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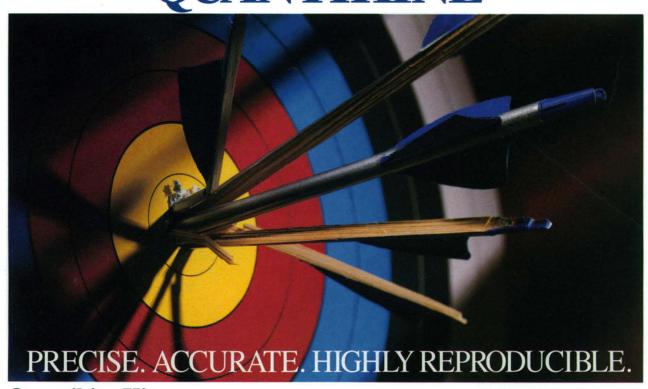
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Washington focuses on technology

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M. Musgrove and J. L. Banner

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1823

COVER

Transparent surface models of the helical nucleoprotein filaments formed by the yeast RAD51 protein (top) and the bacterial RecA protein (bottom). Within RAD51 filaments, DNA (red) is extended and untwisted in a manner similar to its extension and untwisted.

ing in RecA filaments. The homology of these filaments suggests that the structures for recombination in eukaryotes are similar to those in prokaryotes. See page 1896. [Computer graphic: Edward H. Egelman]



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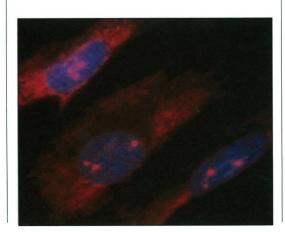
1915

G. LeMasson, E. Marder, L. F. Abbott

An Essential Heparin-Binding
Domain in the Fibroblast Growth
Factor Receptor Kinase

M. Kan, F. Wang, J. Xu, J. W. Crabb, J. Hou, W. L. McKeehan





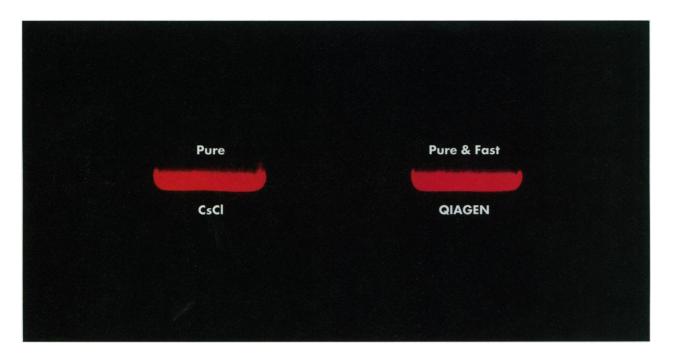
1904
Expression of YAC DNA transmitted through the germ line to generate transgenic mice

Indicates accompanying feature

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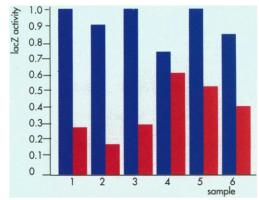
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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

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edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Hot galaxies

Elliptical galaxies are elliptical not because they are rotating, but because the stars in them have distinctly anisotropic velocity distributions. As stellar systems, they are "hot," their shapes maintained against their own gravity by random motions characterized by three different velocity dispersions along their principal axes. Merritt (p. 1867) explains how N-body simulations have been used to calculate stellar orbits in a triaxial gravitational potential and show how those orbits can be populated so as to produce a mass distribution that leads to the presumed potential. Observational studies allied with these models have allowed astronomers to test for the presence of dark matter and massive black holes in elliptical galaxies.

Free-standing

buckyfilms

Solid fullerenes are held together by van der Waals forces. Eom et al. (p. 1887) have found that these forces, usually considered among the weaker interactions, are strong enough to create free-standing films of fullerene molecules. The films were fabricated by micromachining a silicon wafer after thermal deposition of a C_{60} layer. The layer was uniformly etched down to 2000 angstroms in a CF₄ plasma. Measurements of the mechanical properties of the films suggest possible applications, including sensors and filters.

