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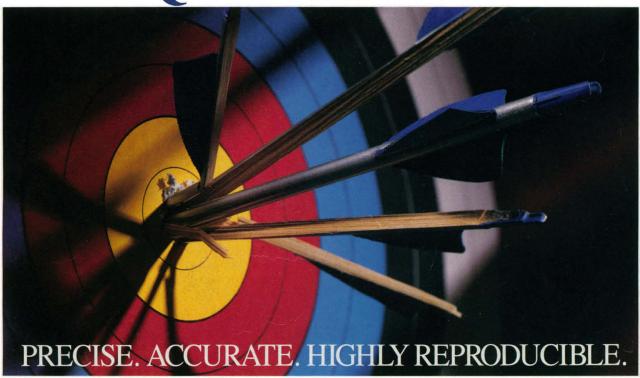


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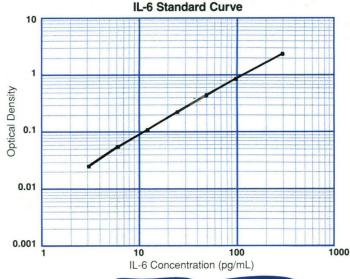
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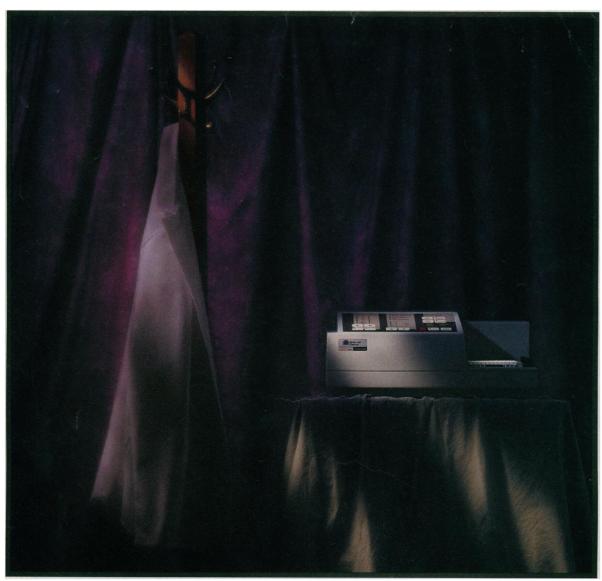


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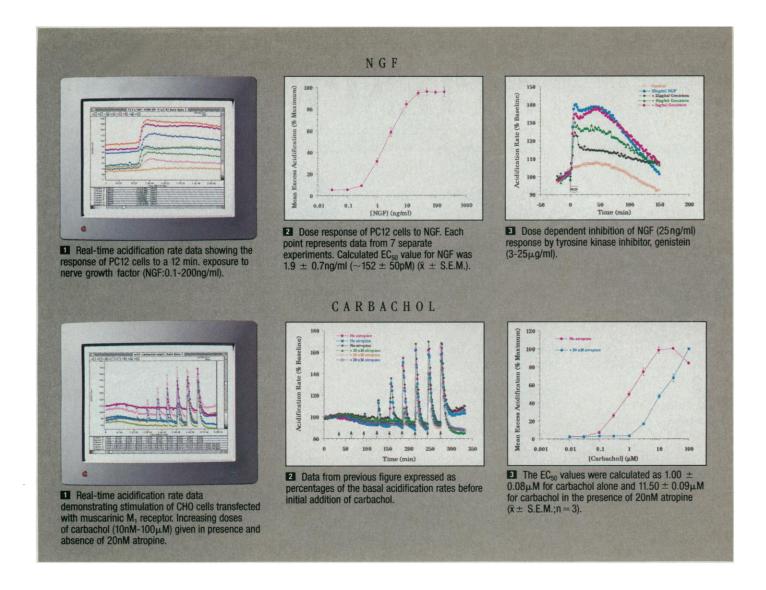
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COVER

All of science is driven by unanswered questions, but in AIDS research 10 years after the discovery of the AIDS virus, there are many more questions than answers. In a special section beginning on page 1253, Science offers several different views of the most important questions in the field, from a survey of 150 AIDS investigators to provocative views from leading researchers. The only remaining question is: When will there be answers?



