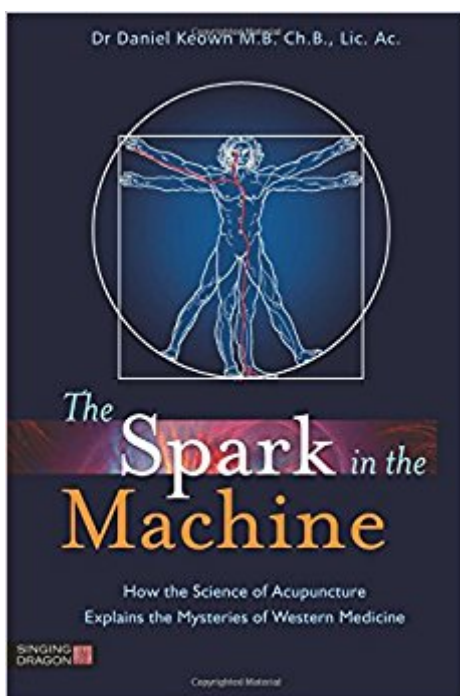


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# The Spark In The Machine: How The Science Of Acupuncture Explains The Mysteries Of Western Medicine



## 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.

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## Customer Reviews

I started reading this book and thought "wow!" I couldn't put it down! Daniel Keown is both a Western medical doctor and an acupuncturist. Using his engaging writing style he makes sense of how the latest scientific understanding of systems theory unites with the holism of our oldest medical tradition. Everyone from the general public to Western and Eastern medical practitioners, in

fact anyone who is curious about the remarkable way the human body functions and develops, should read this book. --Angela Hicks, Joint Principal of the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine, Reading, UK, and author of *The Principles of Chinese Medicine* It is surprising how little research has been done over the years to examine the relationship of acupuncture to Western medicine. Now at last we have Dr Keown's thoughtful and stimulating book to help fill this gap. Dr. Keown talks from personal experience of working on both sides of this medical divide. His book is an invaluable contribution to helping practitioners of both disciplines understand how far they speak a common medical language, though they may express themselves in somewhat different terms. --Nora Franglen, Founder of the School of Five Element Acupuncture (SOFEA) and author of *The Handbook of Five Element Practice, Keepers of the Soul, Patterns of Practice and The Simple Guide to Five Element Acupuncture* Unusually for a doctor, Daniel Keown has a deep knowledge of the theories and practice of acupuncture and Chinese medicine. His obvious love and profound understanding of anatomy and physiology means that he is almost uniquely qualified to explain how acupuncture 'works' according to the paradigm of modern science. This is an important book and essential reading for anyone interested in bridging the gap in understanding between Chinese medicine and conventional medical science. --Peter Mole, Dean of the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine, Reading, UK and author of *Acupuncture for Body, Mind and Spirit*

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has a deep knowledge of the theories and practice of acupuncture and Chinese medicine. His obvious love and profound understanding of anatomy and physiology means that he is almost uniquely qualified to explain how acupuncture 'works' according to the paradigm of modern science. This is an important book and essential reading for anyone interested in bridging the gap in understanding between Chinese medicine and conventional medical science. (Peter Mole, Dean of the College of Integrated Chinese Medicine, Reading, UK and author of Acupuncture for Body, Mind and Spirit) The eloquent and poetic language of the classics of Chinese medicine has always seemed incommensurable with modern Western scientific medicine. No longer. Dr Keown provides clear and compelling evidence that both systems are describing the same processes in the human body. Some kind of synthesis is now in prospect, and the implications are enormous. (John Hamwee, acupuncturist and author of Acupuncture for New Practitioners) This book is an important milestone in our understanding of how acupuncture might operate in the body, and the often remarkable correspondences between traditional Chinese and modern medical thinking... Dr Keown uses the holistic framework of Chinese Medicine to pull modern concepts together to give an inkling of what a true integrated medicine of the future might look like... the author, makes visually appealing comparisons... The writing style is creative and often humorous... Overall this book is a great read, and will certainly be enjoyed by acupuncturists interested in the connections between biomedicine and traditional Chinese medicine. (Journal of Chinese Medicine)

Keown has put forth a fascinating argument that incorporates Western concepts to support the paradigm of Asian medicine. This is a must read for all my fellow acupuncturists (and it would be great if our MD colleagues would read it too). Instead of dismissing the description of the body used by Chinese medicine as metaphorical and poetic, Keown explains how it can be interpreted literally and incorporated into an expanded, more comprehensive understanding of the human body.