Tracing water in Mars

The amount of water originally contained in Mars and its degassing history are uncertain. McSween and Harvey (p. 1890) searched for clues of the amount

Tracing ground water in the crust

Three ground-water systems of different ages and origins mix on a regional scale in the midcontinental United States. Musgrove and Banner (p. 1877) use chemical analyses to trace the origins of the waters and to characterize the mixing. Interestingly, two of the fluids are saline but acquired their salinity in distinct ways. Ground water originating in the Colorado Front Range and flowing to eastern Kansas becomes saline by mixing with brines leaching from halite-bearing rocks above the primary aquifers. Near northern Oklahoma, these waters mix with brines that may have originated from trapped Paleozoic seawater. Finally, these waters mix with dilute meteoric waters flowing west from the Ozark Dome in southern Missouri.

of water in Mars' interior in the only direct samples of Martian rocks available—the so-called SNC meteorites, which are believed to be igneous rocks crystallized from a Martian magma and then ejected into space by a large asteroid impact. Analysis of melt inclusions frozen in crystals suggest that the water content of progenitor magmas was about 1.4 percent by weight. Degassing of this amount from all of the igneous rocks observed on Mars could yield a global ocean about 200 meters deep, which yields a volume that is still somewhat less than that required to account for the large flood structures on Mars.

靈

RecA relatives

In the presence of adenosine triphosphate, RecA polymerizes on DNA in prokaryotes to form a helical nucleoprotein filament in which doublestranded DNA is stretched and unwound. Within the filament, RecA catalyzes recognition, pairing, and strand-exchange between two homologous DNA molecules. Ogawa et al. (p. 1896) show that a yeast protein, RAD51, which has 30 percent sequence homology with RecA, can polymerize on DNA and form nucleoprotein filaments like those formed by RecA. The similarity of these types of filaments suggests that RAD51 may function like RecA. Story et al. (p. 1892) discuss the structural similarity of recombination proteins from yeast and bacteriophage to RecA.

Getting large genes into stem cells

Introducing large segments of DNA into the germ line cells of mice can be useful for functional studies of large genes and for identifying genes within the segment through their ability to complement lost genetic functions in mutant strains. Strauss et al. (p. 1904) used yeast artificial chromosomes to introduce a purified 150-kilobase DNA segment comprising the gene for α_1 (I) collagen into the germ line of a mouse. Modifications of existing technology resulted in significantly higher transfection efficiencies for transfer of lipid-bound DNA into embryonic stem (ES) cells. These cells were introduced into hostmouse blastocytes to generate founder chimeras for transgenic mouse strains. Fluorescence in situ hybridization and ribonuclease protection analysis confirmed that the intact transgene was present at one chromosomal location in each ES clone and was expressed at levels similar to that of the endogenous collagen gene.

20

Neuron model

Neurons manage to produce stable electrical signals despite changes in cell shape, replacement of ion channels, and extracellular conditions. LeMasson et al. (p. 1915) have developed a mathematical model for neuronal conductances in which the activity of the cell, as represented by the concentration of intracellular calcium, helps control the maximum conductances of ion currents. For example, a perturbation in extracellular potassium concentration, which induces continuous firing of potassium channels, increases intracellular calcium and restores burst firing of the channels by slowly decreasing inward currents and increasing outward currents. Such pro-cesses can also allow the neuron to maintain its pattern of electrical activity within a network. The model also allows the neuron to change its state in response to presynaptic stimulation.

Autoregulated factors

The transcription factor NF-κB is involved in gene activation in the immune, acute phase, and inflammatory responses. NF-κB is maintained in the cytoplasm in an inactive form when coupled to an inhibitory protein, IκB. When T cells are activated by stimuli such as mitogens, NF-κB is released from IκB and is translocated to the nucleus. Sun et al. (p. 1912) have identified an autoregulatory pathway in which NF-κB controls the expression of the IκB gene.

