

# THE BRAIN SAVERS

### HOW A SCRAPPY STARTUP TRANSFORMED TELEMEDICINE AND PATIENT CARE

#### Dr. Colin T. McDonald Bonnie Harvey & Michael Houlihan



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How a Scrappy Startup Transformed Telemedicine and Patient Care

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#### Dedicated to

Dr. Jay Sanders of Harvard Medical School and The Massachusetts General Hospital, Founder and President Emeritus of the American Telemedicine Association.

He has enthusiastically advocated and developed telemedicine from its earliest days and has become an inspiration and motivation to improve and advance the industry on many fronts.

Dr. Sanders has earned his reputation as "The Father of Telemedicine." From the authors of the New York Times bestseller, *The Barefoot Spirit*, and the Audie Award finalist, genrebending audiobook of the same name, comes a story of vision and invention, failure and setbacks, mistakes and lessons. Business Audio Theatre presents a Sherwood Players Production, *The Brain Savers*, the true story of how a scrappy startup used technology to put the humanity of patients first and ended up changing medicine forever.

Amid the internet boom of the mid-2000s, a band of entrepreneurs stood at the intersection of medicine, technology, and business. They saw a solution to the crucial problems of emergency care, which was too often handicapped by underfunding, overscheduled specialists, archaic practices, and onerous equipment.

Through pioneering telemedicine and new inventions like the portable CT scanner, the founders of Specialists on Call did more than just make emergency care better, faster, and more humane; they brought health care, which is often described as the slowest industry in America to change, into the 21st Century. This is Dr. Colin McDonald's story of how Specialists on Call came to be. After leaving a cushy teaching position at Harvard, it took years of pursuing a single objective, then changing on a dime, to create Specialists on Call In the end, what he created was a system that saved lives — and continues to save lives today.

Some of these hard-learned lessons are complex, while others are so timeless they almost sound cliché ("trust your vision and your moral compass, change when you must, just keep going"), but they are far from cliché for the founders of Specialists on Call.

The Brain Savers is the story of people with imagination and drive who wanted to make the world better, who trusted their ideas and each other, and who, despite everything, *kept on going!* 



# **THE BRAIN SAVERS** EPISODE I : TIME IS LIFE!



# **THE BRAIN SAVERS** EPISODE II : THE PIVOT



# **THE BRAIN SAVERS** EPISODE III : THE ENABLERS



# **THE BRAIN SAVERS** EPISODE IV : THE LIGHTNING ROUND



## **THE BRAIN SAVERS** EPISODE V : SCREEN-SIDE MANNER



## **THE BRAIN SAVERS** EPISODE VI : THE HAND-OFF

#### THE BRAIN SAVERS

a Business Audio Theatre and Sherwood Players production published by Footnotes Press, LLC © 2022

> Narrated by ALAMADA KARATIHY

Featuring GERARD MARZILLI as Dr. Colin McDonald MARISA PETRORO as Donna McDonald RANDY VINNEAU as Charles Marriot CASE WILLIAMS as Jim Elkind TONY MOULEART as Stu Bernstein SARKIS BAKALYAN as John Moynihan and Dr. Eli Heyman COURTNEY LIN as Karen Deli DANNY MCDERMOTT as Terry Hailey STEVE BROCK as Richard Morton

> with ZOIE REAMS as Jeanine Lombard and JAY DAVID as Brook Daltrey

Additional Voices by RUFFY LANDAYAN, DAVID MADWIN, JEAN MACKIE, KAYLA MCDONALD, LUKA OIDA, LIZETTE SANTIAGO, and MATT WEINGLASS

#### Soundtrack

#### "The Brain Savers Theme Song"

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#### "The Ballad of Colin & Donna"

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#### "McDonald's Eleven"

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#### "Free Willing"

from the album, CHOOŠE LOVE © 2013 Jeremy Weinglass. All rights reserved. All music composed and performed by Jeremy Weinglass Recorded at Sony Pictures Scoring Stage, Culver City, CA Recorded and Produced by Adam Michalak Mastered by Brad Cobb at odark30studio

#### "Confessions of a Neurologist"

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#### "Choose Love"

from the album, CHOOSE LOVE © 2013 Jeremy Weinglass. All rights reserved. All music composed and performed by Jeremy Weinglass Recorded at Sony Pictures Scoring Stage, Culver City, CA Recorded and Produced by Adam Michalak Mastered by Brad Cobb at odark30studio

# Based on the true story by DR. COLIN T. McDONALD

#### Written and Executive Produced by BONNIE HARVEY & MICHAEL HOULIHAN

Co-Executive Produced by RYAN FOLAND Assistant Producer DAVID MADWIN Assistant Director ALAMADA KARATIHY Graphic Designer CAMERON JONES

Sound Engineer and Original Score by IGNACIO "IGGY" ELISAVETSKY

> Produced and Directed by MATT WEINGLASS



**Dr. Colin T. McDonald** has been practicing and teaching medicine for thirty years. Clinically trained at Harvard and Washington University in St. Louis, he practiced at Massachusetts General Hospital and taught at Harvard Medical School until 2002. That same year he was named Teacher of the Year. Diverging from a comfortable career path in the classroom, he and a small band of entrepreneurs founded what is now known as Specialists on Call in 2004, a company that identified lack of resources and expertise in smaller hospitals and saw to their needs through the revolutionary field of telemedicine. The advancements they pioneered continue to save lives today. Dr. McDonald is based Winston Salem, North Carolina, where he continues to practice as a neurologist.



**Bonnie Harvey** and **Michael Houlihan** are co-authors of the New York Times Bestseller *The Barefoot Spirit: How Hardship, Hustle, and Heart Built America's #1 Wine Brand.* They are the founders of Business Audio Theatre and their audio production of *The Barefoot Spirit* was awarded Audie Finalist for the 2020 Business Audiobook of the Year by the Audio Publishers Association. They have spoken at more than 60 schools of entrepreneurship internationally and have written thousands of articles on the subject. They are keynote speakers and advisors to Fortune 500's and startups alike.





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