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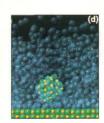
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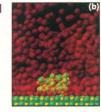
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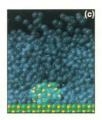




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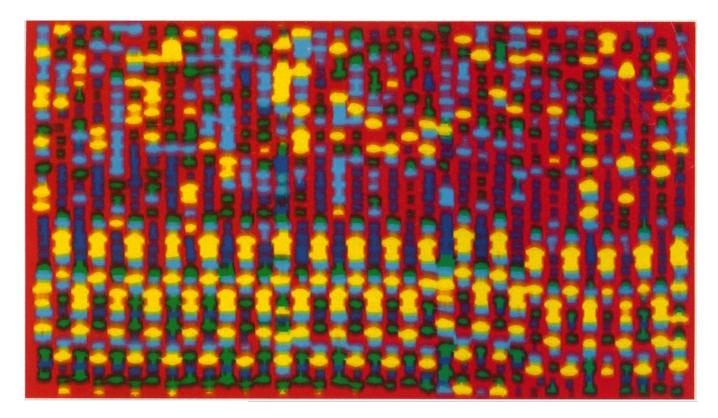


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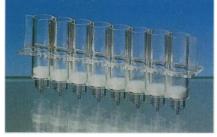
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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Soft landings

One approach to growing materials is to consolidate nanoclusters after they are deposited onto a surface. Cheng and Landman (p. 1304) have performed numerical simulations of the dynamics of sodium chloride clusters during impact with adsorbed noble gas liquid films. For a liquid neon film, the cluster transfers energy efficiently to the cushion layer, leading to a controlled soft landing. For impacts on a higher density film of liquid argon, the cluster slows abruptly and is rapidly heated, with subsequent melting and fast cooling by argon evaporation. Such impact-processed clusters might be useful for the controlled growth of nanophase materials.

Polysaccharide synthesis

Chemical synthesis of peptides and oligonucleotides usually takes advantage of anchoring the polymer to a solid-phase support so that reactions take place at only one end of the chain. Danishefsky et al. (p. 1307) have developed solid-phase methods for oligosaccharide synthesis, which is complicated by the formation of stereospecific bonds at one to five hydroxyl sites. They eliminate several problems by using glycals to direct the chemistry. The glycal is epoxidized and can then glycosylate another glycal at the appropriate hydroxyl group. Failed couplings inactivate the double bond, so interior deletions are avoided.

New iron phase

Earth's liquid outer core and solid inner core are composed primarily of iron. Knowledge of

Polycrystalline films approach natural diamond

For electronic applications under extreme conditions, diamond offers numerous advantages, but single-crystal diamond films are expensive. Plano *et al.* (p. 1310) describe how chemical vapor deposition can be used to generate lower cost polycrystalline diamond films that overcome their main limitation as a semiconductor material, namely, their low carrier mobilities. Optimization of plasma deposition conditions have allowed high growth temperatures to be used and have increased grain size and decreased impurities. The carrier mobilities and lifetimes approach that of the highest quality single crystals of natural diamond.

the phase diagram of iron at high pressures and temperatures is key to understanding the composition and formation of the core. Saxena et al. (p. 1312) present experimental evidence for the existence of a previously unknown iron phase, which they call the β phase. Its structure is unknown, but it is stable at higher temperatures than the ϵ phase (hexagonal closepacked), which was generally thought to form the solid core.

Tumor suppressor identified

Von Hippel–Lindau (VHL) disease is a dominantly inherited syndrome that predisposes individuals to multiple cancers, including renal cell carcinomas. Previous work has shown that the VHL gene behaves as a tumor suppressor and maps to chromosome 3p25-p26. Latif et al. (p. 1317; see news story by Travis, p. 1233) have now identified the causative gene by characterizing deletions in VHL families that showed coincident transmission with the disease. The VHL gene, which also appears to be disrupted in some sporadic renal cell carcinomas, is evolutionarily conserved, and encodes an acidic repeat domain found in a trypanosome surface membrane protein.

