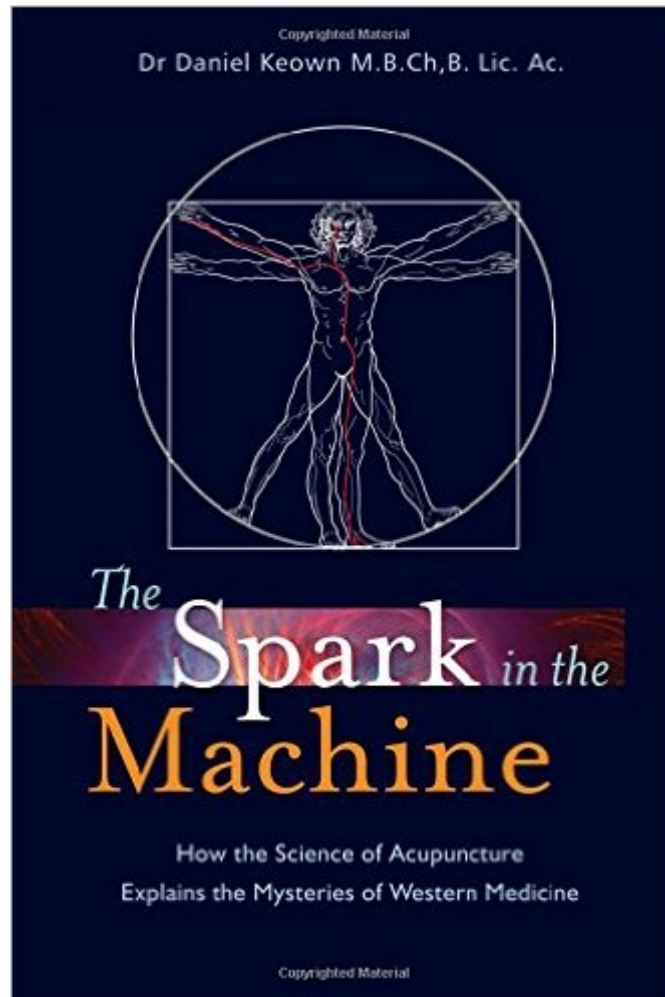


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The Spark In The Machine: How The Science Of Acupuncture Explains The Mysteries Of Western Medicine



Synopsis

Why can salamanders grow new legs, and young children grow new finger tips, but adult humans can't regenerate? What is the electricity that flows through the human body? Is it the same thing that the Chinese call Qi? If so, what does Chinese medicine know, that western medicine ignores? Dan Keown's highly accessible, witty, and original book shows how western medicine validates the theories of Chinese medicine, and how Chinese medicine explains the mysteries of the body that western medicine largely ignores. He explains the generative force of embryology, how the hearts of two people in love (or in scientific terms `quantum entanglement') truly beat as one, how a cheating heart is also an ill heart (which is why men are twice as likely to die of a sudden heart attack with their mistress than with their wife), how neural crest cells determine our lifespan, and why Proust's madeleines evoked the memories they did. The book shows how the theories of western and Chinese medicine support each other, and how the integrated theory enlarges our understanding of how bodies work on every level. Full of good stories and surprising details, Dan Keown's book is essential reading for anyone who has ever wanted to know how the body really works.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The Spark in the Machine is a must read for acupuncturists, medical doctors, nurses and anyone else active in Integrative Medicine. For that matter, it's a fascinating, informative and accessible read for anyone interested in the future of medicine. What Dr. Keown has done is basically a translation of the poetic language of acupuncture into the technical language of modern medical

science. What is most fascinating and eye opening is that the poetry is actually more literal than metaphoric. For instance, he proposes that the fascia is the link between acupuncture and anatomy. The fascia define compartments in the body and the spaces between the fascia are where the internal meridians lie. Acupuncture describes the meridians as the "empty spaces", which makes complete sense when you recognize what surgeons know, that there is an empty space between the fascia. I especially appreciate that Dr. Keown clearly explains how neither the Gate-Control theory nor the Endorphin Theory of acupuncture espoused by the West is correct. These theories only offer a possible explanation of why acupuncture works for anesthesia. However, they can't explain how chronic pain can go away for months or even years. If this were the explanation for the effect it would operate for only minutes after the needles were removed. Also these incorrect theories seem to relegate acupuncture to the treatment of pain and totally negate its success with such diverse issues as infertility, IBS, chronic bronchitis, migraines and insomnia, just to name a few. Like other reviewers, I appreciate that he writes in a style that is accessible but find his style sometimes a little too "cute". For instance, I think it is off putting to have the text contain a slur against Margaret Thatcher.

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