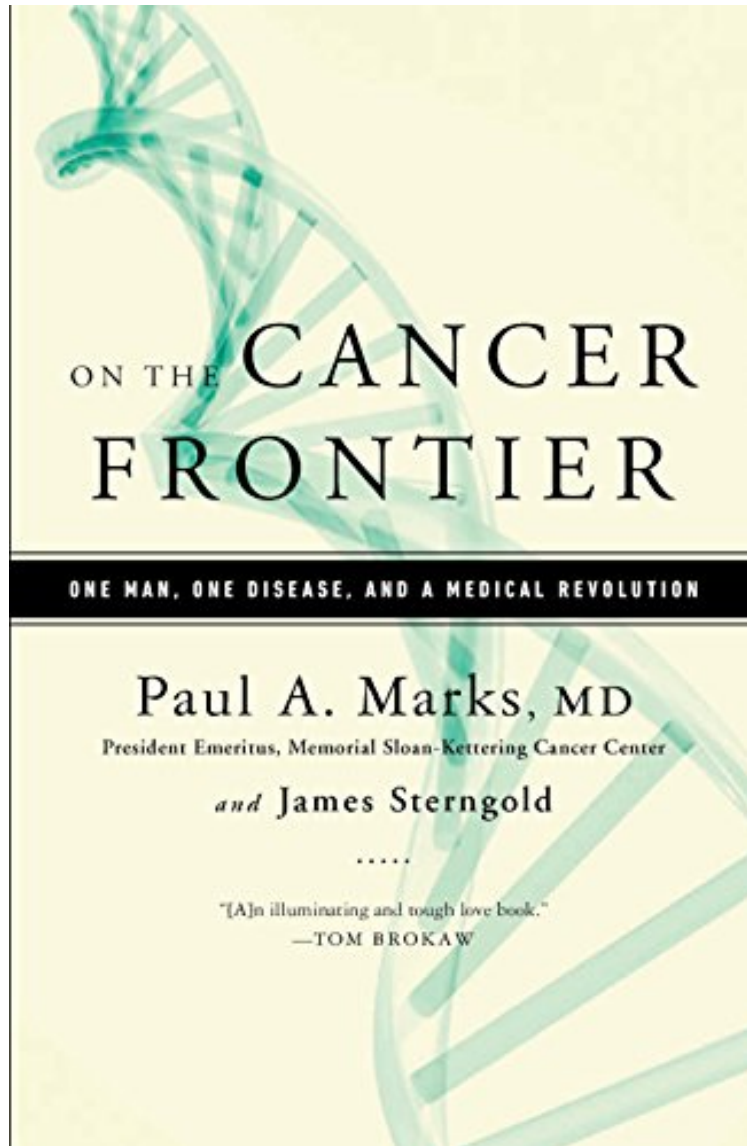


On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution

Paul Marks, James Sterngold
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Paul Marks, James Sterngold : On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution
before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised On the Cancer Frontier: One Man, One Disease, and a Medical Revolution:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Kim Kowalskifantastic book on the history and future treatment of cancer1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Doorstop, paperweight.By Gustavo CorralHad to

throw it away. Basically, it is the writer's life story in cancer research. Nice if you are into that sort of meandering, but not useful if you are trying to glean insights into the field. The field of cancer research itself has moved heavily into bioinformatics, which the author completely ignores.² of 4 people found the following review helpful. On the Cancer Frontier By Robert Sabin Written for Lay Readers in a conversationalist style. Instead of On the Cancer Frontier, it is an autobiography of Dr. Marks and his dedication and perseverance. The book lacks detail and depth. The almost total failure of the Genetic basis for cancer to produce safe and effective therapies is omitted. In fact, the controversy whether the genetic basis of cancer is correct is omitted, with the tacit understanding that this Somatic Mutation Theory is correct. The Warburg theory, a very cogent alternate theory is omitted entirely. The Overwhelming Failure of the War on Cancer is omitted with inaccurate skewed statistics of success. There is no depth to the book. A history of Memorial Sloan Kettering is not enough substance for the text. very little information in the book. "The Emperor of all Maladies" a Pulitzer Prize winning Book totally overwhelms this book in detail and depth and where we are, where we have been, and where we are going. "The Truth in small Doses", another recent book, again is many times superior in depth and detail and accuracy, and an equally easy read as Cancer Frontier. The Title is misleading, as there is very little information on the research being done in the frontier... One Star

In 1950, a diagnosis of cancer was all but a death sentence. Mortality rates only got worse, and as late as 1986, an article in the New England Journal of Medicine lamented: We are losing the war against cancer. Cancer is one of humankind's oldest and most persistent enemies; it has been called the existential disease. But we are now entering a new, and more positive, phase in this long campaign. While cancer has not been cured and a cure may elude us for a long time yet there has been a revolution in our understanding of its nature. Years of brilliant science have revealed how this individualistic disease seizes control of the foundations of life and produces guerrilla cells that can attack and elude treatments. Armed with those insights, scientists have been developing more effective weapons and producing better outcomes for patients. Paul A. Marks, MD, has been a leader in these efforts to finally control this devastating disease. Marks helped establish the strategy for the war on cancer in 1971 as a researcher and member of President Nixon's cancer panel. As the president and chief executive officer for nineteen years at the world's pre-eminent cancer hospital, the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, he was instrumental in ending the years of futility. He also developed better therapies that promise a new era of cancer containment. Some cancers, like childhood leukemia and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, that were once deadly conditions, are now survivable even curable. New steps in prevention and early diagnosis are giving patients even more hope. On the Cancer Frontier is Marks' account of the transformation in our understanding of cancer and why there is growing optimism in our ability to stop it.

From Booklist This well-written, often dramatic book about the nation's second-largest killer is a cross between memoir and cancer history. With help from his skillful coauthor, Wall Street Journal writer Sterngold, Marks, president emeritus of the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, presents his life in and out of the lab. In the middle of the book, Marks mentions that when he was five, his seven-months-pregnant mom died in a horrific accident when she tumbled down the stairs of her father's clothing store. He discusses hospital politics and research and the infamous war on cancer, which is more about containment than a final victory. Still, he remains upbeat because of better prevention, early diagnosis, and personalized treatment that keeps many cancer patients alive for years. Marks himself is the beneficiary of new knowledge. In 2009, he learned that he had bladder cancer, and today is alive and healthy and sharing such insights as, Cancer is, in a way, the body's war on itself. A good shy addition to the growing number of engaging titles about this disease. --Karen Springen KIRKUS REVIEW Former Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center president and CEO Marks delivers a panoramic view of developments in cancer research and treatment over the last 40 years, from both the researchers' and administrators' perspectives. On a level with Lewis Thomas for its clarity and verve in presenting the science of the cell and the ability of cancer to assume multiple guises. In this boldly presented argument, written with Wall Street Journal senior writer Sterngold, Marks passionately explains how best to pursue a course of action to control cancer's tenacity. "The truth," writes the author, "uncomfortable and inconvenient as it may be, is that medical science has never faced a more inscrutable, more mutable, or more ruthless adversary." Thus, understanding its biology, as well as its ability to shape-shift between patients, is vital, and we must also remember that as long as cell division is how we propagate and survive, cancers will develop. Marks also interweaves his own story into the changes in cancer medicine: his particular research interests against the background of the politics of medicine and how to "not throw too much money at the false promise of quick cures." Most importantly, we must translate scientific insights into therapies.