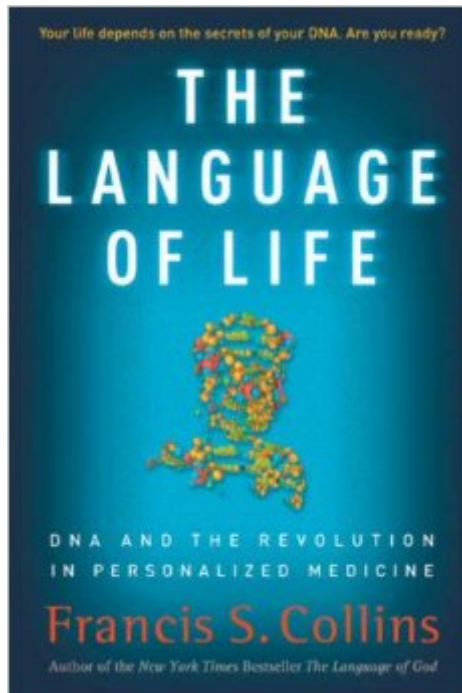


The book was found

# The Language Of Life: DNA And The Revolution In Personalized Medicine



## Synopsis

"His groundbreaking work has changed the very ways we consider our health and examine disease." • "Barack Obama From Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institute of Health, 2007 recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and 15-year head of the Human Genome Project, comes one of the most important medical books of the year: *The Language of Life*. With accessible, insightful prose, Dr. Collins describes the medical, scientific, and genetic revolution that is currently unlocking the secrets of "personalized medicine," and offers practical advice on how to utilize these discoveries for you and your family's current and future health and well-being. In the words of Dr. Jerome Groopman (*How Doctors Think*), *The Language of Life* "sets out hope without hype, and will enrich the mind and uplift the heart." •

## Book Information

File Size: 1127 KB

Print Length: 371 pages

Page Numbers Source ISBN: 0061733180

Publisher: HarperCollins e-books; 1 edition (December 16, 2009)

Publication Date: February 16, 2010

Sold by: HarperCollins Publishers

Language: English

ASIN: B003100UQU

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #210,348 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #15

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments >

Genetic #29 in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Medical eBooks > Basic Science > Genetics #36

in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Diseases & Physical Ailments > Genetic

## Customer Reviews

This book provides both academic and practical information about the latest developments in DNA research. Some of the practical advice could help you reach educated decisions about what medical treatments to pursue. It's likely that even many doctors aren't yet aware of certain kinds of DNA

tests that can be crucial indicators about which treatments might be effective and which ones might actually be lethal. For example, any woman contemplating having a prophylactic mastectomy might want to read this book first to learn about how new BRCA tests could more accurately predict her chances of eventually getting many forms of cancer. DNA tests available now can help a woman who has already been diagnosed with cancer determine whether certain forms of chemotherapy would help her, or whether they would just be needlessly, and perhaps fatally, debilitating. There is also a DNA test that would alert doctors that certain people might have a special sensitivity to coumadin, a drug widely used as a blood thinner. Many medical centers don't perform this test before coumadin is prescribed, and excessive bleeding and even lethal hemorrhaging can be the result. A small percentage of people have a toxic reaction to statins, the drugs now commonly prescribed to lower cholesterol. A DNA test now available could identify those people for whom the drugs might pose dangerous problems. But DNA analysis doesn't have to be limited to the human's normal genome. By analyzing the genome of the cancer cells themselves, doctors can now refine their treatments. Collins covers a variety of such topics that it would really benefit any urgent consumers of medical care to educate themselves about before proceeding with treatment.

The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine Book Review by Richard L. Weaver II, Ph.D. Before I was a speech-communication major in college--and since I was in the ninth grade in junior-high-school, I might add--I wanted to be a doctor. Most of my courses in high school and early college were all science courses. My interest in science did not wear off, and when I graduated from the University of Michigan, I had to make general science a minor since I had had so many courses in the area, and my graduation would have been delayed for at least a year if I had to pick up a new minor. All this is explanation for my love of science and, thus, of this book. Collins has written a science book on DNA for the masses, and I absorbed the information like a sponge in water. It is a terrific read not just for Collins' unbelievable knowledge, the revealing and interesting examples cited, the comfortable, readable, and friendly writing style, or even the specific detail he offers: "The best-understood genes are those that code for protein. This process involves first making an RNA copy of the DNA; that RNA is then transported to the ribosome 'protein factories' in the cytoplasm, where the letters of the RNA code are translated into the amino acids used by proteins.... This translation is carried out using a triplet code word; for example, AAA in the RNA codes for the amino acid lysine, and AGA codes for arginine" (p. 7). Most of the language is not of this style and not nearly as complex. But, getting back to my point about why the book is a terrific read.

