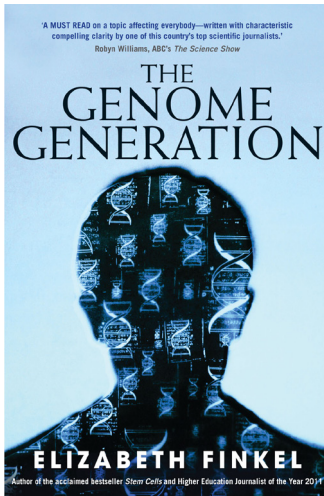


# MEDIA RELEASE

MUP: Books with Spine – the best in politics, current affairs and biography



Elizabeth Finkel tells the evolving story of DNA in an intriguing and accessible way.  
—Nobel Prize winner Peter Doherty



**MUP RRP \$32.95**

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Elizabeth Finkel will be available for interviews from February 7.

For more information please contact **Olivia Blake** at MUP on 03 9342 0322 or 0406 998 030, or email [oblake@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:oblake@unimelb.edu.au).



## THE GENOME GENERATION

by Elizabeth Finkel

*'Is the genomic revolution an overhyped flop or are we on the edge of a life-changing revolution? This book stares down the myths and lays out the answers in engaging, compelling stories. This is an accomplished work of scientific literacy.'*

—Jon Entine, Director, Genetic Literacy Project, George Mason University

Did you know?

- In the next three years we should know if we are facing a Gattaca world, in which a person's genome predicts their destiny.
- A mother who eats a low carb diet in early pregnancy may predispose her baby to becoming obese.
- A sea sponge carries most of the genes required to make a human brain.
- In order to feed 9 billion people by 2050, a group of scientists is trying to re-engineer the genomes of wheat and rice to make these grains as bountiful as corn.

The year 2001 marked more than just the beginning of Stanley Kubrick's space odyssey, it marked the beginning of the genome era. That was the year scientists first read the 3 billion letters of DNA that make up the human genome. This was followed by a veritable Noah's Ark of genomes—sponges and worms, dogs and cows, rice and wheat, chimps and elephants—180 creatures aboard so far.

So what have we learnt from all this? How has it changed the way we practise medicine, grow crops and breed livestock? What have we learnt about evolution?

These are the questions science writer and molecular biologist Elizabeth Finkel asked herself four years ago. To find the answers she travelled the science frontier from Botswana to Boston, from Warracknabeal to Mexico and tracked down scientists working in the field. Their stories, told here, paint the picture of what it means to be part of the genome generation.

Elizabeth Finkel holds a PhD in biochemistry and spent ten years as a professional research scientist before becoming an award-winning journalist. She is a contributing editor to *Cosmos* magazine and also writes for the US magazine *Science*. Her numerous awards include a Queensland Premier's Literary award for her book, *Stem Cells: Controversy at the Frontiers of Science*. In 2011 she was named the National Press Club's Higher Education Journalist of the Year.

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