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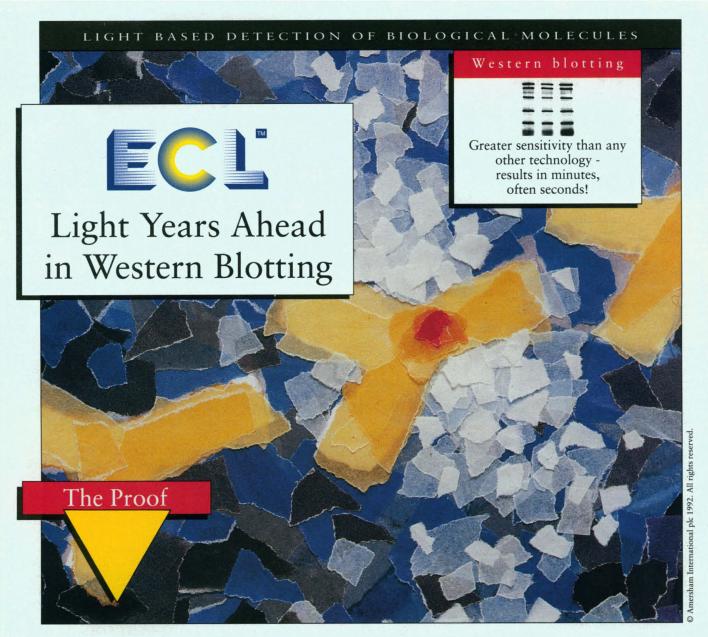
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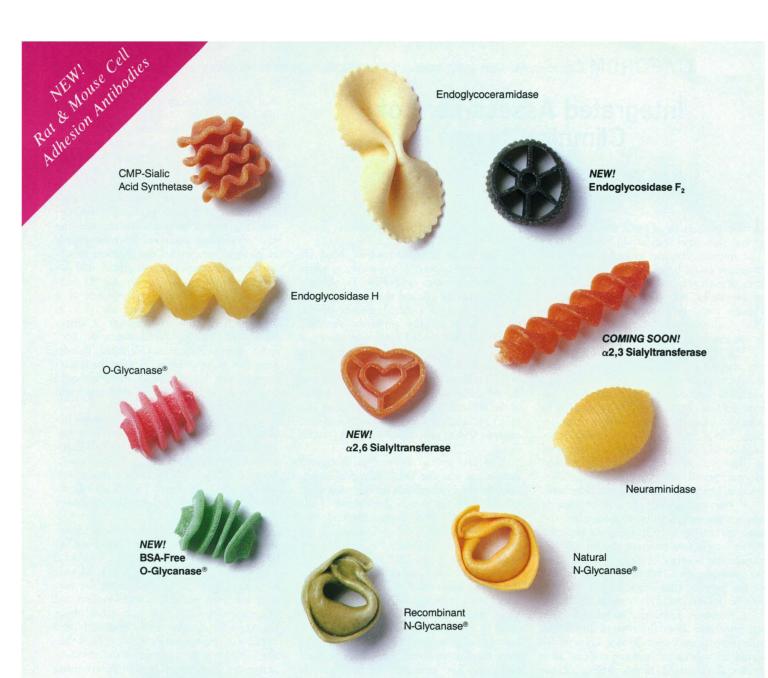
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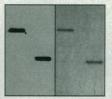
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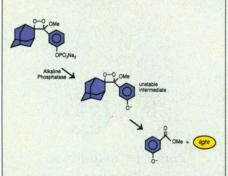
Comparison of slot blot hybridizations using Genius-labeled oligonucleotide probe (left panel, 60 minute film exposure) and ³²P-labeled probe (right panel, overnight film exposure)

Performance is guaranteed as the Genius System products are function tested in dot blot (also referred to as slot blot) assays.

The unique digoxigenin-labeled probes are stable for at least one year and can be reused multiple times, offering savings in terms of the time and money normally spent relabeling decayed radioactive probes. By using the same probe, experimental variables are reduced and reproducibility between experiments is provided.

New information identifies ideal techniques for nonradioactive labeling and detection.

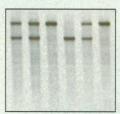
Those products, part of the Genius[™] System with Lumi-Phos[™] 530 from Boehringer Mannheim, guarantee detection of 0.1 pg of target nucleic acid in less than one hour. In addition, they allow detection of single-copy genes in human DNA in less than 30 minutes when used in Southern blotting techniques.



Molecular structure of the active ingredient in Lumi-Phos 530

The Genius products rely on the very same procedures already used for radioactive labeling, yet provide results not just hours earlier, but days earlier.

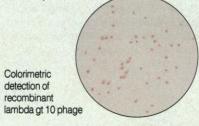
Results can be recorded on X-ray film and, because the chemiluminescence lasts more than 48 hours, multiple exposures are possible. Those films can be easily scanned and quantified by densitometry. multiple times without relabeling.
Furthermore, Southern blots
developed with the Genius System
can be repeatedly stripped and
reprobed using the same procedures
as the older radioactive method.



Human genomic Southern blot (RFLP) showing chemiluminescent detection of single-copy genes following a 2.5 minute X-ray film exposure

Library screening: positive colonies visible in one hour

Using probes labeled with the Genius System, researchers are detecting positive colonies and plaques within one hour versus the overnight exposures required with radioactive techniques.



