



Dr. Abraham Verghese

*"I wanted the reader to see how entering medicine was a passionate quest, a romantic pursuit, a spiritual calling, a privileged yet hazardous undertaking," he said of his most recent book, *Cutting for Stone*.*

Dr. Abraham Verghese is a board certified Indian American physician and Linda R. Meier and Joan F. Lane Provostial Professor, and Vice Chair for the Theory and Practice of Medicine at the School of Medicine at Stanford University. He began his medical training in Ethiopia when his parents were recruited by the Emperor Haile Selassie to teach near the capital. When the emperor was deposed and war broke out, he joined his parents in the United States and worked as an orderly in a hospital, putting his medical education on hold before returning to India to

complete his medical degree at Madras Medical College. He completed his internal medicine residency in Johnson City, Tennessee, where he later witnessed the AIDS epidemic firsthand in the 1980s. "His life took the turn for which he is now so well known – caring for a seemingly unending line of young AIDS patients in an era when little could be done other than help them through their premature and painful deaths. Long before retrovirals, this was often the most a physician could do and it taught [Dr. Verghese] the subtle difference between healing and curing." He has written best-sellers about the value of direct patient interaction and physical examination in diagnosing and demonstrating empathy.

On September 22, 2016, he received a National Humanities Medal at the White House from President Barack Obama.



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