**What Is Chemistry?**
By: Atkins, Peter
QD37 .A85 2013

Review from: Choice  May 01, 2014
Prolific writer Atkins (Univ. of Oxford, UK) has authored numerous science-related works, including textbooks and books aimed at the lay public and lower-level students (e.g., Reactions: The Private Life of Atoms, CH, Apr’12, 49-4464). Continuing the tradition, this book is an excellent primer on chemistry. The reader will not receive a degree in chemistry but should gain a fairly comprehensive background on the subject. To many people, chemistry has an "unhappy reputation," and Atkins aims to dispel the concept. He illuminates the good points and covers the downsides, largely due to misapplications of chemistry and technology...

**Invasive Species: What Everyone Needs to Know**
By: Simberloff, Daniel
QH353 .S56 2013

Review from: Choice  February 01, 2014
Issues such as air and water pollution were recognized as far back as the 1300s. These issues prevail today and overshadow equally important environmental concerns such as invasive species. Invasive species are nonnative organisms that can disrupt their new environment and replace native ones. Simberloff (environmental studies and director, Institute for Biological Invasions, Univ. of Tennessee) begins with a thorough history of invasive species. Most interesting are discussions on the transport and spread of invasive species during ancient human migrations. Subsequent chapters cover their evolution and impacts. Much of the book focuses on recent invasions that are currently causing major biodiversity problems...

**The Amoeba in the Room: Lives of the Microbes**
By: Money, Nicholas P.
QR100 .M647 2014

Review from: Choice  November 01, 2014
Money (botany, Miami Univ.; Mushroom, CH, May’12, 49-5056) addresses a topic that is vital to life on Earth, and as the title cleverly suggests, a topic that people do not discuss: the centrality of microbes to all life. Many single-celled organisms could do very well without multicellular organisms, but no multicellular organism could survive without unicellular organisms. The author begins by reviewing the history of the study of microbes and then brings together a multitude of examples of essential services that microbes provide on land, in the sea, and in the air. He focuses on the critical role of microbes on ecosystems both large and small, i.e., all aspects of life...

**To Catch a Virus**
By: Booss, John
QR360 .B595 2013

Review from: Choice  October 01, 2013
To Catch a Virus by Booss (Yale Univ.) and August (formerly, Aviron/MedImmune) is a thorough history of the development of diagnostic virology. Each chapter focuses on a particular group of viruses or a particular research technique as the basis for a discussion of an aspect of virology. The readable text successfully describes how advances in laboratory techniques aided in scientific understanding of particular viruses and how study of a particular virus was key in the development of an important laboratory technique...

**P53 : The Gene That Cracked the Cancer Code**
By: Armstrong, Sue
RC268.44.P16 A75 2014

Review from: Publishers Weekly  November 17, 2014
Science writer Armstrong (A Matter of Life and Death: Inside the Hidden World of the Pathologist) conveys all the excitement and determination of the scientists who have relentlessly chipped away at the mystery of a workhorse gene known as p53, “the common denominator of cancers,” in hopes of improving cancer research and treatment. Armstrong writes that scientists "working on the front line" of p53 research "believe we are on the threshold of a golden age in cancer prevention and cure." She makes accessible to the public a scientific mystery that she personally finds fascinating, speaking directly to many of the key players involved in p53 research and adeptly unwinding the difficulties confronting them since the gene’s discovery in 1979. Armstrong takes fascinating side trips along the way, relating how p53 was used in "nailing Big Tobacco"—by proving the link between smoking and cancer—and revealing its role in the relationship between cancer and aging. She succeeds in her goal to "stand clear of those ledgers full of data as far as possible and tell the story of some of the curious, obsessive, competitive minds that to unravel the deepest mysteries of cancer."
The Citizen Patient: Reforming Health Care for the Sake of the Patient, Not the System

By: Hadler, Nortin M.

RA410.53 .H34 2013

Review from: Library Journal

In this work, Hadler (medicine, Univ. of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Stabbed in the Back) offers a thoroughly researched argument that the American health-care system is largely profit driven and entails costs unmatched by those of other industrialized nations. The author uses his analytical skills and experience in the medical profession to reveal how stakeholders rely on consumer fear and gullibility to ensure steady profits from possibly unnecessary, even detrimental, products and procedures. Hadler also offers attainable solutions. Members of the general public who demand transparent medical information and responsible medical spending should be encouraged by what they find in this account.

Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation

By: Fagin, Dan

RA592.N5 F34 2013

Review from: Booklist

What was in the water in Toms River? A seemingly high number of childhood cancer cases in the New Jersey town prompted the question, but there turned out to be no easy answer. As Rebecca Skloot's The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks (2010) investigated the tragic impact that unethical scientific pursuits had on a family, Toms River unravels the careless environmental practices that damaged a community. The book goes beyond the Toms River phenomenon itself to examine the many factors that came together in that one spot, from the birth of the synthetic chemical industry to the evolution of epidemiology to the physicians who invented occupational medicine. Former Newsday environmental journalist Fagin's work may not be quite as riveting in its particulars as Skloot's book, but it features jaw-dropping accounts of senseless waste-disposal practices set against the inspiring saga of the families who stood up to the enormous Toms River chemical plant...

The End of Plagues: The Global Battle Against Infectious Disease

By: Rhodes, John

RC114.5 .R48 2013

Review from: Choice

Covering primarily the early 18th century to the present, immunology/vaccine expert Rhodes provides a medical history of disease eradication as a result of the discovery of vaccination (for smallpox) and smallpox's eventual eradication, through development of polio vaccines, and the more recent controversies associated with vaccination. Much of the book addresses the specific stories of smallpox and polio, using some medical jargon. Rounding out the accounts are the social histories associated with some of the major characters: Lady Mary Montagu, wife of the British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, and her campaign to introduce variolation to the British homeland; and the competition between Jonas Salk and Albert Sabin for development of an effective polio vaccine, with the oft-forgotten Hilary Koprowski thrown into the mix...

Essential Readings in Wildlife Management and Conservation

By: Krausman, Paul R. and Bruce D. Leopold

SK355 .E78 2013

Review from: Choice

Krausman (Univ. of Montana) and Leopold (Mississippi State Univ.) have compiled 42 classic and fundamental papers that make up the principles of wildlife management science. Their objective is to provide a suite of literature for undergraduate and graduate seminar courses on key concepts. The papers, reproduced in original format, are arranged in four parts: "Our Philosophical Roots," "Animals, Ecology, and Populations," "Habitat," and "Human Dimensions." The first part introduces the cultural and scientific basis for the wildlife profession. The second section, comprising half of the book, presents 22 key papers that constitute the foundation of modern population ecology...

No Hero: The Evolution of a Navy SEAL

By: Owen, Mark and Kevin Maurer

V63 .O94 2014

Review from: Publishers Weekly

Owen's latest military memoir, a follow-up to 2012's No Easy Day. Owen's new title provides an autobiographical account of his military career and a collection of general principles for success that he gleaned from his time inside the elite warfare unit, which is known for its perseverance and commitment. Michael's diction is precise and annunciated, but he still manages to come across as conversational. He also smoothly handles the transitions between the more expository content and the dialogue and anecdotes. Though Owen states in the book that he set out to avoid the kind of overloaded introspection often found in the military memoir genre, his book still gives Michael ample opportunity to showcase a flair for evocative narration. One especially memorable passage has Owen observing a cat drinking the blood of an insurgent that he had just shot dead in battle, realizing that a young boy no older than five had witnessed the entire scene.