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The Mysterious World of the Human Genome

By Frank Ryan



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The Mysterious World of the Human Genome By Frank Ryan

The human genome is indeed a mysterious world, but, as this fascinating book shows, its vital secrets are now being uncovered. The latest studies are revealing exciting new discoveries, such as how the DNA and related chemical compounds in our cells work together to direct the processes of life. Scientists are not only unraveling how life evolved in the ancient past, but are also finding the keys to creating a healthier future.

How does the minuscule chemical cluster in each of our 100 trillion cells accomplish the amazing feat of creating and maintaining our bodies? Frank Ryan, a physician and an evolutionary biologist, describes the complex ways in which the genome operates as a holistic system and not solely through genes coding for proteins—the building blocks of life. Also involved are elaborate switching mechanisms that regulate and control portions of our DNA, as well as the interplay of retroviruses and bacteria.

This groundbreaking book explains that we are on the cusp of an amazing era of disease treatment and eradication.



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The Mysterious World of the Human Genome By Frank Ryan Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #781578 in Books
- Published on: 2016-02-16
- Released on: 2016-02-16
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.30" h x 1.20" w x 6.30" l, 1.25 pounds
- Binding: Hardcover
- 300 pages

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Editorial Review

Review

“Frank Ryan has written **the ultimate DNA memoir**. In a lively, entertaining voice, Ryan takes us back to a time when no one knew where our hereditary information was kept, and then he puts us on a rollicking ride to the present. On the way, we learn about the evolution of genomes, the genomes of our ancestors, epigenetics, how DNA works, and how although most DNA doesn’t code for proteins, this does not make it junk DNA. This is a great read for both nonscientists and scientists who had their biology classes more than ten years ago.”

—Marc Zimmer, author of *Illuminating Disease: An Introduction to Green Fluorescent Proteins*

"A first-class introduction to one of the greatest scientific projects and discoveries of our time. On this informative, balanced, and truly exciting journey, we are taken through our inner biology and on to such important topics as our relationship to other members of our family tree. Well worth reading and well worth passing on to students.”

—Michael Ruse, PhD, Lucyle T. Werkmeister Professor of Philosophy and director of the Program in the History and Philosophy of Science, Florida State University, and author of *Defining Darwin: Essays on the History and Philosophy of Evolutionary Biology*

“Frank Ryan’s fascinating book tells the story of our genome in an elegantly straightforward way that anyone can understand. Hop on board the magical train tracks of the chromosomes and enjoy!”

—Barbara Oakley, PhD, author of *Evil Genes: Why Rome Fell, Hitler Rose, Enron Failed, and My Sister Stole My Mother’s Boyfriend* and *A Mind for Numbers*

PRAISE FOR THE UK EDITION:

“Ryan’s book should have a great appeal to non-scientists and could become a significant instrument in policy formation... **Spellbinding, intellectually adventurous, difficult to put down.**”

—*Nature*

“Extremely well written... Frank Ryan has the page-turning and spine-chilling ability of a good novelist.”

—Matt Ridley, *Sunday Telegraph*

“Very good at making technical matters comprehensible to the lay reader but more impressive still is the way he conveys the intellectual excitement and elation of scientific discovery”

—*Literary Review*

“Ryan takes us through the drama of discovery and challenges the notion that certain questions are too appalling to contemplate”

About the Author

Dr. Frank Ryan is the bestselling author of *The Forgotten Plague*?a *New York Times* Book of the Year?and *Darwin's Blind Spot*, which was recommended by Charlie Munger at the 2003 Berkshire Hathaway annual meeting. A consultant physician based in Sheffield, Ryan pioneered the evolutionary concepts of “viral symbiosis” and “genomic creativity” and has contributed to the modern understanding of the evolution of the human genome. He is an honorary Senior Lecturer in the Academic Unit of Medical Education, at the University of Sheffield and a Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians, the Royal Society of Medicine, and the Linnean Society of London.

Users Review

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