

Atul Atmaram Gawande

Doctor of Science

Atul Gawande, M.D., M.P.H. is a surgeon, writer, and public health researcher. He practices general and endocrine surgery at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. He is Professor in the Department of Health Policy and Management at the Harvard School of Public Health, Professor of Surgery at Harvard Medical School, and Director of Ariadne Labs, a joint center for health systems innovation. He is also the Founder and Chairman of Lifebox, an international not-for-profit that implements systems and technologies to reduce surgical deaths globally.

Gawande has been a staff writer for the *New Yorker* magazine since 1998. His June 2009 *New Yorker* essay comparing healthcare in two Texas towns with dramatically different costs showed how more expensive care could be worse care, reflecting practices performed more for business reasons than medical needs. The article changed public understanding about the broken incentives in healthcare. In addition, the article won a National Magazine Award and was hailed as the best explanation to date about why our healthcare is so expensive and what can be done about it.

Gawande has also written three best-selling books. "Complications" examines the fallibility of doctors, the mysteries of medicine, and the unknowns of the field. It was a finalist for the National Book Award in 2002. "Better" was selected as one of the ten best books of 2007 by Amazon.com. In it, Gawande discusses three virtues most important for success in medicine: diligence, doing right, and ingenuity. His third book, "The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right," discusses the importance of organization and pre-planning. Gawande has won two National Magazine Awards, AcademyHealth's Impact Award for the highest research impact on health care, a MacArthur Fellowship, and he has been named one of the hundred most influential thinkers by *Foreign Policy* and *Time*.

For outstanding accomplishment in the field of medicine, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill is pleased to confer on Atul Gawande the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causi* and to invite him to deliver the 2014 Commencement Address.