Because the Genius System can use DNA, RNA or oligonucleotide probes, many research needs can be met with a single system. Probe labeling utilizes the same techniques currently

0.1 pg DNA Guaranteed

Technique-specific information and bibliography available upon request

To receive additional information about the Genius System products, their applications and specifications, or to receive a bibliography of publication references, call Boehringer Mannheim at 800-428-5433.

If you would like to speak directly with a specialist about your individual research needs, call **800-262-4911**.



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Functional Features

of the Forma 3250 Cell Culture Incubator



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Chamber design provides optimum culturing environment. Ultra-flat electropolished shelves are square for convenience and perforated for uniform air movement. A stainless steel humidity pan is provided standard to prevent desiccation and facilitate cleaning. Unit interior is comprised of three components which are easily removable without the use of tools.



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A crevice-free, stainless steel interior with mirrored finish features 100 percent 1/2" radius coved corners. No harsh finish to harbor contaminants. Construction of the chamber promotes aseptic culturing conditions.



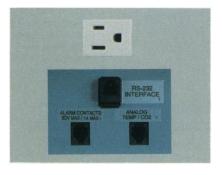
Precision Control

A door-mounted control panel features a microcomputer with vacuum fluorescent alpha/numeric display. Programming is easy with the touch key pad. Self-prompting messages allow you to control and monitor the critical performance parameters of the incubator. Proportional and integral (PI) algorithms combine with fuzzy logic characteristics to provide a stable culturing environment. A patented interactive dual temperature probe system provides precise balance of chamber air for ultimate temperature control and uniformity.



Functional Design

The 3250 water jacketed incubator gives you the flexibility to address any lab space requirements. Set on a countertop or stack them for maximum utilization of space. The incubator door swing can be reversed to accommodate lab layout or for side-by-side operation.



Interface Protection

Remote monitoring of temperature and CO₂ can be achieved through remote alarm contacts, millivolt output signal and optional RS232 interface. Standard electrical outlet is provided for connection to accessory items, such as temperature recorder, gas guard, etc.





Product Compliance

U.L. Listed and C.S.A. Certified, every 3250 incubator is manufactured to conform with the intense guidelines of these testing facilities. Copies of U.L. and C.S.A. documentation are available from Forma for compliance verification.



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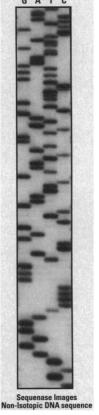
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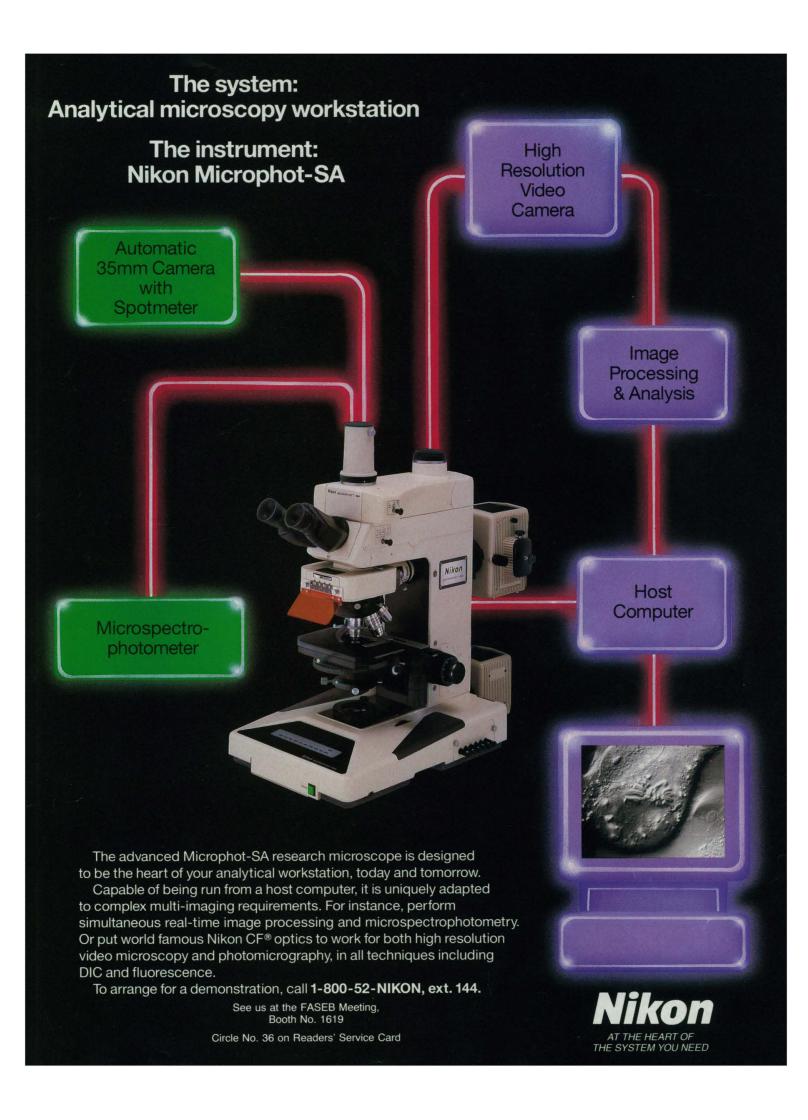


