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COVER The career path of a scientist in the 1990s may seem a high-wire act with a dotted-line future. Today's successful scientist walks a tenuous line between seeking security in an uncertain funding environment and taking risks in an age of spectacular advances. He or she is asked to balance the competing tugs of business and academe, of applied and basic research, of authority based on narrow expertise and utility based on multidisciplinary experience. Our special pull-out report on careers, beginning on page 1107, is meant to help scientists navigate their individual high wires. [Image by Guy Billout]

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