

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction	1
Why now?	3
Biochemical individuality: the need for <i>personalized</i> medicine.....	8
The demand for individualized medicine	10
Personalized medicine: the vision	12
The aims of this book	14
Who should read this book.....	14
Organization of the book	14
How to read this book.....	15
Acknowledgements	16
Chapter 2: From DNA sequence to physiology	18
Genetic information flow	18
DNA organization	20
An overview of transcription and translation.....	22
Condition-specific regulation of gene expression.....	24
Molecular interaction networks and systems	31
Cross-regulation and physiology at the organ level	34
The genome in its environmental context.....	35
Chapter 3: DNA sequence variations, their prevalence, and effects on cellular biochemistry	37
Sources of DNA sequence variations	37
Observed types of DNA sequence variation	40
Frequencies of DNA sequence variants.....	42
Effects of DNA sequence variation on cellular biochemistry.....	44
Chapter 4: Environmental and life-history effects.....	57
Somatic mutations in cancer	58
Epimutations	59
The metagenome	63
Transient physiological effects.....	67
Cumulative effects.....	70
Chapter 5: The impact of inter-individual biochemical differences on health outcomes	73
Hierarchical system modularity and functional building blocks.....	73
The dynamic characteristics of molecular interaction modules determine the impact of genetic and environmental factors.....	74
The challenges of establishing cause-effect relationships	81
Making predictive systems models of cellular and organ function.....	95

Chapter 6: DNA testing and sequencing technologies	97
Biochemical tests.....	101
Cytogenetic detection of large-scale chromosomal abnormalities.....	101
Targeted DNA sequence analysis.....	102
De novo whole-genome DNA sequencing	104
Next generation (parallel) re-sequencing technologies	111
Sequencing challenges for personal genomics.....	114
Chapter 7: Measuring the impact of environmental factors on health	118
Selecting biomarkers	118
What should biomarkers predict?.....	119
The multiple roles of biomarkers in personalized medicine	120
Imaging anatomical and physiological biomarkers	121
Blood-related biomarkers.....	124
Saliva-based biomarkers	130
Biomarkers in urine and feces	131
Skin, breath, sweat and tears	135
Challenges in biomarker development	139
Chapter 8: Characterizing the effects of genetic and environmental factors on cellular function.....	143
How completely is the reference human genome characterized?	144
Functional annotation of genomic sequences	151
Predicting the effects of sequence variants	153
Characterizing environmental and life-history effects	164
Chapter 9: Translating personal genomics and personalized medicine into clinical practice	168
Interpreting personal genomes	168
Interpreting biomarker data.....	172
Electronic health records (EHRs).....	173
Decision support systems for diagnosis and treatment planning	182
From bench to bedside and from bedside to bench	185
Ceci n'est pas une pipe	187
Chapter 10: Organizational, legal, and ethical challenges.....	188
Privacy considerations	188
Accuracy and usefulness of tests.....	191
Ethical challenges	193
The need for patient participation in personalized medicine, and its challenges....	195
Economic considerations	197
Predictive and preventive medicine.....	203
Prolonging life versus promoting quality of life	205

Chapter 11: Coda – Engineering the future of medicine	208
Engaging and educating the stakeholders	210
Moving beyond the ‘one treatment fits all needs’ approach.....	212
Are we there yet?.....	214
Let the revolution begin	217
Index	219