ADVANCEMENT
ASSOCIATION
SCIENCE
916
__
I
94

FOR
OF
THE
Epidemiology
970
Leishmaniasis
975
Risk from Exposure to Asbestos: J. AROESTY and K. WOLF; L. BRESLOW,
S. BROWN, J. VAN RYZIN ■ The Vinogradov Expedition: Why Did the United
States Miss the Boat?: R. K. SOREM ■ Symbiosis: T. W. CULLINEY ■ Basic
Energy Research: D. K. STEVENS

UNITED STATES FLOATS PROPOSAL TO HELP PREVENT GLOBAL OZONE DEPLETION
927
Changing of the Senate Guard
929
Qualified Approval for Binary Chemical Weapons
930
Office of Naval Research Marks 40th Anniversary
932
Elections Bring Some Financial Relief for British Scientists
933
Congress to Investigate Charges That OMB Is Obstructing Data Collection
France to Keep New Research Degree
934
Division, Confusion Found on Campus
Briefing: California Ballot ■ NASA Looks to Ariane ■ Soviet Nuclear Plans
935
Myths and Methods in Ice Age Art
936
Debate About Epilepsy: What Initiates Seizures?
938
Self-Interest in Politics Earns a Nobel Prize
941

Articles

Frontiers in Biology: Epidemiology
951
New Prospects for Epidemiologic Investigations: R. I. GLASS
955
AIDS in Africa: An Epidemiologic Paradigm: T. C. QUINN, J. M. MANN,
J. W. CURRAN, P. PIOT
964
Drug-Resistant Salmonella in the United States: An Epidemiologic Perspective:
M. L. COHEN and R. V. TAUXE
970
Epidemiology of Drug Abuse: An Overview: N. J. KOZEL and E. H. ADAMS
975
Leishmaniasis and Malaria: New Tools for Epidemiologic Analysis: D. F. WIRTH,
W. O. ROGERS, R. BARKER, JR., H. DOURADO, L. SUEBANG,
B. ALBUQUERQUE

- SCIENCE is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, and with an extra issue in February
by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Sec-
cond-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and at an additional entry. Now combined with The
Scientific Monthly, Copyright © 1986 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The title SCI-
ENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): $65. Do-
metric institutional subscription (51 issues): $98. Foreign postage extra: Canada $24, other (surface mail) $37, air-surface
via Amsterdam $65. First class, airmail, school-year, and student rates on request. Single copies $2.50 ($3 by mail);
back issues $4 ($4.50 by mail); Biotechnology issue, $5.50 ($6 by mail); classroom rates on request; Guide to Biotech-
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for Science is 0036-8075/86 $1 + .10. Postmaster: Send Form 3579 to Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington,
DC 20005. Science is indexed in the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and in several specialized indexes.
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Epidemiology, a field concerned with understanding health and disease in humans, focuses on health problems in populations rather than in individual patients. Advances in clinical medicine, laboratory science, statistics, and data handling in our basic understanding of the pathogenesis of disease have enabled epidemiologists to better examine causes of disease and to propose more effective strategies for prevention and control. See page 951. [Cover illustration by Alan Kahan, Washington, D.C.; photography by Donna K. Cantor, Washington, D.C.]