

# EVERY AUTHOR HAS A STORY

## **AUTHOR INTERVIEW**

Name:

Christine Ko

Do you have a pen name?

No

Book titles – What are the titles of the books you have written or are currently writing?

*How to Improve Doctor-Patient Connection: Using Psychology to Optimize Healthcare Interactions*: part autobiography (stories from my life as a parent and doctor while interacting with the healthcare system) - each of us can make healthcare better!  
*Sound Switch Wonder*: a children's picture book on the power of being able to switch sound on and off using cochlear implants

The title of this interview is 'Every writer has a story'. Tell us a bit about you and your story leading up to becoming an author.

I have always loved books and thought being a writer would be the most amazing thing, but I wanted to be a doctor more. I've experienced that the reasons I wanted to be a doctor - to interact with others and help them - are often submerged by various stressors on the healthcare system. *How to Improve Doctor-Patient Connection: Using Psychology to Optimize Healthcare Interactions* came out of my desire to see and be seen more accurately by patients and doctors.

Who or what are your main influencers and why?

My children are a huge influence on me. They have taught me how the world is not the same world for everyone. I also have close relationships with the rest of my family, at home, as well as my work family where I have some mentors who have influenced me greatly in terms of learning to practice dermatology and dermatopathology optimally.

What inspired your books?

My books are inspired by the books that I would want to have. I started with books in the academic fields of dermatopathology and dermatology - with a focus on gestalt visual recognition. After my son's diagnosis of deafness (auditory neuropathy), I started reading about the humanistic side of medicine and principles of cognitive psychology that are important to getting the right diagnosis.

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Tell us about your latest published book:

My first nonfiction book addresses the importance of recognizing each person's humanity while getting critical medical diagnoses.

Tell us about your work in progress:

Right now I am focusing on trying to get the word out there about my nonfiction book that is coming out on October 29th!  
I am also working on applying the same cognitive principles to couplehood, in collaboration with my sister who is a clinical psychologist.

Which part of the writing process do you enjoy, and which parts do you dread?

I love understanding things a bit better.

I somewhat dread that others will read these soft parts of me and hate them; there is a vulnerability in putting yourself out there that is contrary to my innate comfort zone.

What is your greatest strength/weakness when it comes to writing?

I can set deadlines for myself and push to meet them.

Do you have a favourite author, and do you write the same genre?

One of my favorite authors is Toni Morrison. I only wish that I could write like her!

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How do you measure your success as an author?

One measure of success is getting published!

A more important measure of success would be helping someone else in some way with my writing - that would be amazing.

Writing is very time consuming; how do you fit it into your daily routine?

In some ways, writing helps keep me sane. I don't have a daily routine, given that I have 2 kids, a full-time job outside the home, and COVID continues to wreak havoc.

What advice would you give to someone thinking of writing a novel?

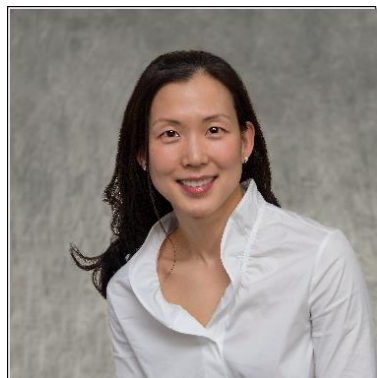
Just start! Even a little bit every day will make a difference.

Finally: Your chance to advertise your work.

List your links below.

<https://www.routledge.com/How-to-Improve-Doctor-Patient-Connection-Using-Psychology-to-Optimize-Healthcare/Ko/p/book/9780367769475>  
<https://twitter.com/ChristineJKo>  
<https://twitter.com/ChristineJKoMD>  
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christine-ko-5361b6173/>  
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