

# Danielle Ofri, M.D., Ph.D.

Author, *When We Do Harm* and *What Patients Say, What Doctors Hear*

Primary Care Internist, Bellevue Hospital  
Founder and Editor-in-chief, *Bellevue Literary Review*

*Insights on improving healthcare through a humanistic lens*



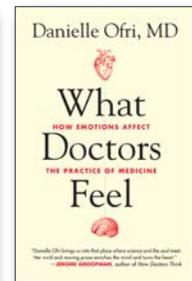
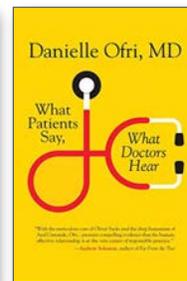
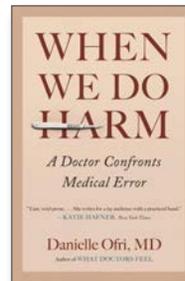
## Biography

Danielle Ofri MD, PhD is a primary care internist at Bellevue Hospital, the editor-in-chief of the *Bellevue Literary Review*, and one of the foremost voices in the medical world today. Praised as “a born story-teller and a born physician” by Oliver Sacks, she shines an unflinching light on the realities of healthcare and speaks passionately about the doctor-patient relationship. As a practicing internist and a critically acclaimed author, Danielle speaks with both the authority of a physician directly engaged in the front lines of medical care and with the vibrant panache of a creative. In talks that engage both medical and general audiences alike, she weaves together captivating stories and discussions of major issues in medicine to highlight the messy, beautiful, and altogether human elements of healthcare, on both the patient and provider sides.

[more ▶](#)

## Topics & Books

*Healthcare  
Medicine  
Practitioner*

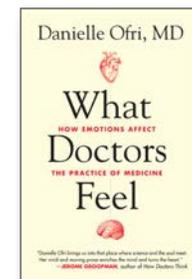
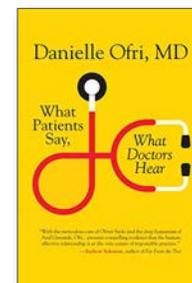
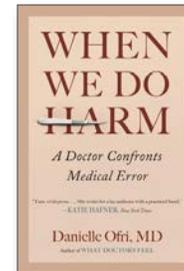


In her books and articles, Danielle Ofri has developed a signature style that combines compelling narrative with thoughtful reflection and focused reporting. She uses stories to uncover the mysteries of human life and human nature, to explore the joys and problems of modern medical practice, and to ask questions about society's priorities. Her writing has been featured in the *New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, the *Atlantic*, the *Lancet*, *Slate*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post*, CNN, NPR, and the *New England Journal of Medicine*. Her essays have been selected for Best American Essays twice and for Best American Science Writing.

Dr. Ofri is the author of a collection of books about the world of medicine. Her latest, *When We Do Harm: A Doctor Confronts Medical Error*, addresses the cultural and cognitive shifts necessary to minimize preventable harm. *What Patients Say, What Doctors Hear*, tackles the critical issue of communication between clinicians and patients—how gaps in communication can be deadly and how refocusing the conversation can improve health outcomes. In her critically acclaimed book, *What Doctors Feel: How Emotions Affect the Practice of Medicine*, Danielle upends stereotypes in the medical world and explores the hidden emotional world of the doctor and its impact on patient care.

In an extension of her interests in storytelling and medicine, Ofri serves as founder and editor-in-chief of *Bellevue Literary Review*, the first literary journal to arise from a medical setting. BLR is an award-winning, independent nonprofit literary journal and arts organization. It publishes fiction, nonfiction, and poetry from the perspectives of patients, caregivers, family members, students, healthcare professionals, and the general public while offering a wide range of events at the intersection of art and science.

Dr. Ofri is the recipient of many awards including the 2023 Guggenheim Fellowship, the 2023 Davies Scholar Award from the American College of Physicians, the 2022 National Humanism in Medicine Medal from the Gold Foundation, and the 2020 Global Listening Legend Award. She has been awarded an honorary doctorate of humane letters and received the McGovern Award from the American Medical Writers Association for “preeminent contributions to medical communication.” She is a clinical professor of medicine at New York University..



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