

(P)LUCK: Lessons We Learned for Improving Healthcare and the World

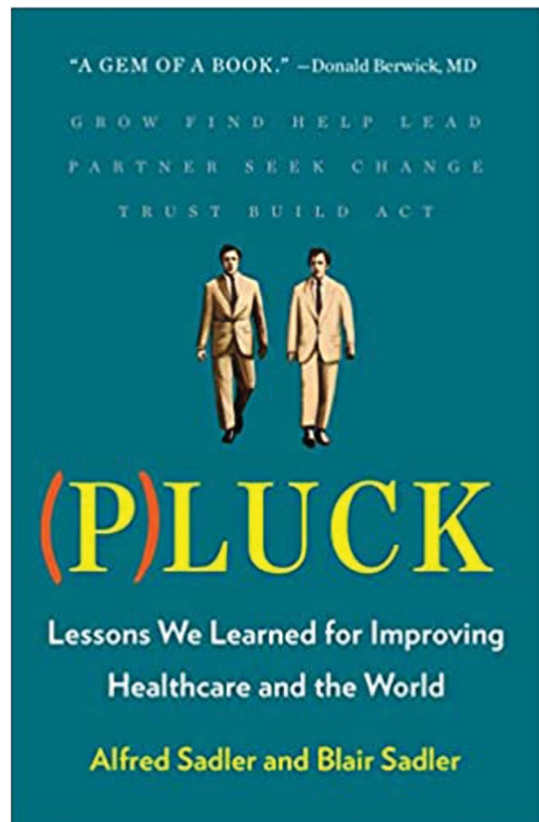
By Alfred Sadler and Blair Sadler; Silicon Valley Press, 2022

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The post-World War II, mid-20th century era in America was arguably the most significant period of innovation in healthcare history. During a time when the polio vaccine was developed, the first organ transplant was performed, and access to healthcare was expanded with the signing of the Social Security Act of 1965, perhaps no single family played a more prominent role in shaping the direction of healthcare in the United States than the Sadler brothers. In their newest offering, *(P)LUCK: Lessons We Learned for Improving Healthcare and the World*, identical twin doctor-lawyer brothers Alfred and Blair Sadler reveal how cultivating determination, resolve, audacity, courage—and admittedly a bit of luck—set the course for their unbelievably impactful collaborative careers in healthcare.

In this text, the authors reveal how they harnessed their privilege to impact such significant issues as organ donation and transplant bioethics, the furtherance of the physician assistant (PA) profession, and the standardization and advancement of emergency medicine. Whether on the squash court or in the halls of the National Institutes of Health, The Hastings Center, the Yale School of Medicine, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, or the dome of the United States Capitol, the brothers constantly and consciously sought out “green lights” (in their case, acknowledgment or appreciation of opportunity to improve healthcare in America). The stories of how the brothers made connections with people of such enormous import throughout their careers are amazing but leave the reader wondering if someone could feasibly emulate this experience in the modern era.

This book is easily and readily consumed with a collection of well-organized chronological stories of the brothers’ lives spent in the service of developing the healthcare system in the United States. Each story shows how the pair took advantage of their collaborative talents in their respective fields of medicine and law to make an impact and how the lessons learned in previous endeavors helped them succeed. The authors explain how they parlayed their early successes in working with organ donation and transplantation bioethics (by helping to create the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act) to their future accomplishments in scaling a successful regional model for high-quality emergency care, created by Jack Cole, MD, at Yale, to a nation in need of a more structured and standardized delivery model.



Throughout the book, homage is paid to those who played prominent roles in shaping not only the careers, lives, and paths of the Sadler brothers but also the history of medicine in America. The list of connections made by the Sadlers reads like a “Who’s Who in US Medical Policy” while not forgetting those whose work, at the time, was not recognized. Unfamiliar heroes like Vivien Thomas, who pioneered cardiac surgery for “blue babies” at Johns Hopkins in the 1940s, and Henry Lee “Buddy” Treadwell, who served as the model for the PA profession while being trained by and working with Amos Johnson, MD, are highlighted for their significant contributions to medicine despite the oppression they encountered daily during their careers due to overt racism.

This book appeals to a wide range of audiences. It recounts excellent examples of healthcare leadership and innovative healthcare design while also providing the history and architecture of the healthcare policies that lead to the wide-sweeping advances in healthcare delivery. Containing a list of “Fifteen Lessons for Catalyzing Change,” this text aspires to inform students, those new to a leadership position, or providers with an interest to know more about the intersection of medical practice and medical law. It provides a chronological progression of the twins’ experiences while featuring exceptional people and moments in history and offers a wealth of historical context in the evolution of the development of the PA profession. The twins’ role in developing the Medical Practice Act, which allowed PAs to collaborate with physicians, was invaluable for the PA profession.

In addition to chronicling the path of innovation needed for the birth of a new health profession, the twins were often presented with leadership opportunities to advocate and chart the future of PAs nationwide. Many of the pioneers of the PA profession: Eugene Stead, Thelma Ingles, Amos Johnson, Buddy Treadwell, Richard Smith, and others are recognized for their impact on the profession's creation. The Sadlers' 100-page report, describing the necessary steps for the profession to remain sustainable over time, was turned into the book, *The Physician's Assistant—Today and Tomorrow*, which was initially published in 1972 and has remained a blueprint for the PA profession through its many iterations.

This book could be assigned, in part, or in its entirety, as a supplement to PA courses that focus on the history of the PA profession, PA advocacy, professional leadership, health-care law, and the benefit of collaboration in practice. PA students and graduates will be moved to consider their own opportunities for impacting today's medical system, whether at the individual practice level or at a greater

societal level. This book is an inspiring and informative read that should be recommended to anyone who mistakenly believes that one or 2 people cannot make a significant difference.

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