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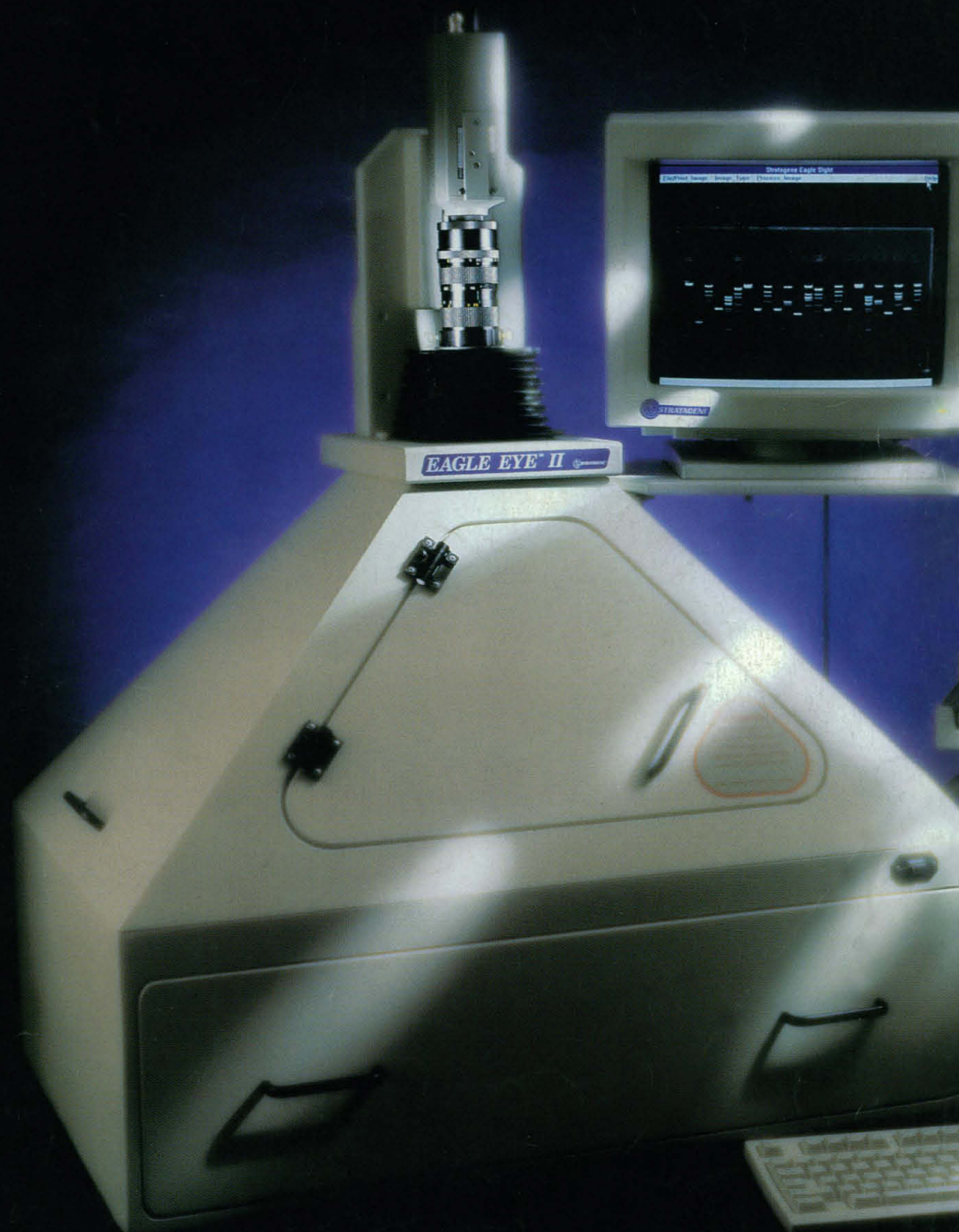
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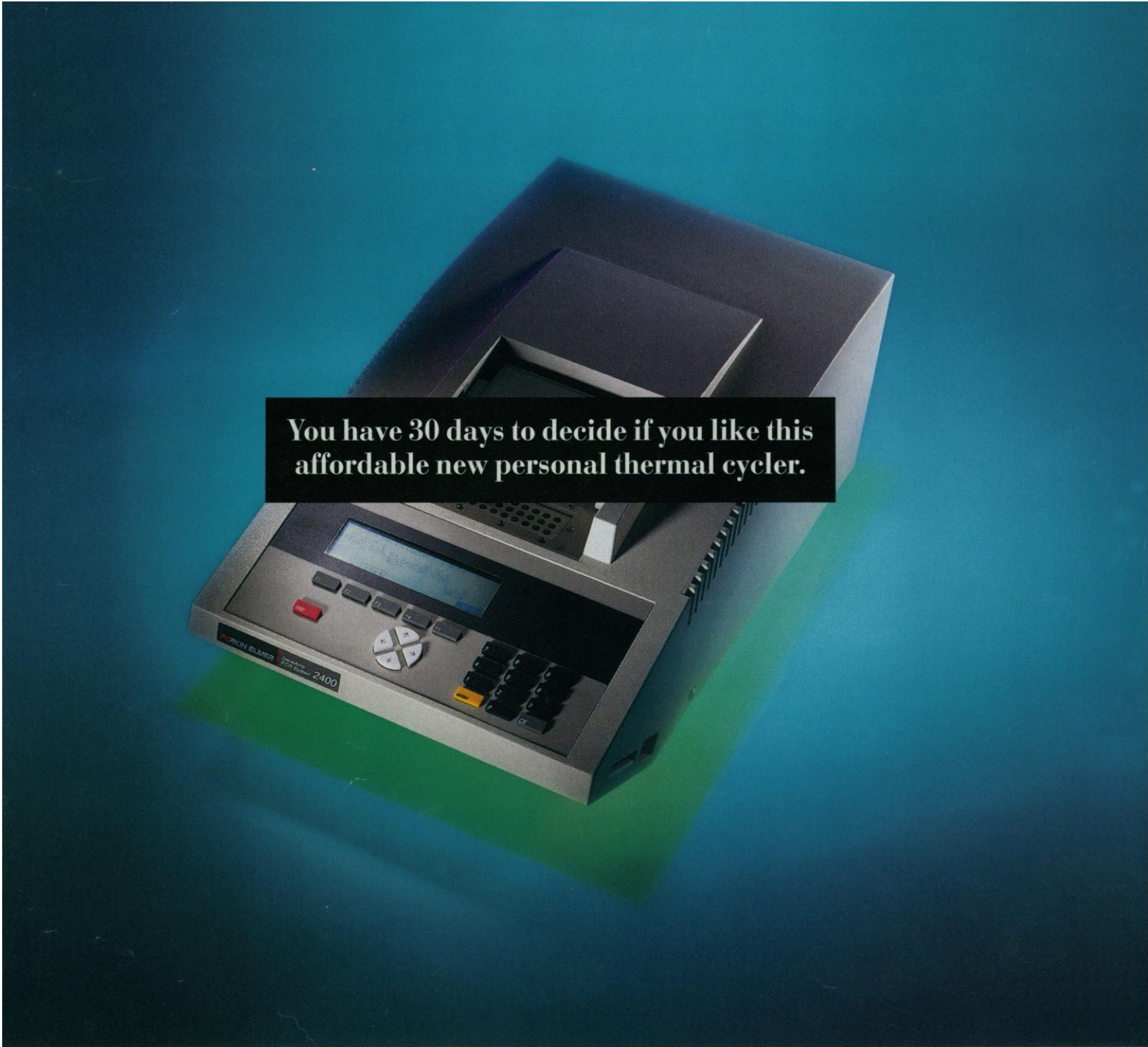