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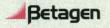
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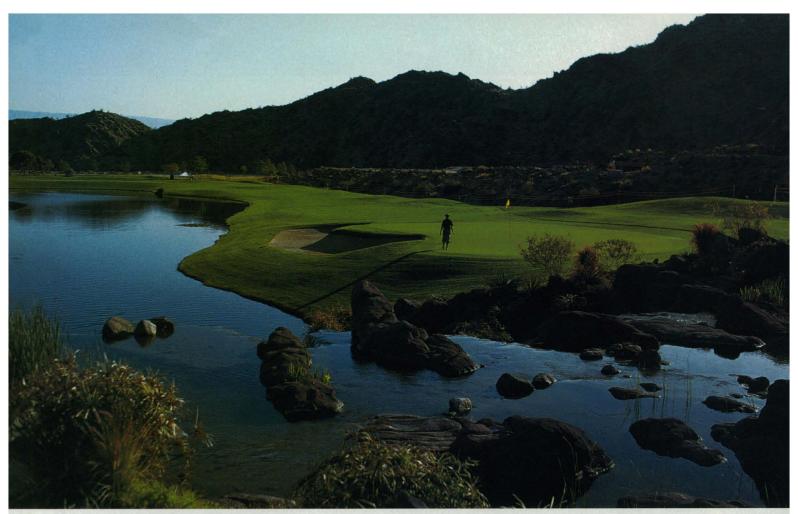




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2. Organics in another facility's water system kept mammalian cells from growing in defined medium.

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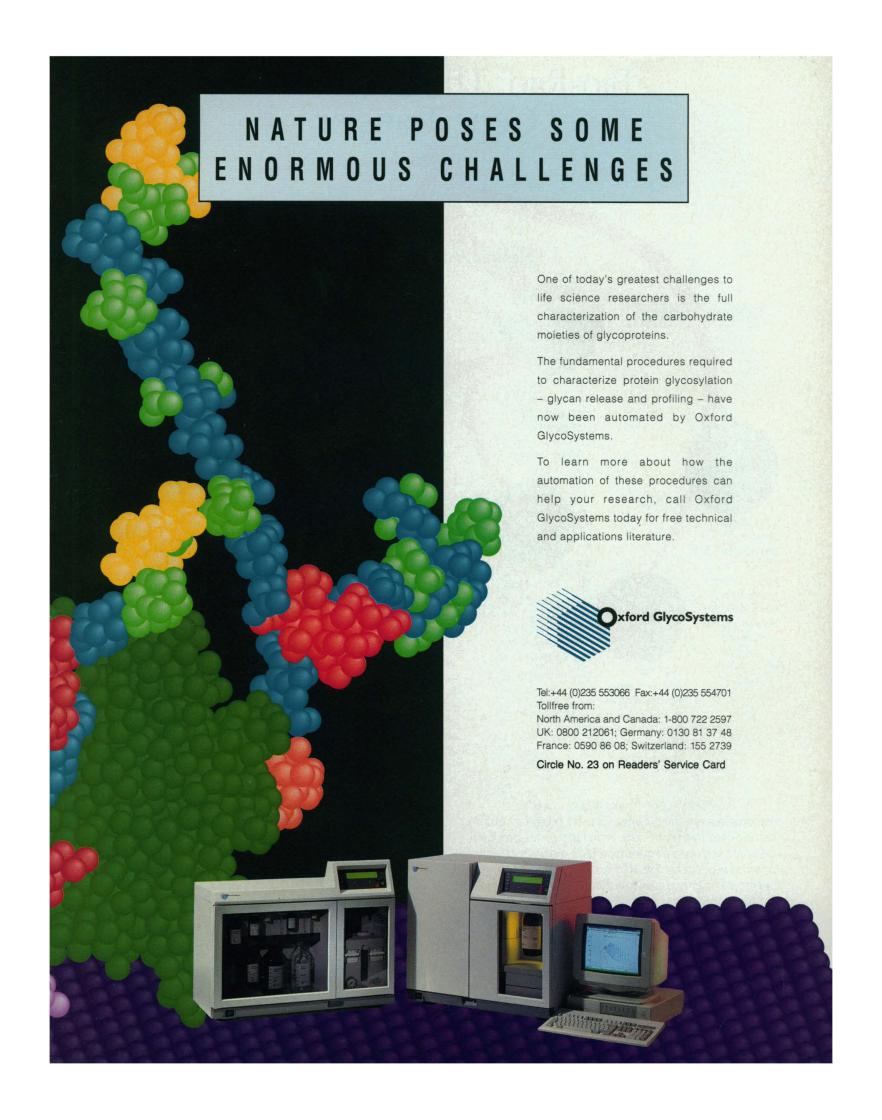
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* Tang, D., DeVit, M. and Johnston, S.A., Nature, 356, 152-154 (1992). Biolistic is a registered trademark of the DuPont Company.



