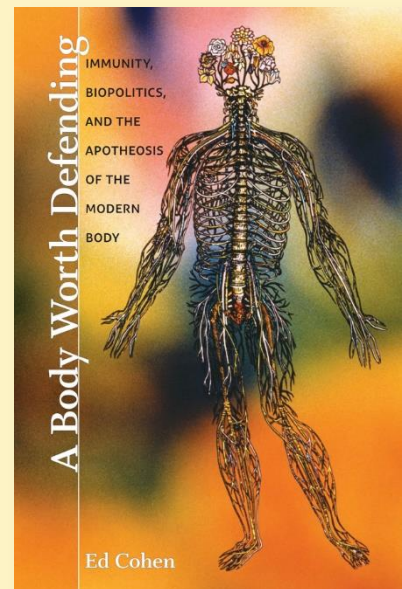
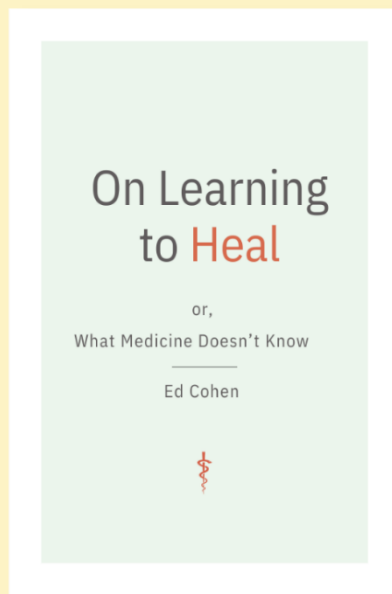




# ED COHEN

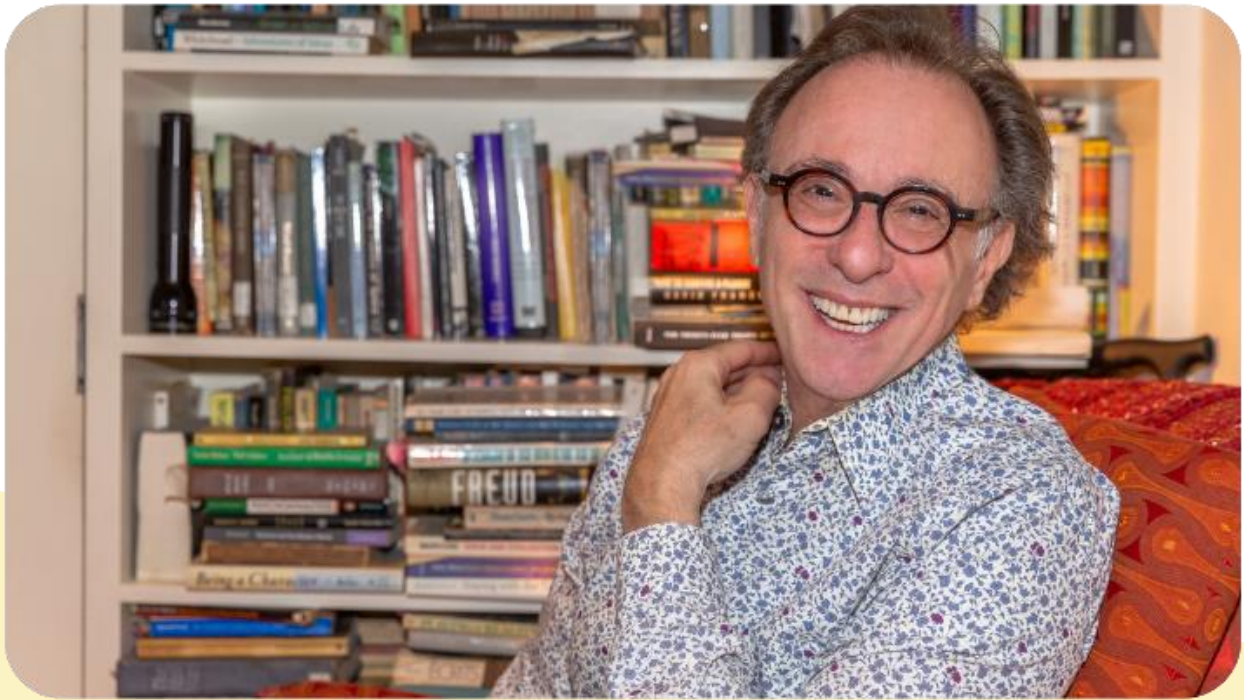
AUTHOR ● PROFESSOR

## MEDIA KIT



[www.healingcounsel.com](http://www.healingcounsel.com)