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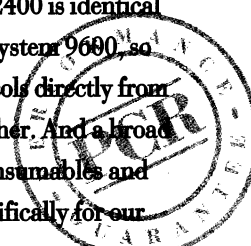
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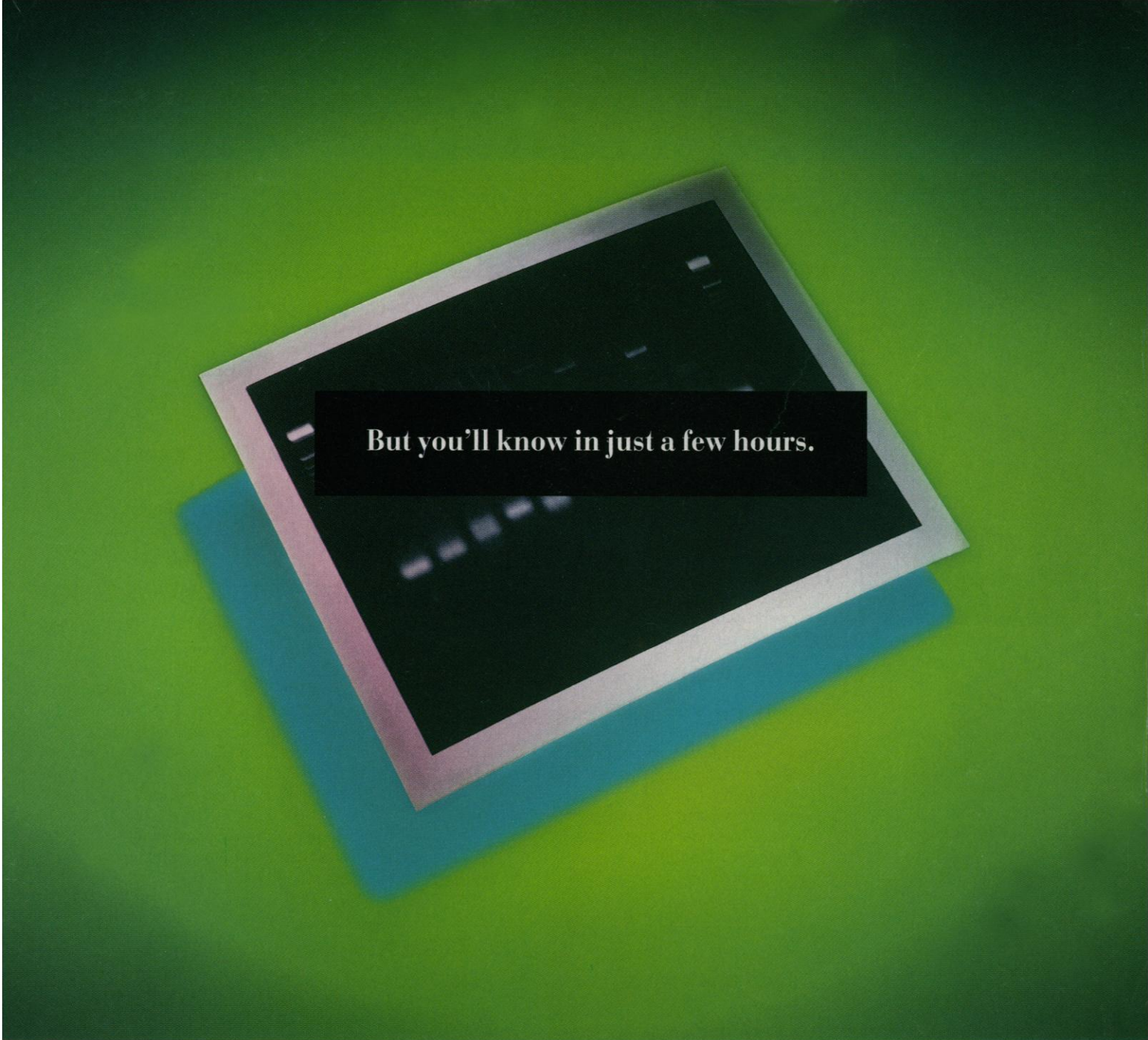
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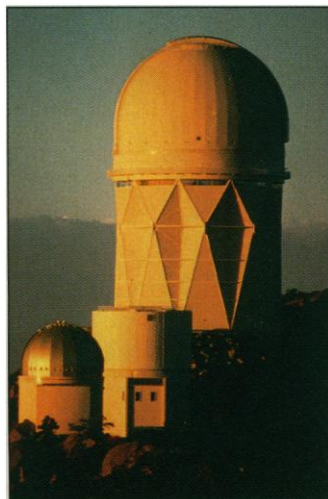
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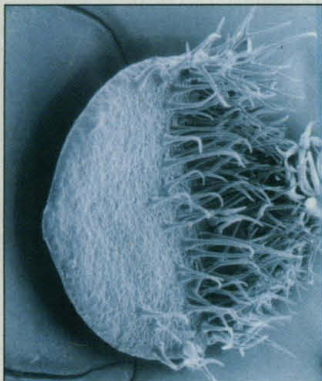
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REPORTS

