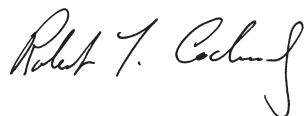


*I invite you to come with me on a voyage of discovery. It will take you a few hours, yet it took me four years. The journey began with the publication of my first book, Understanding Chronic Pain, and ends, or at least pauses—for there is much yet to learn—with this work.*

*Curing Chronic Pain is a bold, even audacious title, but I think it is appropriate. Admittedly, neither I nor anyone else can cure everyone with chronic pain, but that goal is nearly within reach, and I believe my optimism is warranted.*

*In my first book, I explored the relationship of pain to depression, childhood trauma, and substance abuse. I explored also, however tentatively, its relationship to bipolar disease. This work moves many steps forward, for in it I examine the relationship of pain to delusions, hallucinations, phobias, obsessive-compulsiveness, dementia, narcolepsy, cravings, and anger. All of these offer incredible clues for successful treatment, and I will describe many cases in which miraculous cures have been achieved. Many of these have occurred with the usage of opiates, a group of drugs I disdained in my first book because of their potential for addiction. My thinking on this matter has turned 180 degrees, for I have learned to weigh the potential for addiction against the probability of cure. The balance tips strongly to the latter, and I now employ opiates regularly and with great success, for I know that their therapeutic spectrum extends far beyond the mere relief of pain.*

*Those of you who have read Understanding Chronic Pain will find that this work follows almost seamlessly. Although Curing Chronic Pain will stand on its own, I encourage those unfamiliar with my first book to take a look at it. I believe you will marvel, as constantly I do now, at just how much a doctor can learn in four years.*

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert T. Cochran Jr." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Robert T. Cochran Jr., MD