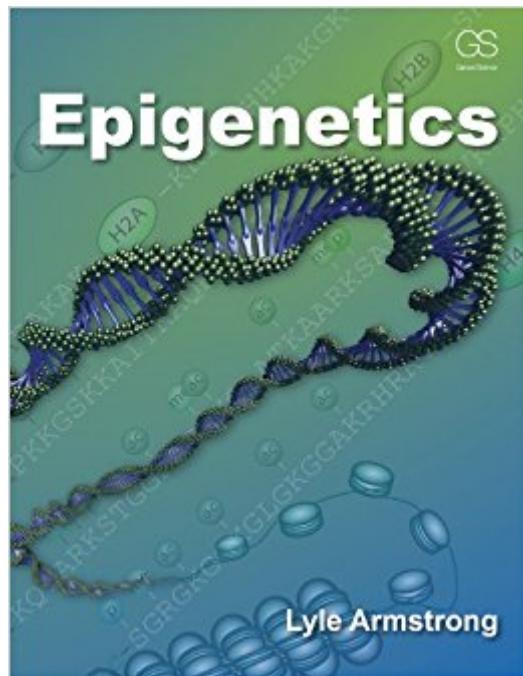


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# Epigenetics



## **Synopsis**

The concept of epigenetics has been known about since the 1940s, but it is only in the last 10 years that research has shown just how wide ranging its effects are. It is now a very widely-used term, but there is still a lot of confusion surrounding what it actually is and does. Epigenetics is a new textbook that brings together the structure and machinery of epigenetic modification, how epigenetic modification controls cellular functions, and the evidence for the relationship between epigenetics and disease. It is a valuable source of information about all aspects of the subject for undergraduate students, graduate students, and professionals.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Epigenetics by Armstrong is one of the newer additions to the field of literature on epigenetics. The focus is mostly on methylation and there is some coverage of miRNA and lncRNA but not a great deal. The presentation is superbly structured and it assumes just a reasonable understanding of genetics and embryology. The book is written as an introduction but covers the field in considerable depth. One of the strongest points is the graphical presentations which far exceed any of the other

recent texts in the area. The graphical presentations present the complexities of epigenetics quite well. The book starts with DNA architecture including the functions of the histones and then moves to methylation and acetylation. It discusses histone modification in a simple and straightforward manner. The discussion of epigenetic gene control is quite well done and flows very well from the prefatory discussions. The author also presents the issues of imprinting and the embryological changes in methylation patterns. These issues are critical in understanding embryological development and ultimately stem cell dynamics. There is a discussion on the reversal of methylation which is quite useful. The author then discusses several disease states and the impacts of methylation. Overall it is a superb book and one of the best introductions I have yet to see. However there are few observations. These are not negative but they reflect the state of the art in epigenetics. First, there are many hesitant conclusions. This is just the nature of methylation effects. Many things are known but many factors are still to be understood. The author makes certain these hesitations whenever they occur.

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