Unity in Diversity is the theme for the 1995 AAAS Annual Meeting and Science Innovation Exposition in Atlanta from 16 to 21 February. For the first time, the interdisciplinary traditions of the annual meeting will be blended with the biomedical research focus of the Science Innovation meeting. Researchers from every





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Northridge assessment

The Northridge, CA, earthquake of 17 January 1994 was the most costly to hit the United States since the great San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and re-emphasized the hazards posed by buried thrust faults to the Los Angeles area. Scientists of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Southern California Earthquake Center (p. 389) overview the earthquake and resulting damage. One surprising cause of damage was the failure of welds in steel-frame buildings.

Ends game

The ends of linear chromosomes (telomeres) of eukaryotes require multiple repeats of simple sequences for stability. Because of the nature of the DNA replication machinery, one strand of the telomeric DNA is synthesized by a distinct ribonucleoprotein enzyme called telomerase. To date, most of the work on telomerase has occurred in ciliates. Singer and Gottschling (p. 404) isolated and characterized a telomerase component from the yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*. They used a genetic screen to look for genes that when overexpressed would relieve the inhibition of transcription of genes located near the telomeres. The gene they isolated, *TLC1*, encodes the template RNA for telomerase.

No longer pristine

Phytoplankton assemblages in several arctic ponds on Ellesmere Island, Canada, that have been relatively stable for several millennia have apparently changed suddenly and dramatically, as documented by Douglas *et al.* (p. 416). These changes began in the 19th century

Radical chemistry and stratospheric ozone loss

Stratospheric ozone destruction in the lower stratosphere has long been thought to be due to the catalytic action of nitrogen radicals (NO and NO₂). Wennberg *et al.* (p. 398) used an airborne instrument package to measure free radical concentrations (OH, HO₂, NO, NO₂, ClO, and BrO) in the mid-latitude lower stratosphere. The reaction of HO₂ with ozone accounts for one-half of its loss, and reactions involving ClO and BrO account for another third; nitrogen oxide accounts for less than 20 percent of ozone removal.

and their pattern is consistent with recent warming of the high arctic. The current biota of these and other ponds may not reflect the population of a stable ecosystem.

Reversal record

Geomagnetic field reversals have been particularly enigmatic; most data on what happens to the field have come from analysis of sediment cores or lava flows. Ratcliff *et al.* (p. 412) describe evidence that a reversal was trapped in rapidly cooled shallow intrusions, which fortuitously were emplaced and cooled through a reversal lasting perhaps a few hundred years. The data, from rocks about 8.5 million years ago in southern Nevada, imply that the magnetic pole during the reversal was confined to central Pacific longitudes.

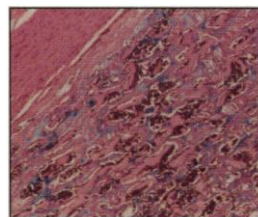
Resistance pressure

Bacterial cell walls must withstand high osmotic pressures, and many common antibiotics such as penicillin and vancomycin inhibit the enzymes that cross-link the peptidoglycan strands of the cell wall. Fan *et al.* (p. 439) present the crystal structure of such an enzyme, D-alanine:D-alanine ligase, in complex with adenosine triphosphate and a transition-state

inhibitor, S,R-methylphosphinate. They propose a mechanism for D-Ala-D-Ala synthesis and also suggest how VanA ligase, which has been implicated in vancomycin resistance, can produce a D-Ala-D-lactate depsipeptide.

Fos expression

Exploring the essential roles of the *c-fos* oncogene can be difficult because its protein product c-Fos, which is part of the AP-1 transcription factor complex, forms heterodimers with Jun proteins. Mice that lack Fos develop osteopetrosis (abnormal thickening of bone) and have altered hematopoiesis. Grigoriadis *et al.* (p. 443) show that in Fos mutant mice the differentiation of bone-resorbing osteo-



clasts from hematopoietic progenitors was blocked and the number of bone marrow macrophages increased. Normal development could be restored by bone marrow transplantation and by expression of *c-fos* in the defective osteoclasts. Thus, Fos appears to regulate the determination of osteoclast-macrophage lineages.

