



## BOOKS

**August Farewell: The Last Sixteen Days of a Thirty-Three-Year Romance.** David G. Hallman. Bloomington, IN: iUniverse, 2011, 167 pages, \$16.95.



At first read, the purpose of this book seemed to be a timeline from diagnosis to death of David Hallman's partner, Bill Conklin. From August 7–23 of 2009, the reader is led through the daily ups and downs of Bill and David's journey with cancer. The grief experienced by David is palpable, and the acceptance and peaceful attitude of Bill is comforting. Although this book would appeal to all audiences, the general medical population would benefit, including hospice and palliative care professionals as well as any oncology specialty.

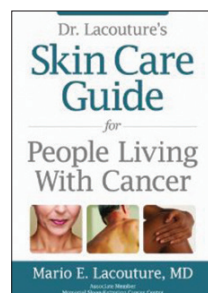
Physicians and nurses would appreciate the many sources of help mentioned that are available to patients and families who choose to be at home throughout a terminal illness. From personal care equipment to pain medications, David and Bill were provided with whatever was needed to keep Bill comfortable during his last days. David's appreciation for that assistance shows greatly with the turn of each page.

Although diagnosis, comfort, treatment, and emotional support were being provided, attention to Bill's code status was not addressed by a physician, but by a community nurse. The leadership and importance of the nurse in this situation shines through.

Bill's death is the subject of this book; however, it is David's strength, grief, and commitment to the love of his life that stays with the reader. As stated by David's friend, "... what you are doing in these days may be the most important work that you have ever done" (p. 86).

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**Dr. Lacouture's Skin Care Guide for People Living With Cancer.** Mario E. Lacouture. Cold Spring Harbor, NY: Harborside Press, 2012, softcover, 280 pages, \$29.95.



The book is a practical and readable guide.

Lacouture does not shy away from using product names, which serves as valuable information for patients and healthcare professionals. Starting out with the basics of the skin, he quickly proceeds to rashes, dehydration, itching, nail care, and hair changes. He devotes a chapter to the side effects of radiation therapy and one to the skin after surgery, a topic rarely addressed in nursing or oncology literature. He covers healing processes, scar formation, postoperative itching, ports, pressure sores, ostomies, and lymphedema. Stem cell transplantation and skin and sun safety also are covered.

Chapter 11, "Using Cosmetics to Look and Feel Better," goes beyond regarding tips on cosmetic choices and application. The lack of regulation in this industry is highlighted as a point of caution but not inflammatory. However, Lacouture advises about cosmetic safety, including organic products that may contain infectious bacteria and specific product ingredients.

Chapter 12 closes the book with the issue of survivorship, an important and noteworthy topic for all oncology nurses in 2013. Although that is the final chapter, the appendices also contain rich information about skin, hair, and nail side effects of anticancer generic and brand name medications, a glossary of terms, and Web site resources.

I was hoping for pictures; however, they only graced the cover. This material lends itself well to a "show and tell" approach. Oncology nurses have all

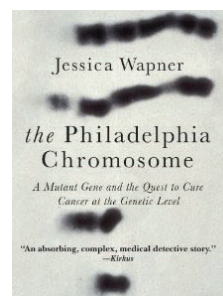
seen some pictures of acneform rash and nail discolorations, but more examples would bridge the gap between theory and practice.

This book is a valuable resource for professionals and patients and one that I certainly will refer to many times.

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## NEW RELEASES

**The Philadelphia Chromosome: A Mutant Gene and the Quest to Cure Cancer at the Genetic Level.** Jessica Wapner. New York, NY: The Experiment, 2013, hardcover, 320 pages, \$25.95.



Philadelphia, 1959: A scientist scrutinizing a single human cell under a microscope detects a missing piece of DNA. That scientist, David Hungerford, had no

way of knowing that he had stumbled upon the starting point of modern cancer research—the Philadelphia chromosome. This book charts not only that landmark discovery, but also, for the first time, the full sequence of scientific and medical discoveries that brought about the first-ever successful treatment of a lethal cancer at the genetic level.

Wapner reconstructs more than 40 years of crucial breakthroughs, clearly explains the science behind them, and pays tribute to the dozens of researchers, doctors, and patients involved. This book helps readers fully understand and appreciate just how hard-won and consequential those achievements were.

**The Molecular Biology of Cancer: A Bridge From Bench to Bedside (2nd ed.).** Stella Pelengaris and Michael Khan (Eds.). Hoboken, NJ: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013, hardcover, 632 pages, \$160.

This comprehensive text provides a detailed overview of the molecular