

# Quincy College



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## Embracing Uncertainty in Medicine: Quincy College to Host 'Meet the Author Night' at Thomas Crane Public Library Featuring Steven Hatch, Author of *Snowball in a Blizzard*

New York Times and [Atlantic Monthly](#) Featured Author to speak in Quincy Center  
on November 2nd

### Author Talks

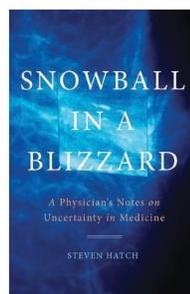
THOMAS CRANE PUBLIC LIBRARY

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:00 PM

Steven Hatch Author of,  
*Snowball in a Blizzard*



*Snowball in a Blizzard* lays bare the inescapable murkiness that permeates the theory and practice of modern medicine. Essential reading for physicians and patients alike, this book shows how we can all make better health decisions.



QUINCY COLLEGE in collaboration with  
Thomas Crane Public Library  
40 Washington Street, Quincy MA. 02169



QUINCY COLLEGE  
PLYMOUTH QUINCY & ONLINE

"Informative...*Snowball in a Blizzard* adds an important perspective...[The book] rightly sounds the alarm: Better communication between doctors and patients is essential to improve medical decision making."

— THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**SOCIAL MEDIA RELEASE (125 Characters): Meet@UMassMedNow's Dr. Steven Hatch, #SnowballinaBlizzard author at .@QuincyCollege Meet Author event to be held 11/2 7pm at @ThomasCranePL**

**Quincy, MA (10/26/2016)** - Quincy College Quincy Campus to host free, open to the community "Meet the Author Night" event at Thomas Crane Public Library, 40 Washington St, Quincy, MA 02169 on Wednesday, November 2nd starting at 7pm. Dr. Steven Hatch, an assistant professor of medicine at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, working in the Division of Infectious Disease and Immunology will speak about his new title, *Snowball in a Blizzard*. This event is free and open to the public.

*Snowball in a Blizzard* highlights a physician's notes on uncertainty in medicine. Diagnoses are often just educated guesses, and prognoses less certain still. There is a significant amount of uncertainty in the daily

practice of medicine, resulting in confusion and potentially deadly complications. Dr. Steven Hatch argues that instead of ignoring this uncertainty, we should embrace it.

The title is a reference to a running joke among radiologists: finding a tumor in a mammogram is akin to finding a snowball in a blizzard. This simile illustrates the difficulties of finding signals (the snowball) against a background of noise (the blizzard). Doctors are faced with similar difficulties every day when sifting through piles of data from blood tests to X-rays to lists of patient symptoms.

Quincy College's "Meet the Author Night" has brought notable authors to Quincy and Plymouth each Fall and Spring and have included such talent as Rick Beyer, author of *The Greatest Stories Never Told* series, Don Hussey, author of *Ticket to Ride*, Stephen Puleo, author of *Due to Enemy Action*, and Casey Sherman, Author of *Boston Strong*.

A question and answer session will follow the Quincy College Meet the Author reading.

For more information about the Meet the Author Event, please visit: <http://quincycollege.edu/events/author-talks-snowball-in-a-blizzard/>.

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## About Quincy College

Founded in 1958, Quincy College is a two-year, municipally affiliated community college serving approximately 4,500 students at campuses located in Quincy and Plymouth, Massachusetts. Quincy College is an open access institution that encourages academic achievement and excellence, diversity, economic opportunity, community involvement, and lifelong learning. The College facilitates valuable learning relationships that inspire students to realize their educational and professional futures. The college offers 35 associate degree programs and 21 certificate programs in a variety of disciplines, including those within Professional Programs, Liberal Arts, Natural & Health Sciences and Nursing. The college is accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and is licensed by the Massachusetts Board of Higher Education to grant the degrees of Associate in Arts and Associate in Science. The college draws a diversity of students from the greater Boston area as well as 121 countries around the world. For additional information, visit [www.quincycollege.edu](http://www.quincycollege.edu)