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## The Accidental Scientist

### The Role of Chance and Luck in Scientific Discovery

**Graeme Donald**

#### Keynote

*The Accidental Scientist* explores the role of chance and error in scientific, medical and commercial innovation, outlining exactly how some of the most well-known products, gadgets and useful gizmos came to be.

#### Description

**Have you ever wondered how the ideas for some things come about?**

Surprisingly it is often as much down to chance as a single person's brilliance. *The Accidental Scientist* explores the role of chance and error in scientific, medical and commercial innovation, outlining exactly how some of the most well-known products, gadgets and useful gizmos came to be.

Encompassing everything from DNA profiling to fingerprinting and TNT to the telephone, this book explores many of the discoveries that we are all so familiar with today, yet have the most interesting origins because of the story behind them.

Not all discoveries require brilliance, and as *The Accidental Scientist* demonstrates, sometimes a special ingredient is needed: luck.

#### Sales Points

- *The Accidental Scientist* explores the incredibly important role chance and error have played in scientific, medical and commercial innovation
- Explains the fascinating stories behind the origins of everything from Braille to breast enhancement, superglue to stainless steel and the post-it note to Pavlov's dog
- From the publishers of *Why Balloons Rise and Apples Fall* and the author of *When the Earth was Flat*
- The ideal gift for any fan of science

#### Author Biography

Graeme Donald is the author of a number of books about the meaning of words and popular misconceptions, including *When the Earth was Flat* (Michael O'Mara Books, 2011). He has written for many newspapers and had a column about word origins in the *Today* newspaper for over ten years.

Michael O'Mara.

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