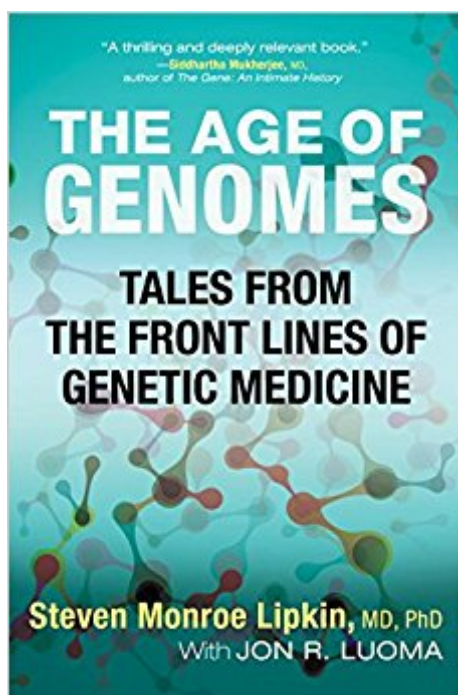


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The Age Of Genomes: Tales From The Front Lines Of Genetic Medicine



Synopsis

A leading geneticist explores what promises to be one of the most transformative advances in health and medicine in history. Almost every week, another exciting headline appears about new advances in the field of genetics. Genetic testing is experiencing the kind of exponential growth once seen with the birth of the Internet, while the plummeting cost of DNA sequencing makes it increasingly accessible for individuals and families. Steven Lipkin and Jon Luoma posit that today's genomics is like the last century's nuclear physics: a powerful tool for good if used correctly, but potentially dangerous nonetheless. DNA testing is likely the most exciting advance in a long time for treating serious disease, but sequencing errors, complex biology, and problems properly interpreting genetic data can also cause life-threatening misdiagnoses of patients with debilitating and fatal genetic diseases. DNA testing can also lead to unnecessary procedures and significantly higher health-care costs. And just around the corner is the ability to cure genetic diseases using powerful gene-editing technologies that are already being used in human embryo research. Welcome to the Age of Genomes! The Age of Genomes immerses readers in true stories of patients on the frontier of genomic medicine and explores both the transformative potential and risks of genetic technology. It will inform anxious parents increasingly bombarded by offers of costly new prenatal testing products, and demonstrate how genetic technology, when deployed properly, can significantly improve the lives of patients who have devastating neurological diseases, cancer, and other maladies. Dr. Lipkin explains the science in depth, but in terms a layperson can follow.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“The author’s caveats about present and future uses of gene sequencing reflect a physician keenly aware of the ethical and moral issues.” —Kirkus Reviews

“Delivers some vitally important messages about the interactions between the average human and the average genome.” —Abigail Zuger, *New York Times*

“Lipkin’s *The Age of Genomes* is a thrilling and deeply relevant book. Spanning a multitude of topics—breast cancer, the genetics of Tay-Sachs disease, and an individual’s assessment of his or her own genetic risk—Lipkin writes with a deft and humane touch, reminding us how profoundly the new science of genomics will impact all of us in the future.” —Siddhartha Mukherjee, MD, author of *The Emperor of All Maladies* and *The Gene: An Intimate History*

“If you’re thinking about having your genome sequenced, or just learning about genomics, *The Age of Genomes* is an extraordinary resource. Steven Lipkin, one of the country’s leading medical geneticists, teaches us through his patients and insightful stories.” —Eric Topol, MD, author of *The Patient Will See You Now*

“Building on his own experiences as a highly regarded physician, Dr. Lipkin has expertly woven a series of engaging stories to portray the enormous potential, as well as the possible pitfalls, of the new genomic era.” —Lee Goldman, MD, author of *Too Much of a Good Thing: How Four Key Survival Traits Are Now Killing Us*

From the Hardcover edition.

Steven Monroe Lipkin, MD, PhD, FACMG, has been a practicing clinical geneticist for almost twenty years. He directs the Adult and Cancer Genetics Clinic and is the vice chair for Translational Research at the Sanford I. and Joan Weill Department of Medicine at Weill Cornell in New York City. Jon R. Luoma’s writing about science and the environment has appeared in *National Geographic*, *GQ*, the *New York Times Sunday Magazine*, and *Audubon*, where he was a longtime contributing editor. He is the author of three previous nonfiction books: *The Hidden Forest*, *A Crowded Ark*, and *Troubled Skies, Troubled Waters*.

I was impressed by how the author distilled this complex topic down to a relatable storyline. The anecdotes were personal and engaging, showcasing the variety of ways genomic medicine can touch all of our lives. Overall, it gave me a sense of hopefulness for the future and what advances we might see, while also bringing to light some of the most controversial questions that we are likely to face with the advance of science. I learned a tremendous amount from this delightful read, and I think it will be equally enjoyable to a diverse groups of readers, including those without a scientific background. Very well done.

For those with minimal knowledge of genetics and testing, this book is excellent. However, those of us with a science background and/or many years in the field it is quite simplistic.

Great read. Very well written. One can understand a difficult technical structure

Highly informative but could be improved with closer editing. There were more than a few typos and omissions.

Great read, 4 1/2 stars

I am a cancer communicator; it's my job to distill and disseminate complex science. That said, I was gobsmacked by how well the authors covered this topic. They made it easy to understand, totally engaging and a joy to read. Instead of stuffy science, it was personal - through patient stories, and insights into the personality of the good doctor himself. The writing was fantastic as well - so many clever turns of phrase, and a little humor. I actually found myself laughing out loud in some places. The book covered a wide range of topics touching genetic medicine: the science and history of the technology as well as policy, ethics and individual considerations. There were also plenty of explainers of specific diseases (cancer and beyond). I learned a great deal, and was left with plenty of food for thought. What started as a read for professional purposes ended up a personal pleasure. The scope will appeal to those well-versed in the field already, but the simple, accessible style will also appeal to the novice. I would definitely recommend to fans of *The Emperor of All Maladies* and popular science podcasts.

Very informative. Great read

Dr. Lipkin takes us on a journey in time where advents in genetic science touched our lives. With every personal and engaging story, he covers an intriguing aspect of genetic conditions and technologies. While reading his book, I was not only entertained by his keen sense of humor but also learned a lot about areas and ethics of the genomic science. If you ever wonder 'How do our genomes define us?' or 'How can we harness the power of our knowledge in genetics to make life better?', this book is for you!

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