Cerebellum connection

The dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, also known as Walker's area 46, is thought to be involved in spatial working memory—roughly speaking, temporary memories that pertain to spatial characteristics. As such, area 46 participates in directing or guiding behaviors and thus can be said to subserve cognitive functions of the brain. Middleton and Strick (p. 458) provide evidence that neurons in the basal ganglia and cerebellum project to area 46 via the thalamus, suggesting that information from those portions of the brain contribute to the processing that occurs in area 46 neurons. The projection from the basal ganglia is not unexpected because Parkinson's and Huntington's patients, two diseases of the basal ganglia, display cognitive deficits. Whether the cerebellum might be connected to cognitive functions, however, has been controversial.

Kept in the fold

The newly synthesized proteins must be correctly folded before they can leave the endoplasmic reticulum. Hammond and Helenius (p. 456) examined the interaction of two chaperones, BiP and calnexin, that assist in this folding process. Newly synthesized vesicular stomatitis virus glycoprotein interacted first with BiP and then seemed to be passed along to calnexin, which helped the protein to complete its folding. When binding to calnexin was inhibited, the viral protein did not fold correctly, and some escaped from the endoplasmic reticulum. Thus calnexin may also play a role in the retention of misfolded proteins so that they are not expressed at the cell surface.

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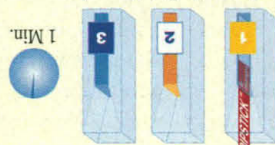
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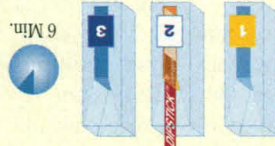
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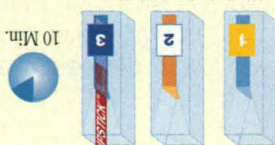
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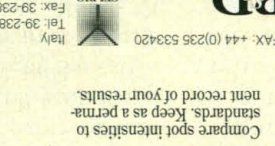
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P.S. I'm running on Windows.

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Look no further! The Jandel SigmaStat Advisor can help. Simply type your research goals into new SigmaStat for Windows and the "Advisor" feature automatically suggests the best statistical test for your data. SigmaStat also checks your assumptions and evaluates the validity of your results. It can even suggest the ideal sample size. New SigmaStat for Windows, puts your own expert statistician right on your desktop!
-SigmaStat Advisor

Dear SigmaStat Advisor,
Help! I tripped and dropped a test tube! What do I do now that my data is unbalanced?
Signed,
Statistically Unbalanced

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You need Jandel SigmaStat! Other statistical packages either use erroneous substitution methods or make you throw out valuable data points. SigmaStat for Windows uses a sophisticated general linear model to give you the most accurate results possible from your "messy" data.
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Dear SigmaStat Advisor,
How do I get a copy of new SigmaStat for Windows? (I heard from a trusted colleague that SigmaStat is the fastest, easiest way to do statistical analysis on my research data.)
Signed,
Searching for SigmaStat