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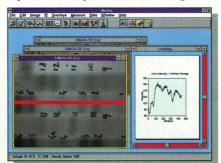
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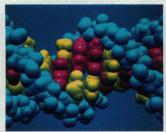
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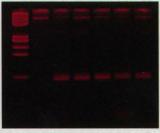
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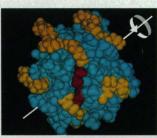
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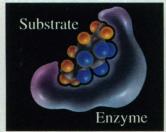
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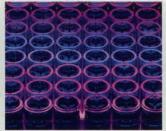
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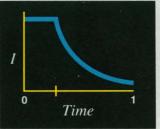
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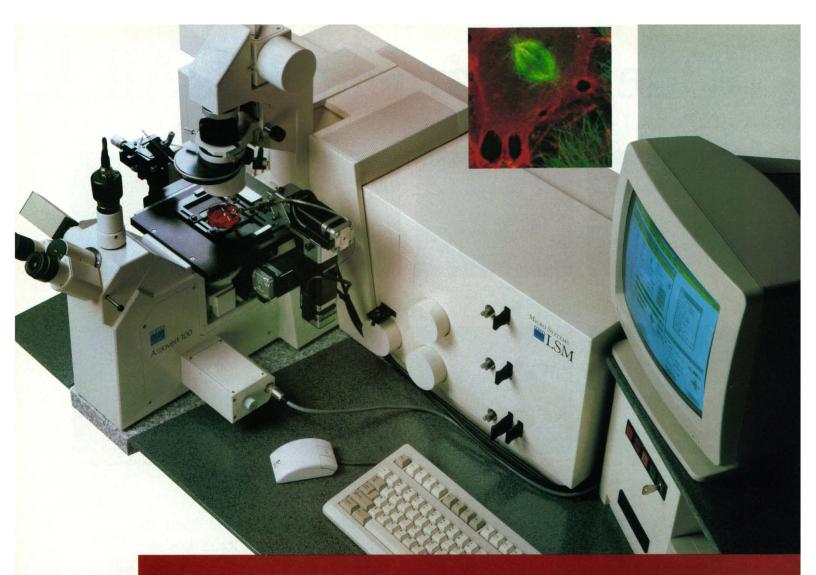
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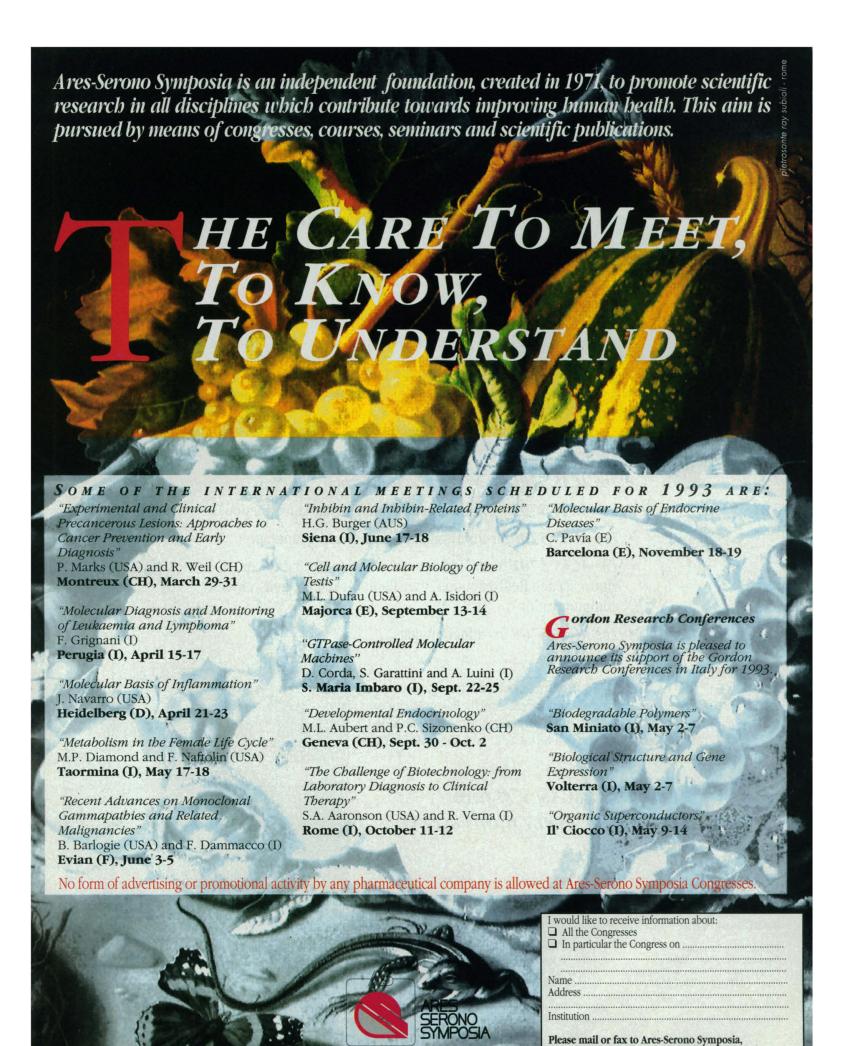
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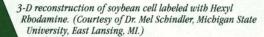


