NEWS & COMMENT

U.S. Neutron Scientists Settle for Less 728
Europe and Japan Burst Ahead on Neutron Facilities
729
Space Station: Construction Costs May Bite Into Science
730
Despite Anxiety, NIH Begins Merging Neuroscience Panels
731
Former Soviet Bloc: Hughes Grants Brighten Outlook for Elite Researchers
732
European Labs Brace for German Cuts
733
E-journal: Delayed But Still a Force
734
RESEARCH NEWS

Forging a Path to Cell Death
735
Painting Pictures With Atom Waves
737
New Experiments Underscore Warnings on Maternal Drinking
738
Genes vs. Teams: Weighing Group Tactics in Evolution
739
POLICY FORUM

The Public Health Risk of Animal Organ and Tissue Transplantation into Humans
F. A. Murphy
746
PERSPECTIVES

Is the New Variant of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease from Mad Cows? 748
P. G. Smith and S. N. Cousins
Why Stress Is Bad for Your Brain
R. M. Sapolsky
749
STATs Find That Hanging Together
S. Leung, X. Li, G. R. Stark
750
Can Be Stimulating
Calculated Clusters
D. Voss
751
ARTICLE

The Argentine Precordillera: A Traveler from the Ouachita Embayment of North American Laurentia
W. A. Thomas and R. A. Astini
752
DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

EDITORIAL
Pharmaceuticals Based on Biotechnology
715
LETTERS
Promoting Teaching; S. Metzenberg; H. M. Lenhoff
719
Fears About Illness: L. Carter-Long
German Society and German Science: T. R. Garbe
Fetal Immune Response: M. Sariati and G. Delespesse
Peopling the Americas: F. E. Leon-S., A. Ariza-Deleon, M. E. Leon-S., A. Ariza-C.; P. Parham
721
Random Samples
Multiple Sclerosis: A Multigene Disease
Rainmaking
Troubled Italian Space Agency Gets New Chief
Grassroots Search for Primes
Or for E.T.
Rust Pipe Cleaners
U.S. Medalists Prescribe Tech Strategies
741
BOOK REVIEWS
The Cigarette Papers, Smokescreen, and Ashes to Ashes
reviewed by S. D. Sugarman
The Way Life Works
P. Szuromi
Vignettes
744
PRODUCTS & MATERIALS

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SCIENCE • VOL. 273 • 9 AUGUST 1996

SCIENCE (ISSN 0036-8075) is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1200 New York Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20005. Periodicals Mail postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1996 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. This title SCIENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): $152 ($55 allocated to subscription). Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): $250. Foreign postage extra: Mexico, Caribbean (surface mail) $55; other countries (air assist delivery) $90. First class, airmail, student, and emeritus rates on request. Canadian rates with GST available upon request, GST #1254 88122. Printed in the U.S.A.
Chondrule (850 μm in diameter) from the unmetamorphosed Chairun pumice meteorite, containing excess 26Al from decay of 26Al 4.6 billion years ago. Initial abundance of 26Al is one-fifth of that in Ca-Al inclusions, the oldest solids formed in the solar system, implying that chondrules formed—and the solar nebula lasted—for more than 2 million years. The chondrule includes glass (dark magenta), brightly colored olivine and dendritic pyroxene, and blocky spinel (light magenta). See page 757. [Transmitted polarized light (plus gypsum plate) photo: G. J. MacPherson]

**RESEARCH ARTICLE**

Evidence for Widespread 26Al in the Solar Nebula and Constraints for Nebula Time Scales 757
S. S. Russell, G. Srinivasan, G. R. Huss, G. J. Wasserburg, G. J. MacPherson

**REPORTS**


“Tubules-Within-a-Tubule” Hierarchical Order of Mesoporous Molecular Sieves in MCM-41 H.-P. Lin and C.-Y. Mou 765


Mongolian Tree Rings and 20th-Century Warming G. C. Jacoby, R. D. D’Arrigo, T. Davaajams 771


A Statistical Model of the Fluctuations in the Geomagnetic Field from Paleosecular Variation to Reversal P. Camps and M. Prévot 776

Absorption of Solar Energy in the Atmosphere: Discrepancy Between Model and Observations A. Arking 779


Visualization of Slow Axonal Transport in Vivo S. Terada, T. Nakata, A. C. Peterson, N. Hirokawa 784

Immunodeficiency in Protein Kinase CJ-Deficient Mice M. Leitges, C. Schmedt, R. Guinamard, J. Davoust, S. Schaaf, S. Stabel, A. Tarakhovsky 788

Activation of Pyk2 by Stress Signals and Coupling with JNK Signaling Pathway G. Tokiwa, I. Dikic, S. Lev, J. Schlessinger 792


Central Hypotensive Effects of the α2-Adrenergic Receptor Subtype L. B. MacMillan, L. Hein, M. S. Smith, M. T. Pascik, L. E. Limbird 801

Cardiovascular Regulation in Mice Lacking α2-Adrenergic Receptor Subtypes b and c R. E. Link, K. Desai, L. Hein, M. E. Stevens, A. Chruscinski, D. Bernstein, G. S. Barsh, B. K. Koblika 803

Organic Uncoupling of Linked Neurotransmitter Effects by Combinatorial Convergence V. Brezina, I. V. Orekhova, K. R. Weiss 806


Genome Sequence of a Human Tumorigenic Poxvirus: Prediction of Specific Host Response-Evasion Genes T. G. Senkevich, J. J. Bugert, J. R. Sisler, E. V. Koonin, G. Darai, B. Moss 813

**On the Web**

Editor's Summary

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