selzer's Letters to a Young Doctor will find this book an education for both the mind and the heart." --Library Journal "With the nation's focus on a national health-care policy providing quality medical services to citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, and income level, Ansell's expose' will shock and motivate readers to take a stand on the issue." --Publishers Weekly"Ansell, a leading physician, ably describes what it was like to work at the nation's oldest and largest public hospital . . . Ultimately, Ansell uses his memoir-like account of life at Cook County Hospital to argue for health-care reform so that all Americans can get equal care." --Booklist"Ansell . . . weaves strands of memoir and policy analysis into a heartfelt account of the hospital's challenges, failures, and successes over three decades, from the civil rights movement to the AIDS crisis, in the process educating and moving the reader to both anger and compassion. His gift for describing the connections between social forces and medical care, coupled with the vivid patient stories interspersed with trenchant critiques of the politics of health care, makes this work stand out. Ansell skillfully humanizes questions of health-care policy by describing real-life scenarios. Those who enjoyed such books as Richard Selzer's Letters to a Young Doctor will find this book an education for both the mind and the heart." --Library Journal "With the nation's focus on a national health-care policy providing quality medical services to citizens regardless of race, ethnicity, and income level, Ansell's expose' will shock and motivate readers to take a stand on the issue." --Publishers WeeklyAbout the AuthorDavid A. Ansell, MD, MPH, is a Chicago-based physician and health activist. He has been an internal medicine physician since training at Cook County Hospital in the late 1970s where he spent seventeen years holding a number of positions including chief of general medicine / primary care. After leaving County, he spent ten years as chair of the Department of Internal Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital located in one of the poorest communities in Chicago. Now chief medical officer at Rush University Medical Center, he also sees

patients and teaches. Since coming to Chicago to train at Cook County Hospital, he has dedicated his career to fighting health inequity by building programs to address and eliminate these disparities. His work with others has led to the end of "patient dumping" in the United States, one of the first cancer screening programs in America aimed at addressing the Black: White breast cancer mortality disparity, the creation of the most prominent health disparity research and intervention center in Chicago, and the creation of the Metropolitan Chicago Breast Cancer Taskforce, a not-for-profit dedicated to the elimination of breast cancer mortality disparity. In his spare time he reads, gardens, and exercises. He volunteers as a doctor at a Chicago free clinic and has participated in ongoing medical missions to the Dominican Republic and Haiti. He is married to a doctor and has two children.