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Rethinking chronic disease: What happens when human biology meets the modern world?

Melbourne author examines the evolutionary and ecological dimensions of chronic illness in a new interdisciplinary book.

MELBOURNE, Victoria — 29 October 2026 — Cardiovascular disease, diabetes and neurodegenerative disorders are often considered separate medical problems. But what if understanding their broader relationships requires us to look beyond individual diseases and examine the relationship between human biology and the environments in which we live?

In *Inter-kingdom Dissimulation: Non-communicable Disease As Corporeal Ecology*, Australian author Brendan Dwyer explores chronic disease through an evolutionary and ecological framework, examining how the environments created by modern civilisation interact with the biological systems shaped by our evolutionary history.

Drawing on evolutionary biology, epidemiology and philosophy of science, the book questions whether conventional disease classifications adequately capture the relationships between human biology, environmental change and chronic illness.

Rather than treating each condition as an isolated problem, the book proposes a broader framework for thinking about chronic disease: one that considers the relationship between biological systems and their environments, alongside the social and historical processes that have transformed those environments.

Brendan Dwyer said: If the Sphinx pre-empted social distancing by millennia, when it was found—covered in sand—its secrets were not cryptic, but, literally, sans signs. Feline aloofness becomes a monument to the scene of glottogony—event horizon of (non)communicability.

About the author

Brendan Dwyer is an Australian author with a Master of Epidemiology and a Bachelor of Software Engineering (Hons), with further studies in fine art and ethical AI. This work brings scientific inquiry into conversation with evolutionary, ecological and cultural concerns.

Book details

- **Title:** *Inter-kingdom Dissimulation: Non-communicable Disease As Corporeal Ecology*
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