NEWS & COMMENT

East Europe: A Chance to Stop HIV 1964

Will Tritium Give Magnetic Fusion a Shot in the Arm? 1966

Draft Genome Map Debuts on Internet 1967

Fermat Proof Hits a Stumbling Block 1967

Radiation Exposure: Scientists Study ‘Cold War’ Fallout 1968

RESEARCH NEWS

The Quest for the Youngest Galaxies 1969

HIV 'Co-factor' Comes in for More Heavy Fire 1971

The Whole World Had a Case of the Ice Age Shivers 1972

Wiring for a Very Small World 1973

Army Targets a Potential Vaccine Against Cholesterol 1974

A Closer Look at the Dinosaur-Bird Link 1975

PERSPECTIVES

Guides to the Heart of the Spliceosome 1978

J. A. Wise

p53: At the Crossroads of Molecular Carcinogenesis and Risk Assessment 1980

C. C. Harris

RESEARCH ARTICLES

Mutations in U6 snRNA That Alter Splice Site Specificity: Implications for the Active Site 1982

C. F. Lesser and C. Guthrie

The U5 and U6 Small Nuclear RNAs as Active Site Components of the Spliceosome 1989

E. J. Sontheimer and J. A. Steitz

A Mitochondrial Protease with Two Catalytic Subunits of Nonoverlapping Specificities 1997

J. Nunnari, T. D. Fox, P. Walter

REPORTS

Generation of Impossible Cross-Peaks Between Bulk Water and Biomolecules in Solution NMR 2005


DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 1951

EDITORIAL

Molecule of the Year 1953

LETTERS 1954

MOLECULE OF THE YEAR 1958

p53 Sweeps Through Cancer Research 1963

SCIENCESCOPE 1963

RANDOM SAMPLES 1976

INSIDE AAAS 2066

BOOK REVIEWS 2067

Bad Habits, reviewed by S. D. Sugarman • Men Among the Mammoths, D. K. Grayson • The Man Who Sold the Milky Way, D. DeVorkin • Universal Ice, M. Neufeld • Simple Models of Complex Nuclei, J. Ginocchio

PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 2074

QUARTERLY AUTHOR INDEX 2094

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The protective action of the wild-type p53 gene helps to suppress tumors in humans. However, the p53 gene is the most commonly mutated gene in human cancer, and these mutations may actively promote tumor growth. The purple dots indicate some of the many tumor types that may carry p53 mutations, including brain, esophagus, lung, breast, liver, prostate, and colon. See Editorial, page 1953, Molecule of the Year article, page 1958, and Perspective, page 1980. [Illustration: K. Sutliff and C. Faber Smith]