



Encyclopedia of Human Genetics and Disease [2 volumes]

By Evelyn B. Kelly Ph.D.

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This two-volume encyclopedia examines the history, characteristics, causes, and treatment of genetic disease, as well as the science of genetics itself.

- Illustrations and photographs
- An informative timeline of genetic study advancements
- An annotated list of websites and helpful books

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Editorial Review

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The public is learning more about genetics than ever before—witness recent news stories about analyzing one's genome to predict the possibility of genetic disease, for example—and there is a real need for accurate, accessible information about these conditions. This new encyclopedia from Greenwood provides a good overview of the subject. The author, a professor of educational leadership and a medical writer, begins with three overview essays that explain basic genetics, proteomics, and the human genome. The main body of the work has 18 long entries on special topics (Aging and genetics, Embryology, Genetic counseling) and 355 shorter entries covering individual genetic diseases and diseases that have genetic components. Entries are arranged alphabetically, with appropriate see also references (important, since many of these conditions have more than one name). The entries for diseases include the prevalence of the disorder, other names of the condition, information about its discovery, a definition, the genetic cause, treatment, and sources for further reading. The author notes that these diseases usually have no cure, so the treatment information covers symptomatic relief. Black-and-white photographs and diagrams supplement the text, and many entries offer fact boxes with information about the discoverer of the disease or a person who has it. A resource list and an index complete the work. The reading level is high school and above. The author acknowledges the usefulness of the Genetics Home Reference website(<http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov>) and libraries will do well to bookmark that site for more information. This is an excellent resource for school, public, and consumer-health libraries, offering a very accessible presentation of complex material. --Barbara Bibel

Review

"*Encyclopedia of Human Genetics and Disease* has some qualities that could recommend it for a less specialized audience that would appreciate placement of the genetics topics in a broader context and could benefit from the genetics primers and special topic overviews." - **Reference Reviews**

"This is an excellent resource for school, public, and consumer health libraries, offering a very accessible presentation of complex material." - **Booklist**

"This resource is a quick guide that will be of particular use for high school students beginning a research paper, but may also be useful to early undergraduates looking for basic information on a particular genetic disease. . . . The entries will not overwhelm a student new to the topic, but they also provide additional resources as a gateway to more in-depth information if a student wishes to go further." - **ARBA**

About the Author

Evelyn B. Kelly, PhD, is a professor of educational leadership at Saint Leo University, Ocala Center, FL.

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