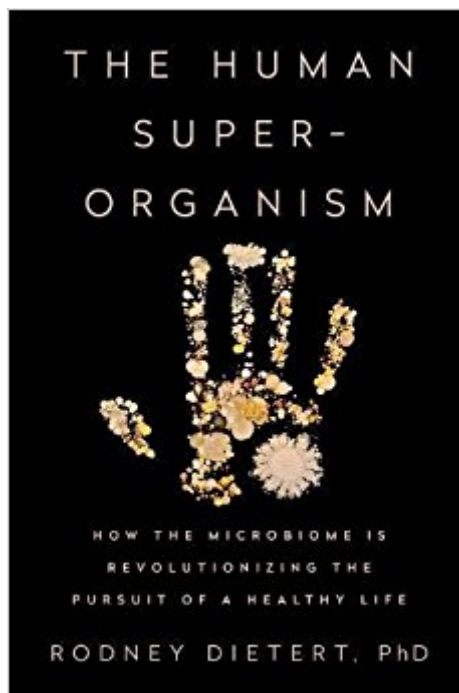




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# The Human Superorganism: How The Microbiome Is Revolutionizing The Pursuit Of A Healthy Life



## Synopsis

"Eyeopening... Fascinating... may presage a paradigm shift in medicine. Kirkus Reviews (starred review)"Teeming with information and big ideas... Outstanding. Booklist (starred review)The origin of asthma, autism, Alzheimer's, allergies, cancer, heart disease, obesity, and even some kinds of depression is now clear. Award-winning researcher on the microbiome, professor Rodney Dietert presents a new paradigm in human biology that has emerged in the midst of the ongoing global epidemic of noncommunicable diseases. The Human Superorganism makes a sweeping, paradigm-shifting argument. It demolishes two fundamental beliefs that have blinkered all medical thinking until very recently: 1) Humans are better off as pure organisms free of foreign microbes; and 2) the human genome is the key to future medical advances. The microorganisms that we have sought to eliminate have been there for centuries supporting our ancestors. They comprise as much as 90 percent of the cells in and on our bodies—a staggering percentage! More than a thousand species of them live inside us, on our skin, and on our very eyelashes. Yet we have now significantly reduced their power and in doing so have sparked an epidemic of noncommunicable diseases—which now account for 63 percent of all human deaths. Ultimately, this book is not just about microbes; it is about a different way to view humans. The story that Dietert tells of where the new biology comes from, how it works, and the ways in which it affects your life is fascinating, authoritative, and revolutionary. Dietert identifies foods that best serve you, the superorganism; not new fad foods but ancient foods that have made sense for millennia. He explains protective measures against unsafe chemicals and drugs. He offers an empowering self-care guide and the blueprint for a revolution in public health. We are not what we have been taught. Each of us is a superorganism. The best path to a healthy life is through recognizing that profound truth.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

“Dietert makes the cogent and eye-opening argument that the microbiome—the collection of microbes that lives in our bodies and on our skin—is the arbiter of immune system homeostasis. A book in which the author’s fascinating, well-researched ideas regarding holistic health may presage a paradigm shift in medicine.” —Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Teeming with information and big ideas about our tiny co-partner species, this is an outstanding introduction to the universe of little lives that dwell within us.” —Booklist (starred review)

“Dietert makes a fascinating case for an exciting, emerging field that offers a new way of thinking about the human body and health.” —Publishers Weekly

“Packed with new insights, *The Human Superorganism* sets out a fascinating perspective on the trillions of microbes that co-habitate with us, and delivers must-have information for how we can harness their power to prevent disease and flourish alongside them. Truly brilliant!” —Robynne Chutkan, MD, FASGE, Founder of The Digestive Center for Women, author of *The Bloat Cure*, *The Microbiome Solution*, and *Gutbliss*

“Lucid and beautifully referenced, Rodney Dietert has provided an authoritative new road-map of the human body, complete with its inner workings.” —Martin J. Blaser, MD, Professor of Microbiology, Director, Human Microbiome Program, New York University Langone Medical Center, author of *Missing Microbes*

