



Dr. Lisa Sanders

AUTHOR · CELEBRITY

Senior teams routinely mistake the first plausible explanation for the right one. Under time pressure, pattern recognition replaces investigation, and the cost of a confident wrong answer is rarely tracked until a strategic call goes sideways. The discipline that closes that gap is diagnostic, not motivational: how to slow the inference, separate symptom from cause, and force a second hypothesis into the room.

Lisa Sanders is the Yale physician behind the New York Times “Diagnosis” column and the Netflix series of the same name, and she helps leaders apply clinical diagnostic reasoning to decisions made under uncertainty.

Dr. Lisa Sanders's 2026 Biography

Why organisations work with Lisa Sanders

- She has spent two decades publicly working through cases that defeated other doctors, in The New York Times Magazine and on Netflix, which makes her unusually good at showing leaders how an expert actually reasons when the obvious answer is wrong.
- Her column is the documented inspiration for House M.D., and she served as a technical adviser on the show, so the diagnostic method she teaches is the one a global audience already recognises as serious.
- As Medical Director of Yale New Haven Health System’s Long COVID Consultation Clinic, she works every week on a condition with no clean test and no settled science, which is the closest analogue most executives will find to the ambiguity of their own strategic problems.
- She moved from an Emmy-winning CBS News career into medicine at Yale, which gives her a rare ability to translate clinical reasoning into language a board can use without dilution.
- Her books with Penguin Random House (Every Patient Tells a Story, Diagnosis) give the talk a citable spine and a body of work buyers can put in front of their leadership team before the date.

Biography highlights

- Professor of Medicine at Yale School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Yale New Haven Health System Long COVID Consultation Clinic.
- Author of the New York Times Magazine “Diagnosis” column since 2002, the basis for the Netflix series Diagnosis (2019).
- Technical adviser on the Fox series House M.D., which was inspired by her column.
- Author of Every Patient Tells a Story (Penguin Random House, 2009) and Diagnosis: Solving the Most Baffling Medical Mysteries (Penguin Random House, 2019).

AVAILABLE FOR

- Consultancy
- Panel Participation
- Speaking

LISA'S SPEAKING THEMES

- Business Continuity and Crisis Management
- Health & Wellbeing
- Scenario Planning & Strategic Foresight
- Storytelling & Business Communication

LANGUAGES: English

- Recipient of the John P. McGovern Award for Humanities in Medicine and the Black Pearl Written Media Award.
- Earlier career as a producer at CBS News, where she was part of an Emmy-winning team before entering medicine at Yale.

Biography

Most diagnostic errors are not caused by missing information. They are caused by a clinician who recognises a pattern too quickly and stops looking. That observation, drawn from twenty years of cases in The New York Times Magazine column “Diagnosis,” is the foundation of Lisa Sanders’ work with senior leaders.

She is Professor of Medicine at Yale School of Medicine and Medical Director of the Yale New Haven Health System Long COVID Consultation Clinic, where her caseload is dominated by patients whose symptoms do not yet have a settled scientific explanation. That is also the practical setting for the method she teaches: how to hold a problem open long enough to investigate it properly, and how to recognise when confidence has run ahead of evidence.

Her public reach is unusual for a working academic physician. The “Diagnosis” column has run in the NYT Magazine since 2002, was the inspiration for the Fox series House M.D., and became a Netflix docuseries in 2019. She is the author of Every Patient Tells a Story and Diagnosis, both with Penguin Random House, and a recipient of the John P. McGovern Award for Humanities in Medicine.

Before medicine she spent more than a decade at CBS News, where she was part of an Emmy-winning team. That earlier career is why her sessions land with non-clinical audiences: she can take the structure of clinical reasoning, strip out the jargon, and make it operable for a board wrestling with a decision the data will not resolve on its own.

