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The Longevity Seekers: Science, Business, and the Fountain of Youth

By Ted Anton

University Of Chicago Press. Hardcover. Book Condition: New. Hardcover. 240 pages. Dimensions: 9.1in. x 6.3in. x 1.0in. People have searched for the fountain of youth everywhere from Bimini to St. Augustine. But for a steadfast group of scientists, the secret to a long life lies elsewhere: in the lowly lab worm. By suppressing the function of just a few key genes, these scientists were able to lengthen worms lifespans up to tenfold, while also controlling the onset of many of the physical problems that beset old age. As the global population ages, the potential impact of this discovery on society is vast as is the potential for profit. With *The Longevity Seekers*, science writer Ted Anton takes readers inside this tale that began with worms and branched out to snare innovative minds from California to Crete, investments from big biotech, and endorsements from TV personalities like Oprah and Dr. Oz. Some of the research was remarkable, such as the discovery of an enzyme in humans that stops cells from aging. And some, like an oft-cited study touting the compound resveratrol, found in red wine proved highly controversial, igniting a science war over truth, credit, and potential profit. As the pace of discovery accelerated, so...



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