“Rodney Dietert, a widely recognized researcher in immunology, developmental biology, and environmental health, writes at this new frontier from the inside, as someone who has made some of the important contributions to this young field. These are exciting times in science: when old ideas and assumptions are overturned, including our very concepts of who we are. As the early findings of microbiome research indicate, all of what we think makes us us is in fact a continuing conversation between our human cells and the billions of microbes on the surfaces of our bodies. This is a highly readable book, but also the work of a scientist who has not compromised rigor for the sake of popularity.” —Ellen K Silbergeld, PhD, Johns Hopkins University, Bloomberg School of Public Health

“Tremendously enjoyable... *The Human Superorganism* really lays out the

case for why the new research on the microbiome is a complete game-changer for how we view human health, and it offers this information in a comprehensive, readable and thought-provoking manner. "It informs how I approach my patients in my own practice." • Susan S. Blum, MD, MPH, Founder and Director, Blum Center for Health, author of *The Immune System Recovery Plan* "In his startling and thought-provoking book, *The Human Superorganism*, Rodney Dietert shatters the conventional view of the human body by confronting the reality that most of the cells in our body are not our own. The book explains how an imbalance in the microbiotic ecosystem of our body has caused a sharp increase in allergies and other non-communicable diseases in modern life, and it offers practical advice for fortifying and cohabiting productively with our single-celled partners." • R. Douglas Fields, author of *Why We Snap* and *The Other Brain* "In *The Human Superorganism*, Rodney Dietert challenges us to see ourselves anew, as stewards of our own personal ecosystems. Rejecting the new normal of diabetes, obesity, cancer and depression, we are empowered to learn how to feed our microbiome and begin healing ourselves from the inside out. The ultimate reward is a healthy internal environment that craves and is satisfied by what is truly good for us. In a world in which babies are born pre-polluted with endocrine disruptors and other harmful chemicals, it may be our best hope of survival." • Carol Kwiatkowski, Executive Director, The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, Professor, University of Colorado Boulder, Dept. of Integrative Physiology "A must read if you are interested in disease, health and medicine. Dr. Dietert has the unique ability to describe a new paradigm that is an easy read and understood at all levels of training or education." • Gary R. Burleson, PhD, President and CEO of Burleson Research Technologies, Inc. "Superscientist Dietert wants us to look at humans as superorganisms... How we can radically readjust public health protocols and our own." • Library Journal, Prepub Alert "Noted immunologist, Professor Rodney Dietert, has produced a fascinating and eminently readable book about the 'new biology' that recognizes that we are not just 'us', but we are a chimera that is 90% microbial. He is a master storyteller." • Peter J. Davies, International Professor of Plant Biology, Cornell University "Rodney Dietert provides a clear and accessible introduction to the world of the human microbiome and its influence on human health. His use of anecdotes and examples complete the story, bringing the clinical evidence into the context of every day life." • Jack A. Gilbert, Professor, Department of Surgery, University of Chicago, Group Leader for Microbial Ecology, Argonne National Laboratory

Rodney Dietert is Professor of Immunotoxicology at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. He received his PhD in immunogenetics from the University of Texas at Austin. Among his authored and edited academic books are *Strategies for Protecting Your Child's Immune System* and *Immunotoxicity, Immune Dysfunction, and Chronic Disease*. Rodney previously directed Cornell's Graduate Field of Immunology, the Program on Breast Cancer and Environmental Risk Factors, and the Institute for Comparative and Environmental Toxicology, and he has served as a Senior Fellow in the Cornell Center for the Environment. Recently, he appeared in the 2014 award-winning documentary *Microbirth*. In 2015 he received the James G. Wilson Publication Award from the Teratology Society for the best paper of the year on the microbiome.

Fascinating book! Evidence that efforts to protect us from everything has led to a plethora of non communicable diseases...which now represent something like 68% of all deaths in the US.

