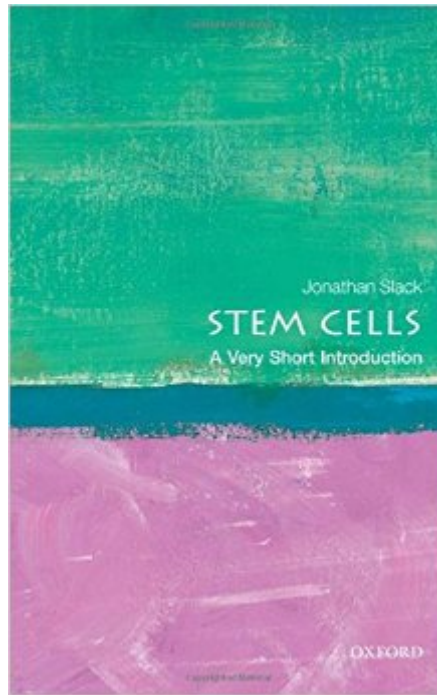


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# Stem Cells: A Very Short Introduction



## Synopsis

Embryonic stem cells have been hot-button topics in recent years, generating intense public interest as well as much confusion and misinformation. In this Very Short Introduction, leading authority Jonathan Slack offers a clear and informative overview of stem cells--what they are, what scientists do with them, what stem cell therapies are available today, and how they might be used in the future. Slack explains the difference between embryonic stem cells, which exist only in laboratory cultures, and tissue-specific stem cells, which exist in our bodies, and he discusses how embryonic stem cells may be used in the future to treat such illnesses as diabetes, Parkinson's disease, heart disease, spinal trauma, and retinal degeneration. But he stresses that, despite important advances, the clinical applications of stem cells are still in their infancy and that most real stem cell therapy today is some form of bone marrow transplantation. Slack concludes by analyzing how medical innovation has occurred in this area in recent years and he draws out some of the lessons for the development of new therapies in the future.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a very good introduction to stem cells for people who have just started learning about the technicalities of stem cell technologies and other related topics. I read this book for a class and it has helped me very much with learning and retaining the information. It can get a bit too technical in some parts, as expected for a book about a new technology like stem cells, but overall it is a pretty fast read.

it is very small book but covered all the essential parts of the history and current research in stem cell area. recommended for undergrad students who are interested in stem cell research, tissue engineering, etc.

Stem cells are very much the hot topic nowadays, not so much because of the political controversy which is largely tied to the use of embryonic stem cells, but because of their wide use in research and limited application in clinical trials around the world. Because of all the hype about their use in curing previously untreatable diseases, it is important that the public get a clear understanding of the science and the complexity of the current status of our knowledge of what stem cells are, how they function, and how they might be applied to treat certain illnesses. Jonathan Slack's short introduction does just this, covering this increasingly complex topic comprehensively and fairly without bias. Because this book deals with complicated topics in health science but is forced to do so in a few pages, Slack's work demands a basic understanding of biology from the reader, but having read a much longer and even more technical book on stem cells, I highly recommend Slack's introduction for anyone wishing to become more educated about this potentially important advance in medicine.

Stem cells have generated so much hope, and so much misinformation, so much controversy. I wanted to get a clear introduction of what Stem Cell research and therapy really is, and I believe I've gotten it from this book. I don't work in the medical profession, so some of the terminology was a bit hard to get through, but it was worth it for the insight gained. Recommended.

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