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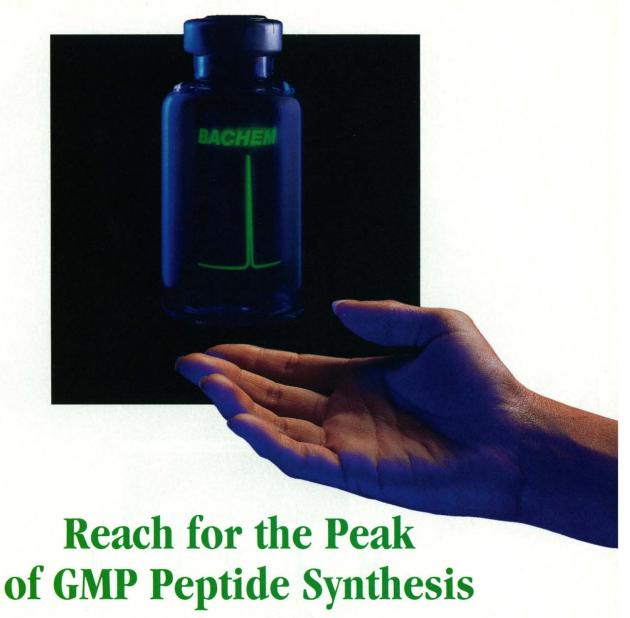


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*Hypothetical pricing based on current FBS market prices only. Not to be interpreted as actual price.

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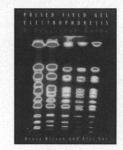


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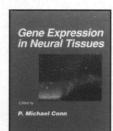
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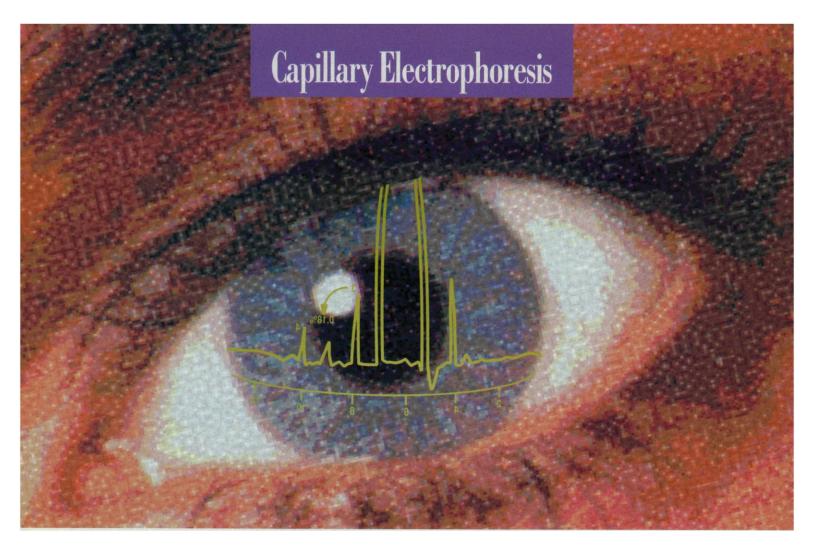


