medical students but also by whetting the appetite of those readers who want to learn more.

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Over the last 20 years, functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) has matured from an infant technology used by a select few researchers to the dominant research modality in modern cognitive neuroscience. While the inclusion of fMRI theory and technique in neuroscience education is undisputed in value, no text has thus far emerged as sufficiently comprehensive yet accessible to students. This is due, in part, to the fundamentally interdisciplinary nature of fMRI. While many authors could compose a text on the physics of fMRI, the relationship between thought and neuroanatomy, or experimental design and data management, Huettel, Song, and McCarthy have endeavored to give birth to a single work that introduces each of the aforementioned subjects specifically as they relate to fMRI. Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging fills a previously vacant niche in the educational armamentarium of students and professors of cognitive neuroscience.

This highly readable book flows like an introductory college textbook in that it presumes very little knowledge on the part of the reader. Unlike so many other texts discussing fMRI, it warmly welcomes students from a variety of educational backgrounds. For example, elementary terms such as ion, neuron, central nervous system, and standard deviation are defined as they are first mentioned, effectively bringing even the most novice student up to speed.

The book progresses logically from MR scanners and signals to the connection between neuronal and hemodynamic activity to experimental design and statistical analyses while walking the reader through the relevant aspects of physiology and physics along the way. The “thought experiment” questions peppered throughout the book make reading each chapter feel almost interactive and aid in retention of the material. The full-color illustrations, which appear on nearly every page, impart life and add tangibly to the student’s comprehension of the text.

While Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging does not qualify its reader as capable of designing and executing groundbreaking experimentation with fMRI, it was not written for that purpose. In fact, it achieves its intended goal very effectively: It lays the requisite groundwork for further study and gives the student a baseline familiarity with all of the terms and subjects likely to be necessary for a deeper understanding of fMRI. This text allows the reader to take their first step into the rapidly expanding field of cognitive neuroscience research enabled by fMRI and does so in a painless and all-inclusive fashion.

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“Science cannot stop while ethics catches up,” claimed the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in 1950. In Who Owns You? The Corporate Gold Rush to Patent Your Genes, the author, philosopher, and legal scholar David Koepsell describes and dissects the tangle that results when science, in the form of wide-scale genomic sequencing, is permitted to proceed without a strict ethical and legal framework. Part primer, part prescription, Koepsell’s book offers a portrait of the current state of sequencing technology and
the laws that regulate the use and status of its products, then proceeds to interrogate the fundamental validity of our existing system.

It is surprising — not to mention existentially disturbing — to learn that more than 20 percent of the human genome is currently owned by corporations, research institutes, and universities. Even more surprising is that the author claims that these patent systems have been cobbled together in a manner that is largely unmindful of legal precedent or philosophical soundness. Despite the sensationalist title, Koepsell generally steers clear of reactionary recoil, instead providing a measured consideration of the issues that arise at the intersection of intellectual property and human biology.

Beginning with the as-yet ignored basics, the author first deconstructs the relationship between genes and people, deftly highlighting the difficulty in owning and regulating the former without infringing upon the rights of the latter. Next, he sets out a history of patent law and how it traditionally has treated naturally occurring objects and resources, pointing out the discrepancies between these treatments and the management of genetic property rights. Finally, Koepsell evaluates the pragmatic consequences of this regulatory practice and examines our current system to see if it is tenable within the context of scientific progress.

At a time in which science is becoming increasingly rarified, the author presents a refreshingly interdisciplinary treatment of his subject. Difficult concepts in biology, policy, and ethics are each patiently explained, making it a book suitable for readers of diverse backgrounds. The author’s own background in philosophy, however, lends the text a syntax and vocabulary that may be unfamiliar — even uncomfortable — to the scientist or doctor. In this sense, the book feels subtextually targeted at legal scholars or philosophers despite its ambitions toward broadness, but Koepsell’s obvious passionate belief in the topical importance of this debate maintains the reader’s interest.

Who Owns You? is the first long-form, comprehensive treatment of the implications of gene patenting. As such, it deserves much credit for bringing the debate into the public eye, though it’s no template for policy change in itself. Perhaps most important is its application of philosophical analysis to bio-policy, an underutilized approach critical to scientific advancement. Koepsell’s book serves as a worthy starting point for anyone interested in interconnecting genetics, property law, and philosophy.

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The phrase “global health” is frequently thrown around in political and medical debates. But what exactly is global health? The text Understanding Global Health answers this question eloquently in its comprehensive discussion of health, health care, and health systems from a universal perspective. Although this book is written with the medical student or public health student in mind, it can definitely be utilized by anyone who is interested in learning more about the subject.

The book offers the reader a strong foundation in worldwide health care issues via initial chapters on the history of global health as well as disease burden and biostatistics. Subsequent chapters discuss specific subjects such as women and children’s health, environmental impact, nutrition, primary care, tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, effects of war and catastrophes, injury prevention, aging and chronic disease, and antimicrobial resistance. The final chapters address social, political, and educational aspects of global health. Specifically, communications and technology, economics, health care in low- and middle-income countries, and ethics are discussed. The book is especially helpful for those considering a career