Avoiding detection

Viruses are mainly detected by the immune system through major histocompatibility complex (MHC) class I antigens, which bind to viral peptides. Many viruses reduce MHC class I expression after infection, but Howcroft et al. (p. 1320) show that HIV-1 dramatically decreases expression by repressing class I promoter activity. Surprisingly, deletion constructs mapped this repressive effect to a transcriptional activator, the Tat protein. Cotransfection experiments showed that the spliced, or two-exon Tat protein, effects this repression but that the one-exon Tat protein has only a minor effect.

Runaway recombination

Defects in genetic recombination are thought to underlie ataxia-telangiectasia (A-T), an autosomal recessive disease characterized by neurological degeneration, immune dysfunction, and a high risk for cancer. Meyn (p. 1327) studied the rate of recombination in normal and A-T human fibroblasts. Although recombination rates were similar for both cell types for rearrangements between chromosomes, intrachromosomal recombination rates were 30 to 200 times higher for the

A-T cells. One possible cause for this increase could be defects in damage-sensitive checkpoints in the cell cycle that would allow DNA replication to finish before repair processes are completed.

Free at last

The lymphoid-specific transcription factor Elf-1 participates in the regulation of inducible gene expression during T cell activation, even though Elf-1 is present in similar quantities in both resting and activated T cells. Wang et al. (p. 1330) find that the Elf-1 protein may be sequestered or inactivated in resting T cells by interacting with unphosphorylated retinoblastoma protein (Rb). Upon T cell activation, Rb is phosphorylated and Elf-1 dissociates.

Getting the signal

The molecules that couple hormone and growth factor receptors on the cell surface to activation of the guanine nucleotide binding protein Ras are proving to be remarkably similar in all eukaryotes. Chardin et al. (p. 1338) have cloned the human homolog of the son of sevenless protein (hSos), a putative guanine nucleotide releasing factor (GRF) for Ras, from Drosophila. They found that hSos enhanced guanine nucleotide exchange by Ras and thus appears to function as an activator of Ras. The hSos protein could substitute for the Ras-GRF CDC25 in yeast and can bind to GRB2, a so-called adaptor protein that also binds to activated growth factor receptors. All of the molecular components required to transmit an extracellular signal to Ras have now been identified.



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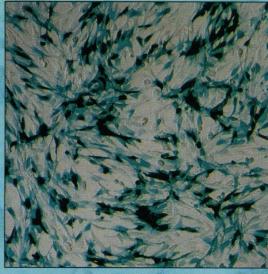
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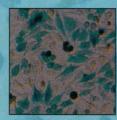


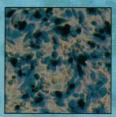
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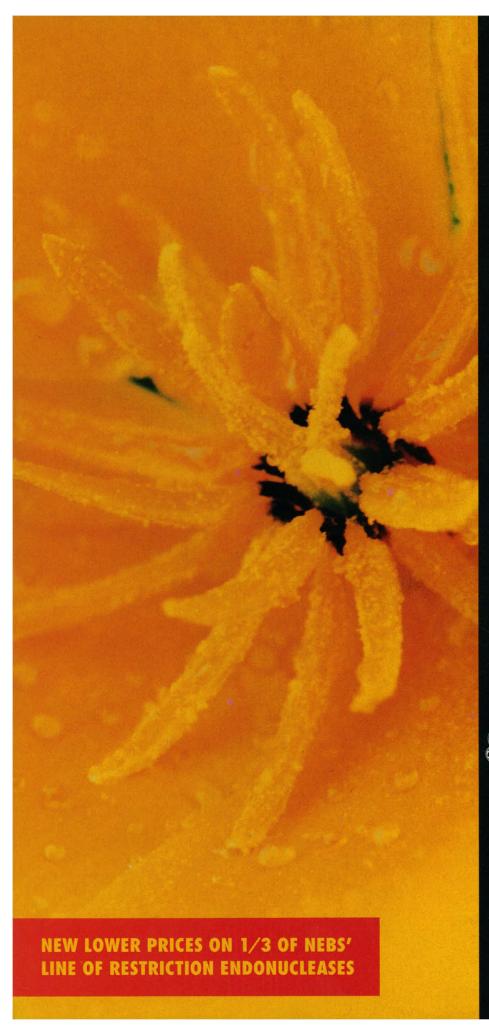
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1. Hawley-Nelson, P., Ciccarone, V., Gebeyehu, G., Jessee, J. and Felgner, P., (1993) Focus 15, in press. LIPOFECTAMINE™, LIPOFECTIN®, TECH-LINESM, and the Satisfaction Guarantee logo are marks of Life Technologies, In



