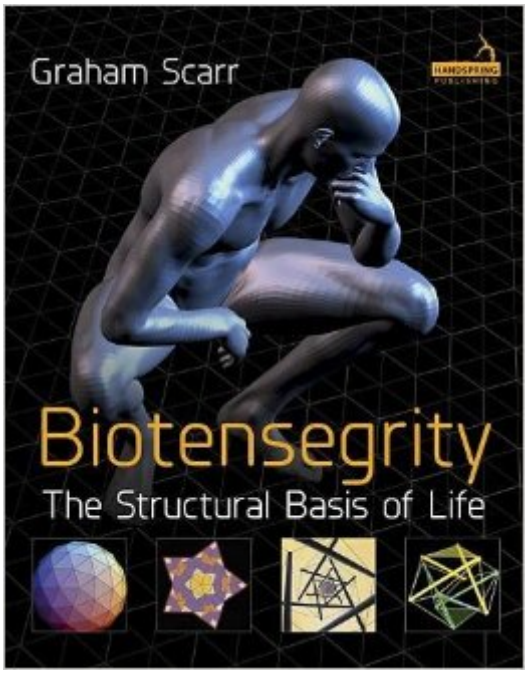
Biotensegrity: The Structural Basis Of Life



Synopsis

This book brings all aspects of tensegrity/biotensegrity together for the first time, from its discovery, the basic geometry, significance and anatomy to its assimilation into current biomechanical theory.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I have been following the scientific theory of biotensegrity for several years now and I am co-founder of the first BIG (Biotensegrity Interest Group) in the US.Graham Scarr’s is the first book ever on Dr. Stephen M. Levin’s theory of tensegrity in biology -- "biotensegrity," and Dr. Levin wrote the forward, endorsing Scarr’s work as an accurate presentation of his theory, which was first conceived by Levin in 1975, after a multi-year search for the architectural principles of biomechanics.Essential for anyone who is looking for an accurate foundation in this emerging field of science, Scarr takes us through the fundamentals step-by-step, making a complex theory accessible without diluting it, and illuminating biotensegrity theory as that of the structure of the hierarchical, evolutionary and developmental continuum of biologic life, and not merely metaphor,Endoskeletal tensegrity icosahedrons, the foundational seed structure of the biotensegrity model, have properties and behaviors that we are quite unused to, outside of nature, and the structural model was not available to us until Kenneth Snelson realized it in the middle of the last century. Because of this, structural biology has traditionally been built on machine models, an unexamined fundamental assumption which results in who-knows-how-many inaccurate and unrealistic conclusions, many of them medical. An example of this would be the billions of dollars spent annually in the US alone on spinal

fusions, which are rationalized on the assumption that we are more stable when we our moving parts are _less_ mobile and flexible, like a building or a machine. Think of it: if that were true, as we age and stiffen and become less flexible we would become more stable and fall less--not exactly the case.

This book is the first on the topic of BioTensegrity. It therefore marks a historical development in our understanding of biomechanics. The subject of BioTensegrity is not an easy concept to grasp, that is, until one understands the fundamentals. At this stage there is a eureka moment where Levinâ ™s BioTensegrity model becomes blaringly obvious having beautifully evolved.While Scarrâ ™s knowledge is formidable his pitch-perfect prose builds this text in true tensegrity style. There is oxygen in every sentence. Scarr has sculpted an easy to read, easily comprehensible book for everyone with an interest in living movement.The importance of BioTensegrity in enhancing our knowledge of biological structures cannot be understated and cries out for critical investigation. For example, Scarr takes classical mechanics to task in chapter 4 with a convincing argument demonstrating that biology is not constrained by the laws of classical mechanics. Levinâ ™s four bar closed chain kinematic explanation is poetry in motion. The time is ripe for a new vision and new explanation for the construct and movement ability of biological systems. A third class lever would be all that is required to catapult the long held laws of mechanics to a distant past when mankind did not appreciate that inanimate objects are not comparable to living organisms.I suggest that this book is not one the reader will digest in one sitting. Smaller more digestable portions are recommended. Therein lies additional value in purchasing the book. I believe this historical text will become an important source of reference with the need to return to specific points or chapters time and again.

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