

CONTACT: Louise Braverman
Louise.braverman@us.penguin.com
212-366-2752
Courtney Allison
212-366-2754
Courtney.allison@us.penguin.com

A LIFE DECODED

MY GENOME: MY LIFE

J. Craig Venter

Praise for A LIFE DECODED:

“Well worth reading for the fascinating perspective it offers on one of the major scientific discoveries of all time.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“The accomplished Venter, whose race to be the first to sequence the human genome made him a controversial figure, offers an engaging... story of his life and scientific achievements...the personalities and machinations involved in Big Science make this an engaging read.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

Praise for J. Craig Venter:

“It’s thanks to Venter, aggressive and hard-nosed as he is, that the world can read the score of the human symphony.”

—*Time Magazine*

“With Venter, there must always be something new swelling on the horizon... Now we’re sailing into a new evolutionary time... Venter is hardly the only scientist leading us there, but he alone is taking the measure of life’s true diversity and dreaming up new life-forms at the same time.”

—*Wired*

One of the great landmarks in the history of science—and of humanity—occurred when J. Craig Venter, a leading scientist of the twenty-first century and a pioneer in the world of genomic research, published the first sequence and analysis of the human genome. What made this event so remarkable was not only the bravura of the accomplishment itself, but the fact that it was achieved earlier and for less money than the government-sponsored Human Genome Project. **A LIFE DECODED: My Genome: My Life** (Viking; **On-sale: October 22, 2007**; \$25.95) is J. Craig Venter’s triumphant true story of one of the greatest feats of our era—mapping the human genome.

An indifferent and uninspired student who nearly flunked out of high school, J. Craig Venter was drafted and then enlisted in the navy and went to Vietnam, where the life-and-death struggles he encountered as a

medic piqued his interest in science and medicine. After receiving advanced degrees, he quickly established himself as a brilliant and outspoken scientist. In 1984 he joined the National Institutes of Health, where he introduced novel techniques for gene discovery. He left there in 1991 to form his own nonprofit genomics research center, where his radical techniques were criticized by many skeptics in the field. But Venter kept turning out remarkable results, and in 1998 he formed Celera Genomics, where he announced he would successfully sequence the genome sooner than the prediction of the publicly funded Genome Project—a goal he met in 2001.

How Venter transformed himself from an aimless young man into one of the leading scientists of our time is an inspiring story in its own terms, but **A LIFE DECODED** also offers the unparalleled drama of the quest for the genome, a tale that involves as much politics (personal and governmental) as science. Venter reveals how he went on to be the first to read and interpret his own genome and what it will mean for all of us to do the same in the future. He describes his recent sailing expedition to sequence microbial life in the ocean, as well as his groundbreaking attempt to create synthetic life. Here is one of the key scientific chronicles of our lifetime as told by the man who beat the odds to make it happen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

J. CRAIG VENTER is one of the most important figures in contemporary science—and in the history of science. A true visionary, his decoding of the human genome stands as a single landmark for our species with tremendous ramifications for our daily lives. For more information go to www.jcvi.org or www.alifedecoded.net.

A LIFE DECODED:

My Genome: My Life

J. Craig Venter

ISBN: 978-067-006358-1—Viking—**On-sale date: October 22, 2007**—\$25.95

For additional information or to schedule an interview with J. Craig Venter contact:

Louise Braverman, Associate Director, Viking / Penguin Publicity

Tel: 212-366-2752 / louise.braverman@us.penguin.com

Courtney Allison, Viking / Penguin Publicity

Tel: 212-366-2754 / courtney.allison@us.penguin.com

J. CRAIG VENTER WILL BE TOURING TO:

**WASHINGTON, DC * NEW YORK, NY * BOSTON, MA * CHICAGO, IL *
ST. LOUIS, MO * SAN DIEGO, CA * DALLAS, TX * LOS ANGELES, CA *
SAN FRANCISCO, CA * PORTLAND, OR * SEATTLE, WA * PHILADELPHIA, PA**

Please visit us on the worldwide web: www.penguin.com

Penguin Group (USA) Inc. is the U.S. member of the internationally renowned Penguin Group. Penguin Group (USA) is one of the leading U.S. adult and children's trade book publishers, owning a wide range of imprints and trademarks, including Berkley Books, Dutton, Frederick Warne, G.P. Putnam's Sons, Grosset & Dunlap, New American Library, Penguin, Philomel, Riverhead Books and Viking, among others. The Penguin Group is part of Pearson plc, the international media company.