Dear SigmaStat,

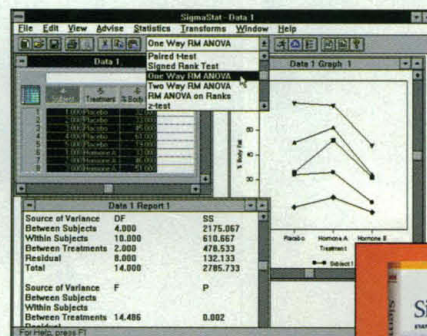
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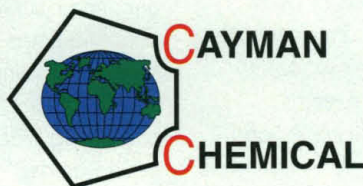
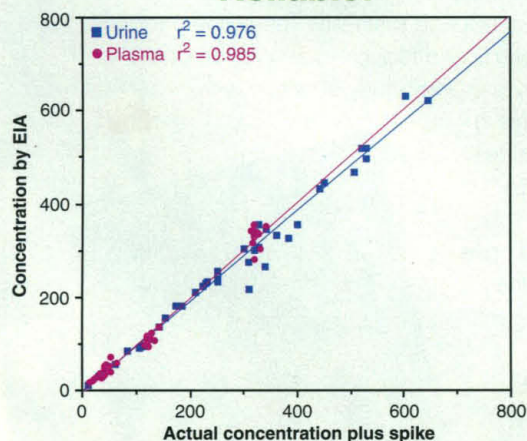
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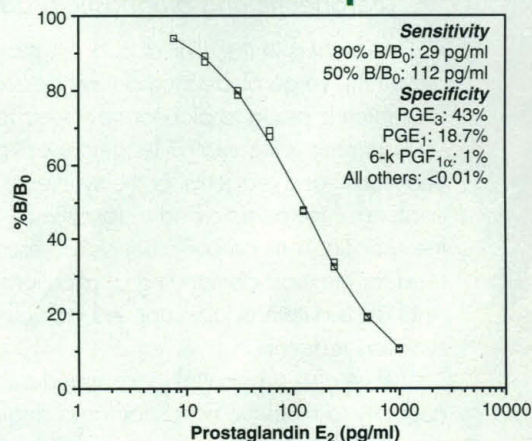
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Biosearch specializes in creating tools that fuel your inner drive to discover. Tools that allow your imagination to take on today's frontiers.



RNA

RNA oligomers have shown promise in therapeutic and diagnostic applications, including inhibition of viral replication, cancer etiology, and gene regulation and expression.

To bring these applications within easy reach, Biosearch was the first to introduce a complete, automated RNA synthesis system with nucleotide monomers, reaction columns, pre-packaged reagents, and optimized synthesis protocols.

Our new Expedite™ RNA chemistry makes your work-up procedures faster, easier, and more efficient. The milder cleavage and deprotection conditions reduce chain degradation and increase yield. The Expedite RNA reagents employ our patented betacyanoethyl phosphoramidite chemistry that's become the method of choice in DNA and RNA synthesis.

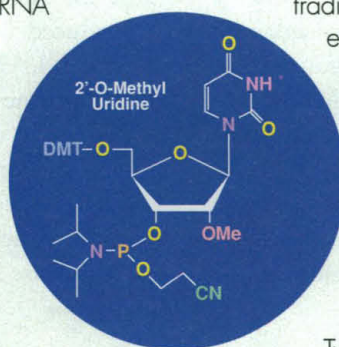
Our researchers are currently developing protocols for large-scale synthesis of RNA oligomers. (Photo of RNA crystal, courtesy of Dr. Alex Rich, MIT, was synthesized at a scale of 70 μ mole on Biosearch's 8800 Synthesis System.)

Therapeutic and diagnostic grade DNA

Researchers in the clinical and diagnostic use of DNA are on the verge of creating a new class of pharmaceuticals. Biosearch is proud to pioneer new tools for their work.

Biosearch is the world's leading supplier of systems, chemicals, and reagents for the synthesis, purification, and analysis of therapeutic and diagnostic DNA. We've tightened the specifications on our products to ensure that they can be used for the most demanding applications. A Certificate of Analysis is automatically supplied with all of our DNA synthesis reagents.

We've also substantially expanded our manufacturing capacity to meet the needs for large single-batch production of material, minimizing your need for internal quality control.



In addition to standard reagents, Biosearch can also supply phosphoramidites and bulk quantities of synthesized oligomers on a custom-synthesis basis.

PNA

Peptide Nucleic Acids—PNA oligomers. These molecules are so novel that they're rewriting the very nature of nature. Biosearch is the world leader in the development and synthesis of these exciting new molecules.

Similar to DNA and RNA, PNA carries information in sequences of the four bases: adenine, guanine, cytosine, and thymine. In PNA, however, these code carriers are connected to a completely different backbone—a polyamide backbone similar to that found in peptides. PNA oligomers are more stable than their natural counterparts yet bind more specifically and with higher affinity to natural DNA and RNA.

