This multi-media resource list, compiled by Shaun Briley of the San Diego Public Library, includes books, films and other materials related to the issues presented in the film The English Surgeon.

What is it like to have power over life and death, and yet to struggle with your own humanity? This is the story of acclaimed British neurosurgeon Henry Marsh, who has traveled to Ukraine for 15 years to treat patients who have been left to die; of his friend and medical colleague in Kyiv who carries on the fight despite official hostility and archaic surgical conditions; and of a young patient who hopes that Henry can save his life. Tense, heartbreaking and humorous, The English Surgeon is a remarkable depiction of one doctor’s commitment to relieving suffering and of the emotional turmoil he undergoes in bringing hope to desperate people. A BBC/ITVS International Production.

ADULT NONFICTION


Collins, Joseph. How to Live Your Dream of Volunteering Overseas. New York, NY: Penguin Books, 2002. This is a practical guide for anyone interested in volunteering his or her time or skills in Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, Asia or the Middle East.


Firlik, Katrina. Another day in the Frontal Lobe: A Brain Surgeon Exposes Life on the Inside. New York, NY: Random House, 2006. In this explanation of brain surgery, written for non-professionals, the author outlines the anxieties doctors face, such as having to deal with the emotions of their patients.


Medvedev, Zhores A. The Legacy of Chernobyl. New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 1990. A biologist explains that contaminated agricultural products as well as immediate fallout from the Chernobyl nuclear accident in the Ukraine have been responsible for the large increase in cancers in that country and the surrounding area.


Delve Deeper into The English Surgeon
A film by Geoffrey Smith


Savett, Laurence A. The Human Side of Medicine: Learning what it’s like to be a patient and what it’s like to be a physician. Westport, CT: Auburn House, 2002. Written to help the general public and aspiring doctors improve the doctor-patient relationship, this book details the perspectives of both sides.


Vertosick, Frank. When the Air Hits Your Brain: Tales from Neurosurgery. New York, NY: W. W. Norton, 2008. The story of the transformation of a young intern into a leading neurosurgeon, told through portraits of the patients he encountered along the way and the procedures he performed.

Wilson, Andrew. Ukraine’s Orange Revolution. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2005. Wilson chronicles the popular movement in the Ukraine in 2004 when pro-democracy crowds took to the streets to bring down the country’s old political order.


ADULT FICTION


Zabaytko, Irene. The Sky Unwashed. Chapel Hill, NC: Algonquin Books, 2000. This poignant debut novel was inspired by the true story of villagers who defied the forced evacuation of their Ukrainian town after the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in the 1980s.

NONFICTION FOR YOUNGER READERS


VIDEOS/DOCUMENTARIES


The Secret Life of the Brain. A David Grubin Production. PBS Home Video, 2002. TRT: 300 mins. A series of five hour-long videos that use personal histories and animation to dramatize the working of the brain through the various stages of life from birth through old age. www.shoppbs.org