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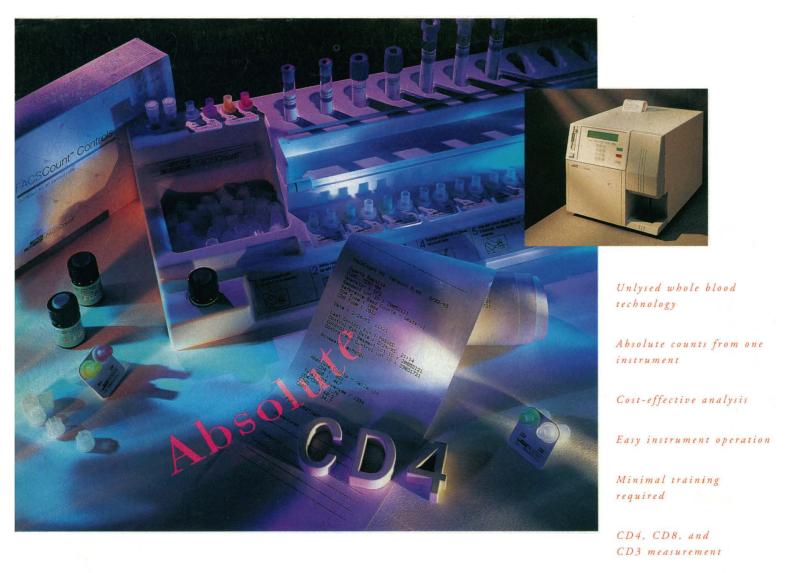


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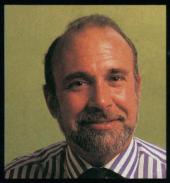
Nikon asked inverted microscope users to make a wish list.

"Our microscope is used by a number of people. I wish the height of the eyepiece tube could be adjusted for each of us."

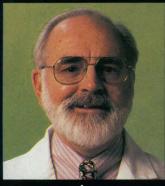
"With all the new fluorochromes available, I wish there was a quick-change multiple filter block system." "High resolution DIC has become so much more important, I wish there was an easily set-up high N.A. DIC condenser." "To accommodate extra-large chambers and micromanipulators, I wish there was more working distance above the stage."

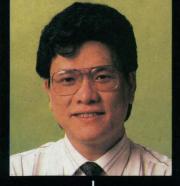








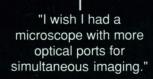








"I just wish someone would design an inverted microscope with patch clamping, low-light fluorescence, IVF, confocal microscopy and other advanced applications in mind from the very start."



"I'm at my microscope for hours at a time. I wish the controls were further forward so I could work more comfortably."

"For really critical specimen handling, my wish would be for a very low, very large, super stable stage."