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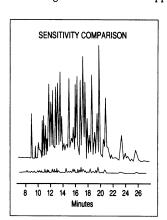
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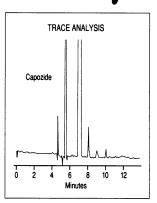
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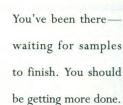
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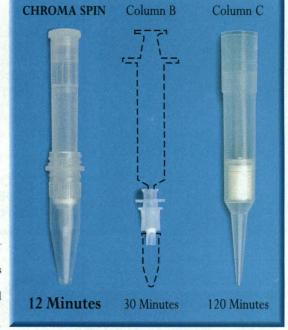


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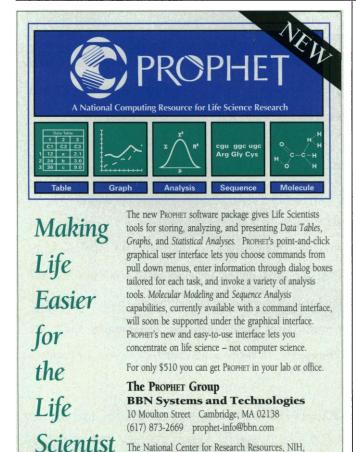
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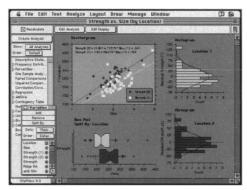
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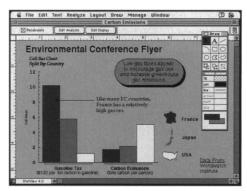
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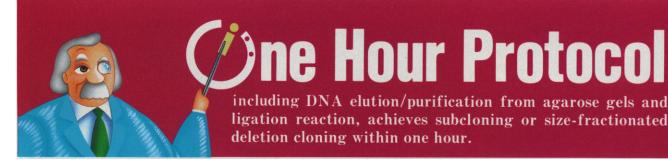




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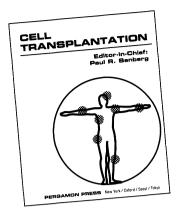
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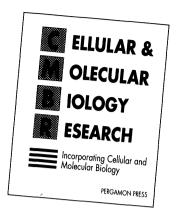
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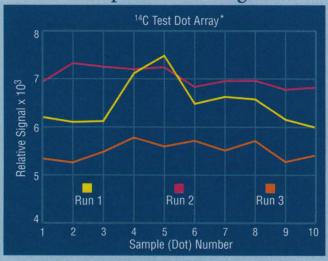
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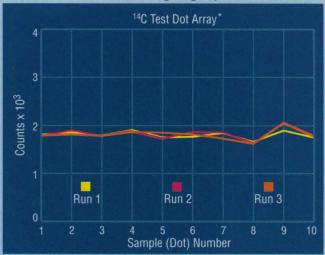
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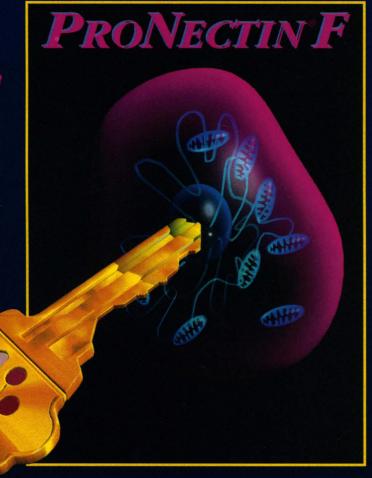
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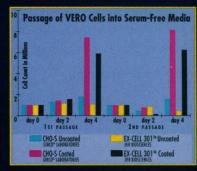
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