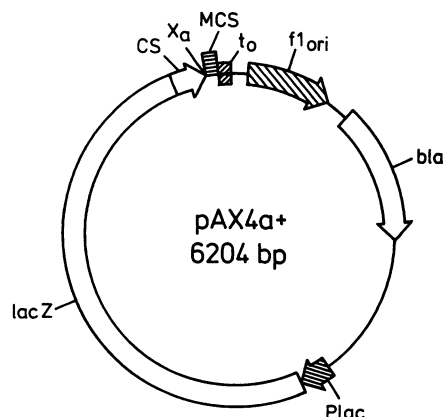


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nents of directed mutation will read our article with an open mind and not fall back on the unhelpful charge that those who disagree with their conclusions must be blindly committed to defending orthodoxy.

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Editor's note: Additional comments on the article by Lenski and Mittler will appear in a forthcoming issue.

Liver Stem Cells

It is gratifying to discover that a concept that one has been espousing for a number of years (1) has finally received widespread acceptance (John Travis, *Research News*, 26 Mar., p. 1829). My collaborators and I began working on models of experimental chemical hepatocarcinogenesis in the early 1970s. Although I had learned the experimental systems at the University of Pittsburgh from Emmanuel Farber, our observations of the cellular changes in the liver preceding the appearance of cancers led us to a conclusion different from Farber's—that liver cancers arise from liver stem cells.

At first, this idea met with considerable skepticism, but by the mid-1980s others began to report similar results and gradually the concept of a liver stem cell gained respectability. It is fulfilling to find so many others who are taking the idea of a liver stem cell seriously.

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