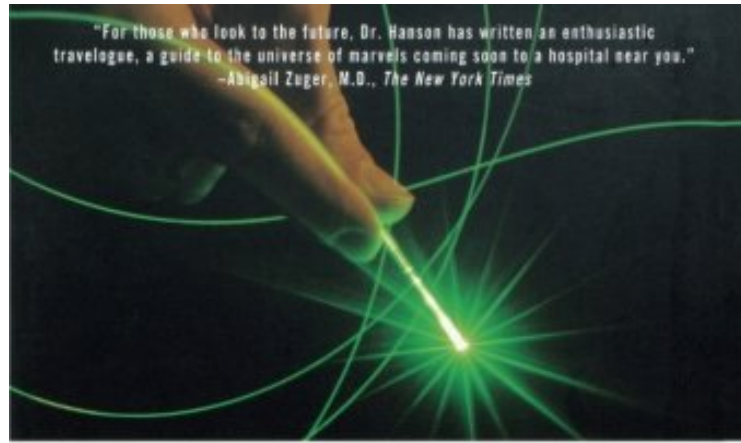


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Dr. William Hanson M.D.

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Dr. William Hanson M.D. : The Edge of Medicine: The Technology That Will Change Our Lives before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Edge of Medicine: The Technology That Will Change Our Lives:

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A future definitely worth striving forBy Dr. Lee D. CarlsonThere is nothing in the twenty-first century that is uninteresting, and after finishing this book the opinion that this is the best time to be alive is reinforced. The advances in medicine that were predicted to occur just a decade ago have proven to

be a gross underestimate, as this book clearly shows. Its author is a physician, and also has the virtue of being a technophile, but the best part of his writing is his frankness in assessing some of the issues in modern medicine. Treatment modalities, surgical techniques, diagnostics, and prognostics are now more than ever being done with the assistance of technology, some of this technology being highly sophisticated and intelligent. Genetic engineering, artificial intelligence, cognitive neuroscience, robotic surgery: these are some of the tools of twenty-first century medicine. The author details the use of some of them in the book, and it is amazing to think of just a short time ago they were viewed as purely science fiction. In fact what is being done now and in a few years makes the Hollywood imagination seem sophomoric by comparison. The author though also goes beyond a mere reporting of technological facts, for he exposes some of the finagling and politics in hospitals in the United States. One example that particularly stands out is his opinion on the "successful" hospital, these being characterized by their collection of "certificates of excellence." They acquire these by what he refers to as the "parasitic" certifying organizations that arbitrarily define novel measures of excellence, and proceed to convince hospitals, through marketing or regulatory pressure, to conform to the artificial standards that they have created. This is a story that is repeated in other professions also, where "certifying" organizations survive only by false pretenses, by asserting that quality exists in a particular business without any justification as to why their measure of quality is better than others. For those readers such as this reviewer that are not in the medical profession but have worked as analysts or developers perfecting some of the technology that is used by physicians, the author gives some very interesting anecdotes on everyday practice, particularly in surgery rooms. Some of what the author reports can rattle the unsuspecting reader. Indeed, in many instances it is very disconcerting to discover to what degree the surgery room and its personnel are "on the edge." One can only imagine what things will be like in medicine a decade from now, due mostly in part to technological advances. But cognizance must also be made, and the author of this book does so, to the rising costs of healthcare. Regulatory and governmental agencies will no doubt result in challenging tradeoff issues in the years to come. But with personalized genomic medicine, automated surgery, networked diagnostics, and more data transparency it is likely that the future of medicine will be an exciting one, and one that every living individual hopefully will be participating in.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Healthcare technology in the not-too-distant future
By Michael E. Campbell
An exceptionally readable and short book on the technological advances occurring in medicine, in particular in biotechnology and genetics, robotics, and nuclear medicine, that will have a significant impact on how we diagnose and treat disease in the 21st century.
Dr. William Hanson is a practicing physician and technophile at the University of Pennsylvania who writes in a tone that any patient desires of their personal physician: direct, honest, and reasonable.
An excellent book for anyone interested in the future of medicine.
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good view of New Medical Inventions
By Dpmartin
Tells the reader what new instruments and procedures are available and what to expect as improvements when you need medical help in the future.

At a time when we are all gravely concerned about the cost of health care, medical technology, paradoxically, is expanding and evolving as never before. Experts agree that we are entering a Golden Age when many clinical treatments that today seem like science fiction will one day become part of a routine trip to the doctor. University of Pennsylvania Medical School Professor William Hanson offers intimate true-life stories that revise our understanding of mortality. From brainwave-operated wheelchairs, to electronic noses that diagnose disease, to surgery by remote-controlled robots and nanoscale machines that will identify and kill individual malignant cells, this is a startling and exciting account of innovations that will directly affect our health.

The work is informative, coherent, extremely well written, and easy to read; it will make readers acutely aware of the vast number of high-tech advances with potential to have a profound, positive impact on medical diagnoses, treatments, and outcomes. Summing Up: Highly recommended. Lower-level undergraduates through professionals/practitioners; general readers. CHOICE(A) spirited, feel-good look at an area of medicine that's making progress. Kirkus
For those who look to the future, Dr. Hanson has written an enthusiastic travelogue, a guide to the universe of marvels coming soon to a hospital near you. Abigail Zuger, M.D., The New York Times
The Edge of Medicine is a revelatory look at the amazing technology that will drive our medical future, from proton beams to mind-reading brain chips. Dr. Hanson is the ideal guide: knowledgeable, thoughtful, and fun. Jack El-Hai, author of The Lobotomist: A Maverick Medical Genius and His Tragic Quest to Rid the World of Mental Illness
A rare glimpse into the future of medicine, through the eyes of a Renaissance thinker with a remarkable grasp of history and modern science, combined with deep compassion for patients. He sees linkages among vastly different sciences, such as physics, nanotechnology and computer sciences, that others often miss. He envisions a melding of scientific advances in physics and chemistry with those in communications technology, leading to an exciting era of personalized healthcare that seemed impossible only a few years ago. Throughout, he never fails to focus on the human side of healthcare; few could lead us there so elegantly. David E. Longnecker, MD, Director at the Association of American Medical Colleges
A riveting and readable account of the future of technology in health care. Dr. William Hanson makes a convincing case that the ultimate goal of tiny nanomachines and gargantuan proton beam facilities is a medicine that is preventative, efficient,

and personalized. Arthur L. Caplan, Ph.D., Chair of the Department of Medical Ethics at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine
About the Author William Hanson, M.D., is a Professor of Anesthesiology and Critical Care at the University of Pennsylvania Medical School. He has lectured at Microsoft, The Wharton Business School, and has been interviewed on NPR's Fresh Air. He lives outside of Philadelphia.