Record Nr. UNINA9910777308703321 Autore West Bruce J Titolo Where medicine went wrong [[electronic resource]]: rediscovering the path to complexity / / Bruce J. West Hackensack, NJ,: World Scientific, c2006 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 1-281-92458-X 9786611924584 981-277-309-6 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (352 p.) Collana Studies of nonlinear phenomena in life sciences; v. 11 Disciplina 616.075 Medicine - Philosophy Soggetti Fractals Human physiology Health status indicators Nonlinear theories Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Nota di bibliografia Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di contenuto Contents; Prologue; Acknowledgments; 1. Chance and Variation; 1.1. The myth of equality: 1.2. Slaughter's Cafe: 1.3. What are the odds?: 1.4. Odds against smallpox; 1.5. Information and chance; 2. The Expectation of Health; 2.1. Control and cybernetics; 2.2. Temperature regulation; 2.3. Respiration regulation; 2.4. Cardiac regulation; 2.5. Averages are not sufficient; 3. Even Uncertainty has Laws; 3.1. Randomness and measurement; 3.2. Chaos and determinism; 3.3. Wisdom is not static; 3.4. A new tradition; 4. The Uncertainty of Health; 4.1. The different kinds of scientists 4.2. The Emperor in exile4.3. What is wrong with the law of errors; 4.4. The inverse power-law distribution; 4.5. How the physical and life sciences are different; 4.6. Only the few matter; 5. Fractal Physiology; 5.1. Scaling in physiological data; 5.2. Allometric relationships; 5.3. Fractal heartbeats; 5.4. Intermittent chaos and colored noise; 5.5. Fractal breathing; 5.6. Fractal gait; 5.7. Fractal temperature; 5.8. Fractal gut; 5.9. Fractal neurons; 5.10. Internetwork interactions; 6.

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Sommario/riassunto

Where Medicine Went Wrong explores how the idea of an average value has been misapplied to medical phenomena, distorted understanding and lead to flawed medical decisions. Through new insights into the science of complexity, traditional physiology is replaced with fractal physiology, in which variability is more indicative of health than is an average. The capricious nature of physiological systems is made conceptually manageable by smoothing over fluctuations and thinking in terms of averages. But these variations in such aspects as heart rate, breathing and walking are much more susceptible