# BIO



Professor Ed Cohen was a Ph.D. in Modern Thought from Stanford and for the last three decades has been an award-winning professor of Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality at Rutgers University. As a professor, he encourages students to reflect critically on things they often assume to be self-evident about themselves (e.g., their sex, their sexuality, their gender) and asks them to consider whether there are more possibilities for who they can become than they currently imagine. Too often we make assumptions about who we can be, which we take up from our families, our histories, and our cultures, that unnecessarily limit our abilities to live otherwise. His job as a teacher is to help his students learn to think beyond these limits in order to support them in creating better futures—both for themselves and for us all.

Drawing on these skill sets, Professor Cohen also counsels people interested in healing and offers them opportunities to think deeply about what their illnesses mean to them. His goal is to help other people with chronic and life-threatening illnesses ponder how medicine describes what’s happening to us and to explore possibilities for healing that, given its primary focus on diagnosis and treating, medicine often fails to entertain. Healing is not only a biological capacity. Because we are living beings healing concerns all the aspects of who we are: physical, psychological, social, and spiritual. In other words, learning to heal entails learning to realize ourselves in our fullest and most expansive capacities.

# ON LEARNING TO HEAL

## OR, WHAT MEDICINE DOESN'T KNOW

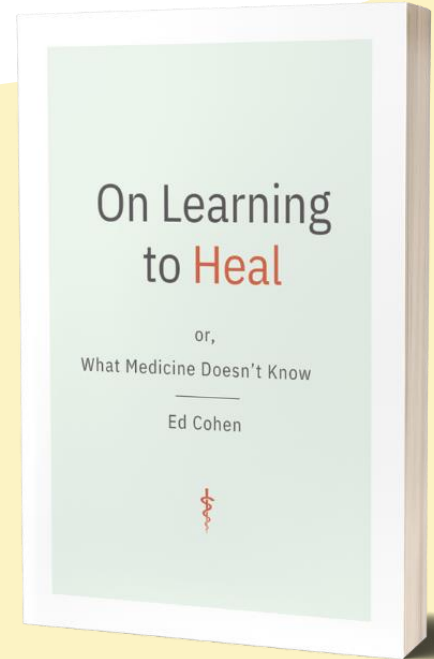
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### **Praise for *On Learning to Heal or, What Medicine Doesn't Know***

"An optimistic, ruminative appreciation for the art, the power, and the cultivation of human healing."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"On Learning to Heal is affirming, informative, inviting, and accessible. It is revelatory in asking us —chronically ill people in particular—to view our ailing, aching bodies as miraculous in their capacity for healing. Equally fantastic is how it reveals to us the elitist, exclusionary, capital-led history behind belief systems that the medical industry has manufactured as blatant truths."—*Andrea Marks-Joseph, Independent Book Review*

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At thirteen, Ed Cohen was diagnosed with Crohn's disease—a chronic, incurable condition that nearly killed him in his early twenties. At his diagnosis, his doctors told him that the best he could hope for would be periods of remission. Unfortunately, doctors never mentioned healing as a possibility. In *On Learning to Heal*, Cohen draws on fifty years of living with Crohn's to consider how Western medicine's turn from an "art of healing" toward a "science of medicine" deeply affects both medical practitioners and their patients. He demonstrates that although medicine can now offer many seemingly miraculous therapies, medicine is not and has never been the only way to enhance healing. Exploring his own path to healing, he argues that learning to heal requires us to desire and value healing as a vital possibility. With this book, Cohen advocates reviving healing's role for all those whose lives are touched by illness.

