

DYING IS A HARD THING TO DO



CANCER AND AMERICAN MEDICINE

BY SEAN FERGUSON, COMMANDER USN (RET.)



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Dedication



This book is dedicated to my wife, a truly remarkable woman who deserved better, and to our son, who brought peace and comfort to her final days.

Acknowledgments



I wish to express my gratitude for the support my family and Patty's friends, Charlotte and Mary Jo, provided during her illness, and for their help and encouragement in writing this book to document our experience.

I especially want to express my gratitude to my son Steve, his wife Katie, and to my sisters Stephanie and Dru, who helped Patty and me through the darkest days of our lives.

Preface



This is a true story. Every person and action described herein, every word spoken, every thought expressed, is truthfully portrayed as it actually transpired. The book was developed primarily from my detailed notes made at the time the events occurred, the hospital records available to me, and my memory of the things that were said and done.

The names and other identifying details of the people, places, and organizations involved have been changed to ensure their anonymity and to respect personal privacy. It is not my intent to embarrass anyone.

The individuals I describe in this book are the products of the system within which they work. For better or worse, they performed as they had been trained to do. It is the system that requires repair.

There must be a better way.

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