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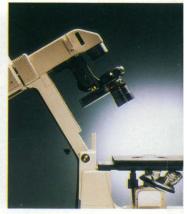
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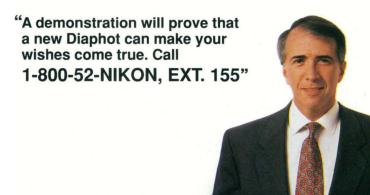
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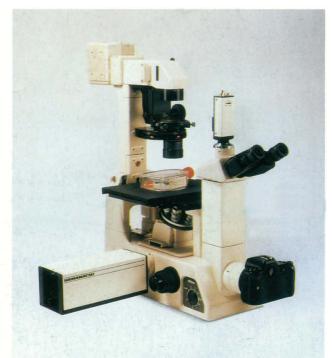


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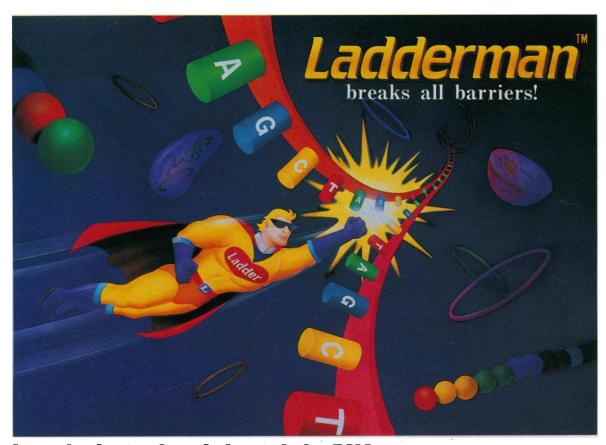


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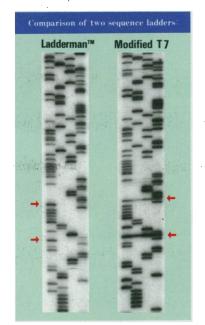


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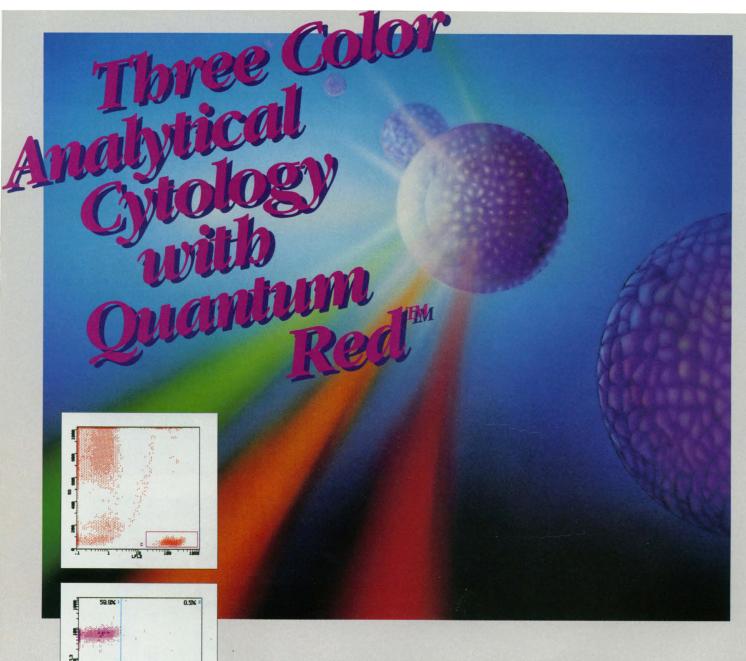
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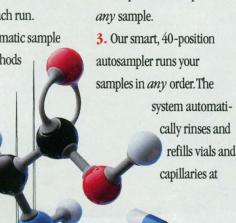
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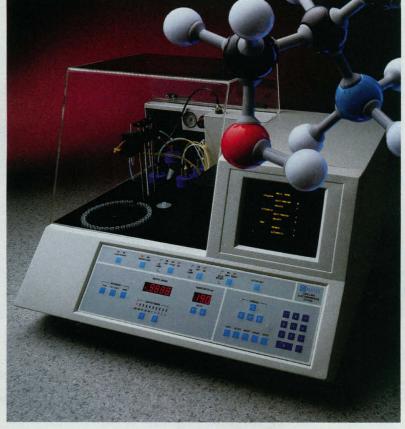
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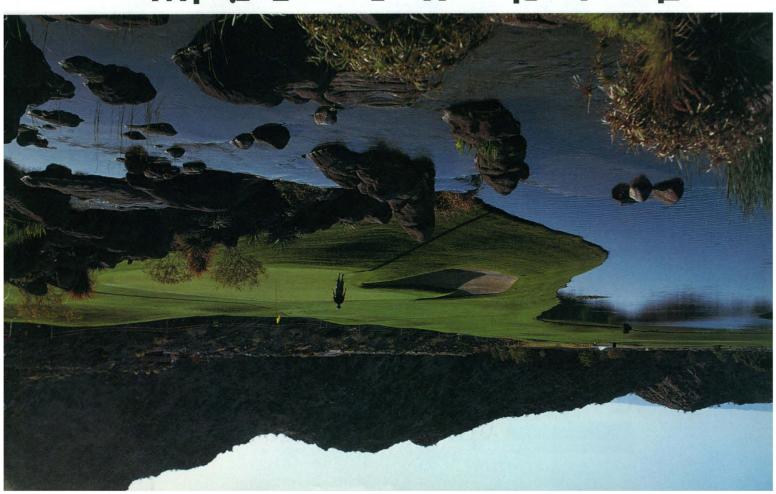
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research work. cau cost you months of