# HEALING COUNSEL

Healing counsel is neither psychotherapy nor pedagogy. It is a contemporary practice of psychagogy. Psychagogy is pedagogy's lesser known twin, and they both emerged from life in Ancient Greece. If pedagogy literally means "to act upon or lead children," then psychagogy means "leading or acting upon psyches (or souls)." Psychagogy embraces and supports the process through which we change our relations to our psyches, our souls, and ourselves, and thereby change our lives.

As a psychagogy Healing Counsel engages in and unfolds through vital conversation. Derived from a Latin root (*converso*), "converse" originally denotes to turn oneself about. The true aim of conversing is to convert one's life. And, as most of us have experienced, when we converse deeply and openly with one another, we can turn ourselves around.

Healing Counsel refers to a particular kind of transformative conversation. Etymologically, counsel connotes "to go with" or "to jump with." Counsel is always a collaboration. Thus, in healing counsel, when we converse, when we open ourselves to turning around, we jump together into the stream of life and attempt to go with its healing currents.

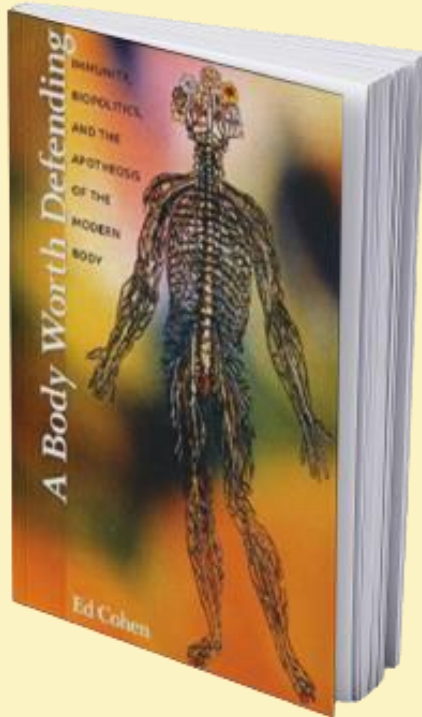
Living with Crohn's disease for more than 40 years has challenged me to realize that healing is a value. Yet in our culture we too often fail to appreciate it as such. We fail to know ourselves as care-full beings.

Nevertheless, life provides us with many opportunities to redress this neglect, alas often in circumstances that involve pain, debility, and loss. In other words, shit happens. Yet when healing becomes the horizon within which we live our lives--rather than remaining an undervalued potential on which we importune--it can transform the shit that happens to us.

As a therapeutic practice, Healing Counsel encourages us to embrace the potential for healing that even our most traumatic experiences can often contain. From our sessions you can expect to gain clearer insights about the intelligence that illnesses often reveal (if only in concealed forms) and to develop strategies for cultivating more healing relations to your "self" and to the world. Reframing illness--or any of the other shit that life sends our way--as a call for healing, healing counsel seeks to expand our repertoire for living with more grace and freedom.

[LEARN MORE](#)

# PUBLISHED WORK



**Author Name:** Ed Cohen

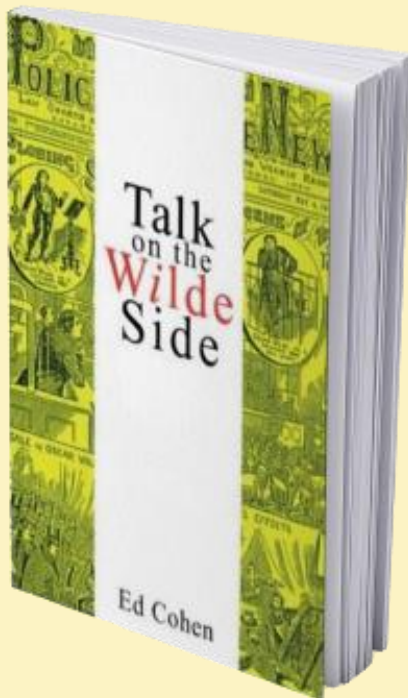
**Book Title:** A Body Worth Defending Immunity, Biopolitics, and the Apotheosis of the Modern Body

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**ISBN:** 978-0822345350

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**ISBN:** 978-041590229

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