Key speaking topics

- Diagnostic reasoning under uncertainty
- Decision-making when the data is incomplete
- Avoiding premature closure and confirmation bias
- Long COVID and the limits of medical evidence
- Communication between experts and non-experts
- Leadership lessons from clinical practice

Ideal for

- Boards and executive teams making high-stakes calls on incomplete information.
- CEOs, CSOs, and transformation leaders working through ambiguous strategic problems.
- Healthcare systems, life sciences leadership, and clinical risk and quality functions.
- Professional services and investment firms whose work depends on judgement under uncertainty.

Audience outcomes

- A practical sense of how expert diagnosticians slow down inference when the stakes are high.
- A clearer view of how pattern recognition becomes a liability in

unfamiliar problems.

- Specific habits for surfacing a second hypothesis before a decision is locked in.
- A working vocabulary for talking about uncertainty with teams and boards without losing authority.
- A more honest read on the difference between confidence and accuracy in their own decision-making.

Meet Dr. Lisa Sanders

Millions of viewers around the world know Dr. Lisa Sanders' from her hit Netflix show, *Diagnosis*, helping people with mysterious medical mysteries figure out their, well, diagnoses.

Lisa also pens a popular New York Times Magazine column and a new book by the same title. She was the inspiration and Technical Director of the hit TV series *House M.D.*, starring Hugh Laurie.

Lisa is dedicated and passionate about inspiring global audiences to look beyond the obvious and set aside distractions to solve today's most complex problems and come to the solution, or as she calls it, the diagnosis.

After a decade-long career in journalism, at the age of 36, Lisa Sanders went from asking questions to get to the bottom of a story to asking questions that save people's lives. Similar to the medical field, in the corporate world, leaders need to understand how to ask a question as much as which questions to ask

They must learn to overcome their assumptions to filter through what is relevant, set aside what is not, and make a clear diagnosis to avoid wasting people, time, and resources.

Only then can a leader effectively communicate the company's goal with a clear path to achieve success.

Dr. Lisa Sanders speaks to groups in medical and corporate settings while sharing her unique insight into solving the most complex problems through actionable exercises and fascinating stories. She is very much "outside of the box".

Dr. Lisa Sanders's 2026 talks & topics

Why we need medical diagnosis detectives

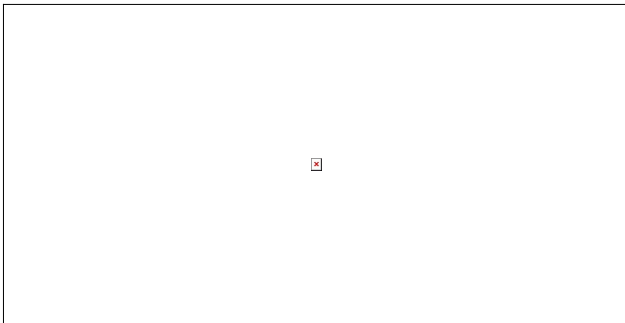
A look at how diagnostic reasoning is taught, how it fails, and what non-clinical leaders can take from the discipline that solves the cases other experts give up on.

Key takeaways:

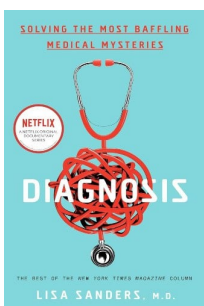
- How premature closure causes most diagnostic error, and where it shows up in business decisions.
- Why the second question matters more than the first.

- What the Long COVID clinic is teaching about working productively with incomplete evidence.

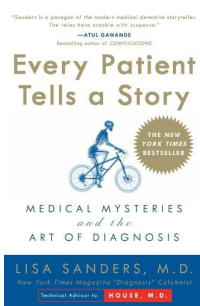
Dr. Lisa Sanders's Videos



LISA'S LATEST BOOKS



Diagnosis: Solving the Most Baffling Medical Mysteries



Every Patient Tells a Story: Medical Mysteries and the Art of Diagnosis