

## Life and Death in an Oxygen Atmosphere (Paperback)



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***(Rosetta Thompson)***

## LIFE AND DEATH IN AN OXYGEN ATMOSPHERE (PAPERBACK)



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Booksurge Publishing, United States, 2007. Paperback. Book Condition: New. 229 x 152 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book \*\*\*\*\* Print on Demand \*\*\*\*\*.Everybody is talking about antioxidants. Newspapers, magazines and television report the beneficial effects of antioxidants, and the pharmaceutical industry is selling billions of dollars worth of these dietary supplements, but very few people really know what antioxidants are, why they exist and how they do what they do. Oxygen plays a central role in these reactions. People usually believe that oxygen is something good for our health and they are completely unaware of the numerous damaging and even lethal effects of oxygen. Oxygen provides us with the energy to carry out all the functions of our cells and organs. However, the oxygen metabolism was found to lead to reactive oxygen metabolites, some of which are radicals. ROMs play an important role in many normal biological as well as pathological processes. Radicals are highly reactive species and for many decades were considered of minor significance in biological systems. At present there is evidence for radical involvement in over 100 diseases. We no longer have to concern ourselves only with outside agents (bacteria, viruses, pollution) that affect our health, but also with damage caused by agents of normal oxygen metabolism. The following pathological processes will be discussed: Aging, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, Alzheimer s disease, Atherosclerosis, Cancer, Lung disease, Multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson s disease. During the course of evolution, our bodies have developed defenses against ROMs. These defenses consist of the enzymes superoxide dismutase (SOD), catalase (CAT), glutathione peroxidase (GSH-Px), metal complexing proteins, uric acid, melatonin and small molecules taken up in our diet, the vitamins A, C and E. The basis of biology is chemistry. Once we understand the chemistry of ROMs we can better rationalize the pathology....



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