When All Becomes New Book Club Discussion Questions

- 1. What emotions did you feel while reading this book? Were there passages or sentences that struck you as particularly profound or moving?
- 2. What surprised you about the book?
- 3. What do you think motivated the author to share his story?
- 4. What role do you think narrative plays in medicine? How can narrative help both physicians and patients?
- 5. The author struggles with the tragedy he encounters and the notion of a good God. Do you believe that God is good and, if so, how do you reconcile a good God with the existence of suffering in the world?
- 6. Benjamin Rattray says, "There is an invisible line, different for every baby, for every family, beyond which the body can be saved but the neurologic injury is too much to bear." How do you think this statement informs the limits of critical care?
- 7. Art and literature are often used to make sense of emotion. What do you do to make sense of seemingly incomprehensible circumstances?
- 8. How does this book impact the way you view physicians, the patient-physician relationship, and the healthcare system?
- 9. When All Becomes New delivers a number of universal messages. For example, the redemptive power of hope, the resilience of the human spirit, and the importance of compassion. Which of these messages resonates most with you? Why?
- 10. How do you most identify with this book? Do these stories and their messages have an impact on the way you go about your day or the way you see the world?