Perspectives on Science from Across the Atlantic


Zeroing in on Individual Cancer Risk: Efforts to Prevent Cancer Are on the Increase; Testing for Cancer Susceptibility; Gene Identified for Inherited Cancer Susceptibility

The Rise and Fall of Donald Kennedy

Healy Returns Fire at Dingell Hearing

Reunification Blues for East German Scientists

Briefing: Preserve Weapons-Making Technology; Brain Cancer Near Los Alamos; Checkered Past of a Roman Harbor; House Bill Tells NIH to Stress Women; Lead Polluters Get Punished; Biotech Goes Barry; Better Tests for the Depressed

The Lessons of Dr. Browning; Will the Fourth Time Be the Charm?

Changes Ahead for Gene Therapy Review Process; Four Thumbs Up—One Thumb Down

A Trap to Snare a Monopole

A Chaotic Cat Takes a Swipe at Quantum Mechanics

Hoffmann--La Roche's PCR Push
The Hubble: One Sick Puppy

Earth's Variable Rotation: R. Hide and J. O. Dickey

Molecular Recognition at Crystal Interfaces: I. Weissbuch, L. Addadi, M. Lahav, L. Leiserowitz


This Week in Science

599

Editorial

Letters

ScienceScope

News & Comment

Research News

Articles

Reports

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The development of most cancers seems to require a series of gene mutations, falling one after another like dominoes until a malignant tumor evolves. A new "domino" has been discovered: the gene that causes familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP), a hereditary condition that carries a high risk of colon cancer (see pages 661 and 665). The cover shows adenomatous polyps and the sequence analysis that led to identification of the FAP gene. Researchers are trying to use the FAP gene and other biomarkers to predict the risk of cancer (see special report on molecular epidemiology, page 612). [Illustration by Julie A. Cherry]

654 40Ar/39Ar Age of the Lathrop Wells Volcanic Center, Yucca Mountain, Nevada: B. D. Turkin, D. Champion, R. J. Fleck


669 Genes for Epilepsy Mapped in the Mouse: M. L. Rise, W. N. Frankel, J. M. Coffin, T. N. Seyfried

673 Alteration of the Phase and Period of a Circadian Oscillator by a Reversible Transmission Inhibitor: U. Rau, C. Koumenis, M. Nunez-Regueiro, A. Esken


Technical Comment

677 Counting and Discounting the Universe of Exons: R. F. Dolittle, R. L. Dorit, L. Schoenbach, W. Gilbert

Book Reviews

685 Introduction to Protein Structure, reviewed by R. M. Stroud ■ The Physics of Fluid Turbulence, J. L. Lumley ■ Biogeochemistry, J. C. G. Walker ■ Some Other Books of Interest ■ Books Received

Products & Materials

689 Oligonucleotide Purity Check ■ Molecular Size Detector ■ Precipitation Carrier for DNA ■ Densitometry Software for the Macintosh ■ Available Chemicals Directory ■ Bst Polymerase for DNA Sequencing ■ Solid-Phase Peptide and Protein Reduction ■ Literature

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TABLE OF CONTENTS 597
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