instead of one that conremoves contamination purification system that tor you to have a water That's why it's critical

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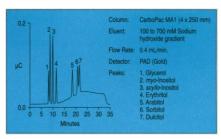
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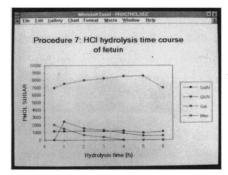
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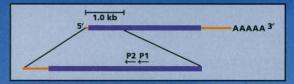


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THE UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

f ever there were a pivotal year for AIDS research, 1993 could well be that year. It is precisely a decade since Luc Montagnier of the Pasteur Institute published the first report on the virus that is now known to cause AIDS, yet despite the high-powered arsenal of contemporary biology, there is nothing on the horizon remotely resembling a cure for AIDS. Nor is there anything like a workable vaccine.

In fact, as this special section on AIDS suggests, the more rapidly knowledge of the disease accumulates, the faster assumptions that seemed solid a year ago begin to crumble. And as solid ground disappears, scientific questions proliferate almost as rapidly as HIV itself. There are thousands of them—in vaccine work, drug research, pathogenesis studies, epidemiology, public health, and molecular biology.

To cut through that thicket of questions and focus on only the most important among them, *Science* has assembled a package combining news coverage with scientific papers. From the news team comes an overview of the crucial issues facing AIDS researchers as they were spelled out by 74 of the field's leaders in response to a survey devised by *Science*'s AIDS reporter Jon Cohen.

Offering greater depth on specific topics are six papers solicited by *Science* senior editor Barbara Jasny. In addition, the news team has previewed some of the most intriguing sessions that will be taking place at this year's International AIDS Conference in Berlin. We've also profiled four European AIDS researchers who our survey respondents told us were top contributors.

All told, we think this package offers the state of what is still very much an art: finding a way to stop HIV.

-John Benditt, Features Editor

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Barbara Jasny

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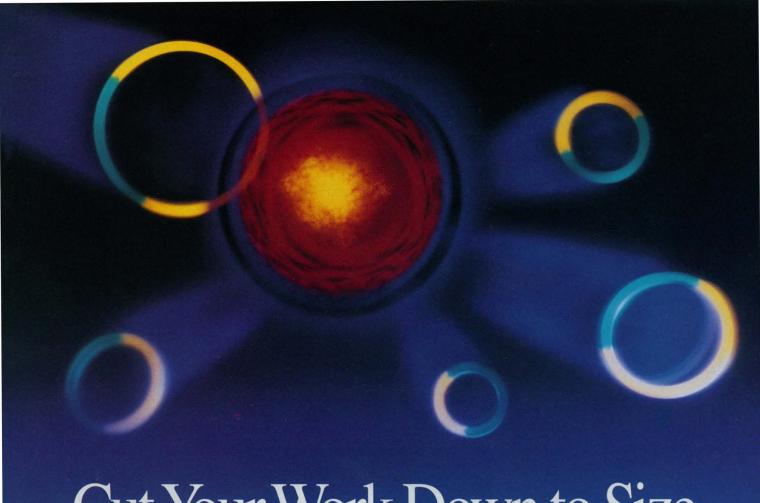
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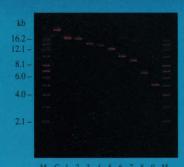
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1. Wang, G., Berg, C.M., Chen, J., Young, A.C., Blakesley, R.W., Lee, L.Y., and Berg, D.E. Focus* 15, 47,