I have just finished reading "the Language of Life". I enjoyed reading it. It was much better than I was expecting. The coverage of genetics was at such a level that it was easy to understand (perhaps too easy?). It's difficult not to catch Francis Collins' optimism and enthusiasm as to the promise of mapping the human genome, and being able to work out which genes are really important in producing malignant tumours, and hence which genes are promising targets for treatment strategies. Previously, because mapping the genome was so difficult and expensive, it was difficult, if not impossible, to distinguish the important genes in tumours, from unimportant mutations resulting from increased cell division or loss of DNA repair genes. I only have a few quibbles. I don't think it is useful to define mutations as being always harmful, everything else just being variants. Mutations can be harmful, beneficial and neutral (the usual situation). Secondly, I didn't like the end of each chapter, where he has a "What you can do now to join ... revolution?" Generally, it's a website providing information. The chapter on ageing has a beauty of a web address for [...] ... with a long sequence of letters, numbers and symbols, which navigates to I don't know where. I found the tool easily just navigating from the homepage (the address was much shorter, I wonder if Francis Collins gave the address for his results?). Thirdly, I think that missing out on the mitochondrial story with regard to ageing, is missing the most important cause of ageing. Nick Lane's book "Power, Sex, Suicide: Mitochondria and the Meaning of Life" is a good book for the discussion of this.

[Download to continue reading...](#)

The Language of Life: DNA and the Revolution in Personalized Medicine  
Guide to DNA Testing: How to Identify Ancestors, Confirm Relationships, and Measure Ethnic Ancestry through DNA Testing  
Body Language: Body Language Training - Attract Women & Command Respect, by Mastering Your High Status Body Language (Body Language Attraction, Body Language ...  
Language Secrets, Nonverbal Communication) BODY LANGUAGE : Decoding Alpha Male Body Language, Instantly Attract Any Woman Without Saying a Single word. (Body Language 101, Alpha male, Attract woman, ... Seduce Women, Eye Contact, Body Language)  
The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations, and Reconciliation After the Genome  
Whole Detox: A 21-Day Personalized Program to Break Through Barriers in Every Area of Your Life  
Survival Medicine Handbook: Essential Things Every Medicine Kit Needs And First-aid In Case Of Emergency: (Survival Books, Survival Guide, Survivalist, ... (Survival Skills Book, Emergency Medicine)  
Essential Oils for Dogs: 100 Easy and Safe Essential Oil Recipes to Solve your Dog's Health Problems (Alternative animal medicine, Small mammal Medicine, Aromatherapy, Holistic medicine)  
Herbal Remedies: The

Ultimate Guide to Herbal Healing, Magic, Medicine, Antivirals, Antibiotics,: herbs,Alternative  
Medicine, Magic, Medicine, Antivirals, ... Oils, Depression Cure, Natural Remedies,) Veterinary  
Laboratory Medicine, An Issue of Clinics in Laboratory Medicine, 1e (The Clinics: Internal Medicine)  
The DNA Restart:Â Unlock Your Personal Genetic Code to Eat for Your Genes, Lose Weight, and  
Reverse Aging Periodic Fasting: Repair your DNA, Grow Younger, and Learn to Appreciate your  
Food Identity Crisis: The Murder, the Mystery, and the Missing DNA The Family Tree Guide to DNA  
Testing and Genetic Genealogy Understanding Genetics: DNA, Genes, and Their Real-World  
Applications Finding Family: My Search for Roots and the Secrets in My DNA Bible Acrostic Code  
Mysteries: Revealing DNA, Fractal and Quantum Creative Linguistics The Brain over Binge  
Recovery Guide: A Simple and Personalized Plan for Ending Bulimia and Binge Eating Disorder  
Nutrigenomics and Nutrigenetics in Functional Foods and Personalized Nutrition On Language:  
Chomsky's Classic Works Language and Responsibility and Reflections on Language in One  
Volume

[Dmca](#)