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"This is a delightful book! Our Animal Connection is a must-read for everyone who has ever wondered how humans are connected to the rest of animal life on the planet. It's written with the rigor of logic that you would expect from two well-trained and highly credentialed scientists, but the prose is easy to read for even nonscientists. Every chapter could stand alone as an interesting and informative article, from the inspiring foreword by Huanming Yang through the fascinating review of metrics in the appendix. Get this book!"

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Prof. Lars Bolund
BGI-Qingdao, China | Aarhus University, Denmark

This book covers the many ways humans benefit from interactions with other living species. By studying animals of all kinds and sizes, from microbial organisms to elephants and whales, we can learn about their adaptations to extreme conditions on the planet Earth, about the evolutionary development of specialized capabilities, and about their ways to defend themselves against predators and diseases. The authors discuss the strengths and weaknesses of *Homo sapiens*, and how the study of animals can make us stronger and healthier. To deepen our knowledge of genetics, molecular and cell biology, physiology and medicine, we need to study model organisms. To cure human disease, we can learn from animals how they have evolved ways to protect themselves. To improve human performance, we can study the animal kingdom's top performers and learn from their successes. Considering these important pointers, the authors review genetic engineering techniques that can translate our existing and future animal connections into benefits for human health and performance.



Michael Hehenberger is founder and partner of HM NanoMed LLC, Connecticut, USA. He retired in 2013 after a long career with IBM. He obtained his PhD and DSc in quantum chemistry from Uppsala University, Sweden. Throughout his IBM career, he has led collaborations with academic and global industrial life sciences organizations. His efforts have been documented in about 50 publications and book chapters. His first book, titled *Nanomedicine: Science, Business, and Impact* was published by Jenny Stanford Publishing in 2015.



Zhi Xia is deputy secretary of the China Science Writers Association, project manager of the National High Technology Research and Development Program ("863" Program) of China, and core member of the Guangdong Provincial Innovation Team. He is also a popular science expert of the Chinese Genetics Society. He has published dozens of academic papers in internationally renowned magazines, more than 100 column articles in journals, and 14 books. He is a recipient of the National Publishing Fund Project, and National Outstanding Science Works Award.