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$$E = 0.76 - \frac{0.059}{2} \log_{10} \frac{(1)(1)}{(10^{-3})^{2}}$$

$$\chi_{i} = kP_{i}$$

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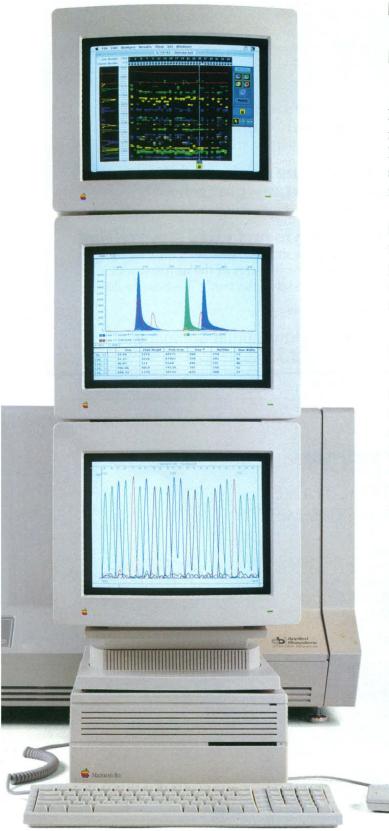
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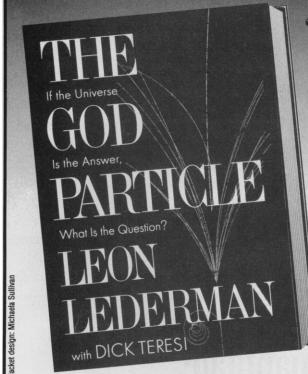
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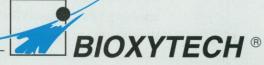
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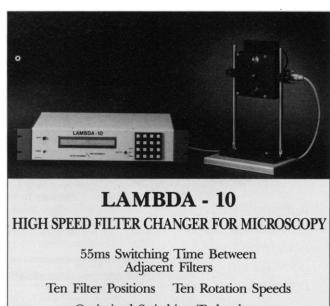
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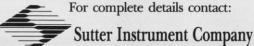


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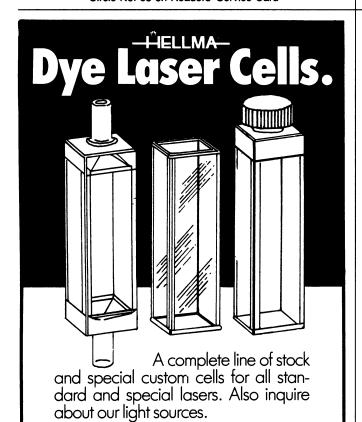
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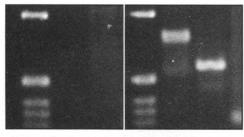
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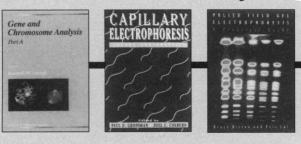
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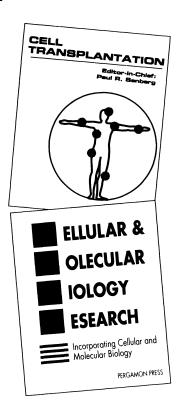
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