Another Acupuncturist in praise of "The Spark". Dr. Daniel Keown with convincing logic and artistry has established the principles of Acupuncture and Oriental Medical Theory firmly on the ground of western science. \*\*\*\* His unfolding embryology is itself a fractal in mankind's unfolding consciousness. The coupling of Acupuncture Points, Qi, and Growth Control Centers is brilliant as is the linking of components of Oriental Medicine. The language and understanding of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine should become ordinarily spoken and second nature to all people. It is an organ centric consciousness based entirely on the subjective. \*\*\*\* "The Spark in the Machine" and "Saam Medical Meditation" enable a greater self understanding and conscious awareness of Qi and

the autonomic physiologic process. With practice and awareness of these components of health you can change your health, grow upon the unlimited potential of whatever your fractal may be. This is the new spirituality. \*\*\*\* Henceforth, No Religion Can Exist Without It's Account of Qi \*\*\*\* Qi is at the heart of experience, memory, and intuition. Bring it forth into your consciousness through meditation and the meditative exercises. Become aware of Qi. study Taichi and Qi Gong, you can guide Qi and consciously direct Qi through simple expanded understanding of self. Thank you Dr. Dan Keown for "The Spark in the Machine" you have greatly expanded my consciousness. Of self and the fractal universe. Bravo!!!!

In this book we learn about the Chinese medicine, body biology, and get the explanation to why acupuncture exists, and that it now has been used during at least 5,000 years; while still many doctors, locked up by Western educations, won't accept its existence. It's especially the Yin and Yang channels, connections, which is used by the Chinese Medicine and among other explaining how acupuncture works, but which not yet is known, or accepted, by the Western Medicine, as we have not yet for acupuncture found messenger canals parallel to for example blood vessels, or the nerve system, such which we can hold in the hand. Since I was child I have read much World history, and here in the book it was very interesting, in the chapter 16, "What are Acupuncture Points", to read about how it was discovered that the Ice Mummy, Otzi, who had died 5,200 ago, and then after he in 1991 was discovered in the snow in the Otzal Alps, in Austria, it turned out that actually he had acupuncturist marks on his body. And by this it then was realized that acupuncture actually had be known in Europa for thousands of years, until it then probably was destroyed by the Spanish inquisition. Besides we also read that acupuncture also was known by the ancient Mayans in South America, even though they had no connection China. In the end of some of the chapters, under the headline "Emergency case report", we read about how Daniel, when working in hospital emergency department, in some cases then used acupuncture or massage with great success. How problems then immediately were solved, as for example in one case with pain in the body, and solved by acupuncture, and in another case asthma solved by mild massage. But even though never any failures or problems by using acupuncture, later he no longer was allowed in using acupuncture, and then instead turned over in using acupressure. I would have liked in the book reading about more cases solved by the use of Chinese Medicine. On me acupuncture one time has been used, and also here with great success. It was way back 20 years ago, then living in Denmark, when then one morning I woke up and nearly

could not stand on my left foot because of pain in the left knee. This problem without doubt caused by an ice skating accident, 33 years earlier, (1963), on the left knee, and then had resulted in weeks in a hospital, but since then only seldom, in cold weather, a bit of discomfort in the knee. But now with this awful pain in the knee I succeeded in getting to my doctor, one of the few persons in Denmark, who had been educated in acupuncture (in Paris), and half an hour later nearly all of the pains had gone, but I visited her 1 time more, and since then not yet any pain again. Starting on the side 274 we get the Appendix 3, Referred Pain, or Radiating Pain, covering 4 sides. To me very interesting writings about how the brains registrations the pains, and the different pains in different persons, and the many different types of pains. Interesting to me as I have been searching and reading much about pain because now during 9 years my brain constantly is telling me about a not existing pain in my right hand. Where actually the right hand is without failure, except totally without sensing, because the brain never has reregistered that the nerve is all right all the way down to the hand since the nerve was reconnected on the top of the shoulder. It is funny in the book to see the Fibonacci number, the golden ration, and the Mandelbrot's fractal equation being used in connection to the buildings in the body, the cells, the DNA, and so on, and it fits good together, and as a mathematically fanatic I like it. Besides, in the book we are getting many helpful drawings. I owe a couple of books about Chinese Medicine treatments as acupuncture, acupressure, massages (they talk about 6 kinds), and so on, but this is my first book detailed in the explanation of the Chinese Medicine. A brilliant book.

Very good book. I am surprised an M.D. hadn't done this earlier. Insightful correlations between Western medicine and Traditional Chinese medicine (TCM). It includes a wonderful explanation of embryological development and how it relates to TCM and its concepts. I easily recommend this to any acupuncturist or herbalist no matter how long they have been in practice. I know of no other book that has covered the concordance of modern medicine and TCM with such clarity. The only thing I could say that could have been better were the illustrations which were hand drawn quickly.

Keown, an M.D., posits that the features of acupuncture can be explained by comparing acupoints with the organizing centers of embryological development & using the features of the fascia to explain the channels through which Qi, the intracellular communication which Keown identifies as body electricity, moves. A more plausible explanation for the phenomena than other western explanations, so far.

This is the best book I have ever read comparing acupuncture and Western medicine. I am so impressed with this book that I read the whole book in one night. It is intriguing and exceptionally well written. This is definitely a book you need to read in your lifetime.

Dan Keown started his professional life as a Western MD, became fascinated with Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) because it worked so much better, and became an acupuncturist. This book, which is written with such a joyful sense of discovery & excitement & some goofy British humor, reveals the profound connections between TCM & embryology. It's pretty darn mindblowing! and a deep delight to read.

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