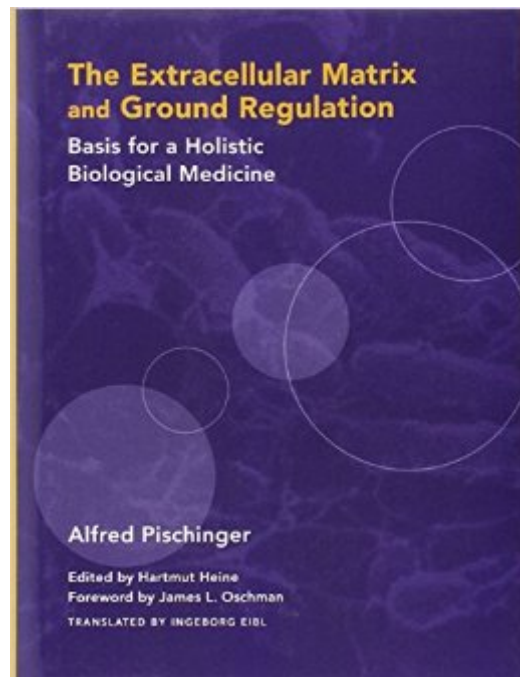


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The Extracellular Matrix And Ground Regulation: Basis For A Holistic Biological Medicine



Synopsis

The workings of the suitable environment for cells—called the extracellular matrix (ECM) and ground regulation—has occupied the European medical tradition since the early part of the 20th century. As it has become more clear that the origin of disease and its first signals register in the connective tissue, or myofascia, cellular pathologists and biochemists have sought to circumscribe networks of cell communication and microcirculation in the ECM. Alfred Pischinger (1899-1982) continued this line of work by further studying, in work published from 1926 through the late seventies, the connections of the ECM to the hormonal and autonomic systems. In the last twenty years Professor and Doctor of Natural Sciences Hartmut Heine and his colleagues have carried on Pischinger's work, here summarized in one volume. Part One encompasses theoretical underpinnings; Parts Two and Three address applications and directions for further research. This updated English-language translation not only is an account of the work of Pischinger's successors—Heine, Otto Bergsmann, and Felix Perger, (the three editors of this volume) and their many colleagues—but notes the positive development of complementary therapies based on this understanding of histology. Acupuncture is referenced directly. Both in Europe and the States the work of manual therapists, including Rolfers, cranio-sacral therapists, and other somatic disciplines have been informed for many years by Pischinger's outsider model of how changes in the EMC register in the central nervous system and the brain, and are conveyed back to the periphery and connected organs. Heine's exciting recent work shows that the regulation and construction of the ECM have relationships to cybernetic non-linear systems and phase transitions.

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Customer Reviews

Despite the abundant bibliographic references, which though appropriate and thorough, make for a thicker reading experience, this book is a tour de force that compels one to expand any previous perspectives concerning the meaning of excellent health in the human body. A must for anyone interested in or involved in any healing art.

Being a manual therapist and reading the previous reviews I had my hopes up that I'd finally get a good understanding of the ECM and how it relates to manual therapy. This book doesn't do it. It does have some interesting research that I haven't come across elsewhere and some interesting strands of physiology. A lot of the book seems more directed to acupuncturists, though I have no training in the field so I can't say if this book is valuable in that regard or not. Unfortunately the book doesn't give a clear presentation of the subject matter itself. The text isn't well arranged and at times it is hard to understand why the writer is going on about certain topics. Some of the physiology is reviewed on a quite superficial level whereas others delve so deep into the biochemical and biophysical mechanisms that with my background were hard to comprehend and I have a fairly good understanding of basic physiology. There are a lot of references to different modalities that aren't that well known internationally e.g. neural therapy and these modalities aren't reviewed thoroughly. There is a chapter on neural therapy but it is placed in the last part of the book (while it is discussed on many occasions in the early chapters) and doesn't really offer much understanding to someone who has no previous experience in it. Furthermore before you actually read the book you get the impression that this is Alfred Pischinger's work - it isn't. It most likely relies on groundwork done by Pischinger but in the actual book you get a few measly paragraphs that are actually written by him. Practically all of the book is written by the other writers.

This book was introduced to me by my teacher Frank Lowen, founder of Lowen Systems & Dynamic Manual Interface. As a manual therapist on the cutting edge of understanding and experiencing what the body's capacity for self-regulation is about, AND the ability to assist the body's mechanisms of self-regulation with the use of the hands, this book is a MUST. It gives new light and new hope for the emerging fields of manual therapy, gives support to the founders and early pioneers in the field of manual therapy, and provides a well balanced foundation for a practitioner who practices. With new findings and wisdom from the likes of Hans Seley and Alfred Pischinger, this will surely become a resource in all massage and manual therapy programs who know deep in their hearts the benefits of hands on healing. Thank you to Frank Lowen for facilitating the

reproduction and publishing of this book with a great risk from Richard Grossinger at North Atlantic Books!

If only American medical doctors could grasp the concept that extracellular matrix (read as connective tissue or myofascia) is a very important body wide communication system that helps regulate processes important to our individual health. This concept could help in diagnosis of disease.

It really adds to the mental map of the human body when trying to figure out what is going wrong and how to fix it or what kind of practitioner can help.

Happy that this book was translated! Full of very interesting research that has the ability to change one's perspective.

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