Once again, we find we never left the Garden of Eden, but have remained here only to soil and destroy it. Rodney Dietert has assembled the stunning evidence to show the microbiome already has the solutions to the many non-communicable diseases we suddenly find ourselves consumed with. He has also found that in destroying our microbiome with antibiotics and c-section births, we have ourselves to blame for them. It is no coincidence that these diseases have arisen at the same time as modern drugs and processed foods. They are co-morbid. Dietert says nature versus nurture is irrelevant. It leads nowhere. It retards our understanding of biological processes. The old biology has simply missed the greater part of us. And so it must continuously fail. Medicine is stuck on the mammalian genes paradigm. That is only a fraction of who we are and how we work. We are hybrids. We cannot stand alone and removed from other species and our environment. We are holobionts like coral reefs serving as host and superstructure for entire societies of microbes. We are an ecological system rather than a unit. Only 10% is the mammal we can see and touch. 90% is microbes we attract, host, and share our resources with. If allowed to live, they repay us with good health and disease-fighting tools. Unfortunately, we never look at the microbe side. We examine and treat the symptoms on the mammalian side, and destroy the microbes with our thoughtless medical system. Dietert lists seven areas where we attack our own highly tuned systems: -Antibiotic overreach -Food revolution/diet -Urbanization -Birth delivery mode -Misdirected efforts on safety -Mammalian-only human medicine Some of the takeaways: -Human breast milk contains foods exclusively for our microbes. -Babies born by caesarean section have a necessary body part missing ie. a birth defect. Same

thing if mothers took antibiotics during pregnancy.-Mothers must take antibiotics before the operation, plus the baby does not get the benefit of the bacteria in the birth canal. These babies are truly defenseless, and it shows in childhood. If we are incomplete and lacking a full set of microbial partners, we set ourselves up for immune-based dysfunction.-Our mammalian genes alone are insufficient to sustain life, which was why completing the human genome was such a letdown.-Microbes regulate our genes. They are the epigenetic managers. They switch genes on and off. Without them operating the system, the system screws up. This might be why there are hundreds of variations in the autistic spectrum.-Germ-free mice behave "eerily similar" to autistic children.-We don't absorb vitamins; we produce them. Microbes regulate production of numerous vitamins, which might be why in every single study, taking supplements proves useless. If the regulator is missing, the vitamins go missing, and swallowing pills does not help.-Some microbes are sophisticated sensors we can employ to predict disease well in advance.-Emulsifiers are used in everything from food to textiles. They damage the biome and cause inflammation "on the basis of most non communicable diseases.-We need a full microbiome at birth. We must train it by being in contact with as many, not as few, stimuli as possible, and we need to prevent damage to the microbiome as much we would avoid damage to our bodies.In Dietert's scenario, losing part of the microbiome is like losing a leg or an organ. It cripples us.Human Superorganism is an extraordinarily powerful book, written for the general audience. It lays out the facts, if I may, in an easy to digest manner. Dietert, who lives this world, thinks it will shortly become a routine part of medicine. Doctors who do not prescribe probiotics to follow antibiotics will be accused of malpractice. Caesareans will not be a lifestyle choice. Whole new industries will develop around microbes, prebiotics and probiotics. In the meantime, Dietert says we must instruct our doctors to take the microbiome into consideration in everything they prescribe. We must eat more fermented foods. Somehow, we must stop being our own worst enemy.David Wineberg

Totally agree with the Wineberg review. There are increasingly more & more articles & books available about the subject. But Rodney Dietert puts it all together in a way that resulted in a paradigm shift ("Of course!") in my thinking. I could see the ways in which I, my family, friends, & clients have been affected by impaired microbiome & our healthcare providers.Even before finishing the book, I started tweaking my choices, & sharing the message with everyone who I think will listen. Wish I could get my book club to read it.Great read! Highly recommend!

Both books arrived on time & exceeded my expectations. Thank you.

Very important to read for your well being

Very informative and full of eye opening information.

As expected

I like to learn from it.

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