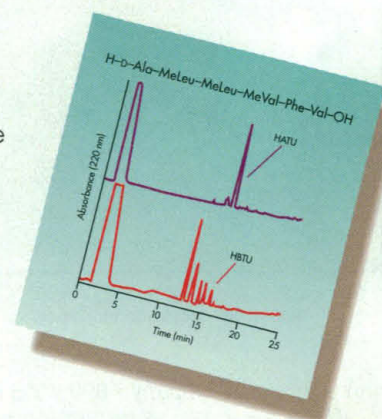
PNAs can be used in many of the same applications as traditional DNA. Their greatest contribution, however, may come from applications that can't be performed using traditional DNA oligonucleotides, such as restriction enzyme blocking, PCR clamping, and DNA mapping.

Biosearch can provide you with custom PNA oligomers, or the monomers, supports, and reagents to synthesize your own oligomers.

HOAt and HATU peptide coupling reagents

Two new coupling reagents, HOAt and HATU, simplify your peptide synthesis. These new reagents enhance coupling yields and reduce racemization and coupling times. They are particularly effective with difficult couplings and in the synthesis of peptides containing hindered amino acids.

HOAt and HATU have structures similar to the commonly used reagents HOBt and HBTU, and are compatible with all standard activation strategies.



Keep Up With Your Imagination.

PEG-PS™ peptide synthesis supports

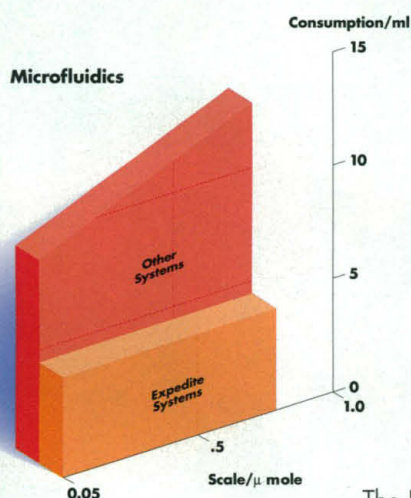
PEG-PS (polyethylene glycol-polystyrene) peptide synthesis supports from Biosearch help you achieve improved peptide purity with shorter cycle times.

Unlike traditional supports, PEG-PS beads more closely resemble the nature of the growing peptide chains. Solvation of the peptide resin is higher, resulting in a higher peptide purity. Synthesis is fast and effective due to high coupling efficiency and minimal side reactions.

PEG-PS supports are easy to handle, compatible with a wide range of solvents, and are especially well suited for the synthesis of long or difficult peptides.

Microfluidics

In the real world, achieving "end product" is not the only concern. There are dozens of production costs as well as the escalating costs of hazardous waste disposal.



Biosearch's Expedite Nucleic Acid Synthesis System, with its patented microfluidics technology, not only enables fast cycle times but also provides the bonus of reduced reagent consumption. The distance between the reagent reservoir and the column is minimized so that a single coupling cycle requires less than 4.5ml of reagents.

The Expedite system (with optional trityl monitor) can also separate the chlorinated waste—simplifying disposal tasks and reducing associated costs.

Membrane synthesis

Perform nucleic acid synthesis on a membrane? It's now possible—and practical—thanks to Biosearch Nucleic Acid Membrane Supports, a breakthrough synthesis technology developed by Biosearch.

Biosearch membrane supports use a proven PTFE membrane system that directly replaces traditional controlled pore glass (CPG) supports. Membrane devices have standard luer fittings, so they can be plugged into any brand of synthesizer.

Biosearch membrane supports allow you to synthesize both long and short oligomers on the same type of membrane; no longer do you need to select the size of the CPG according to the length of the oligomer.

With Biosearch membrane supports, not only do you eliminate beads, but there's no centrifuging and no washing. Just remove the membrane from its holder, cleave, and deprotect.

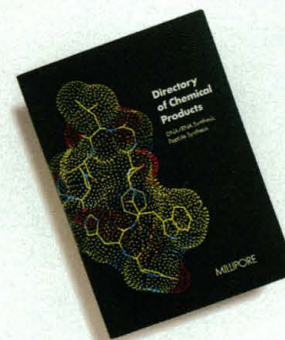
Allyl-based protection for complex peptides

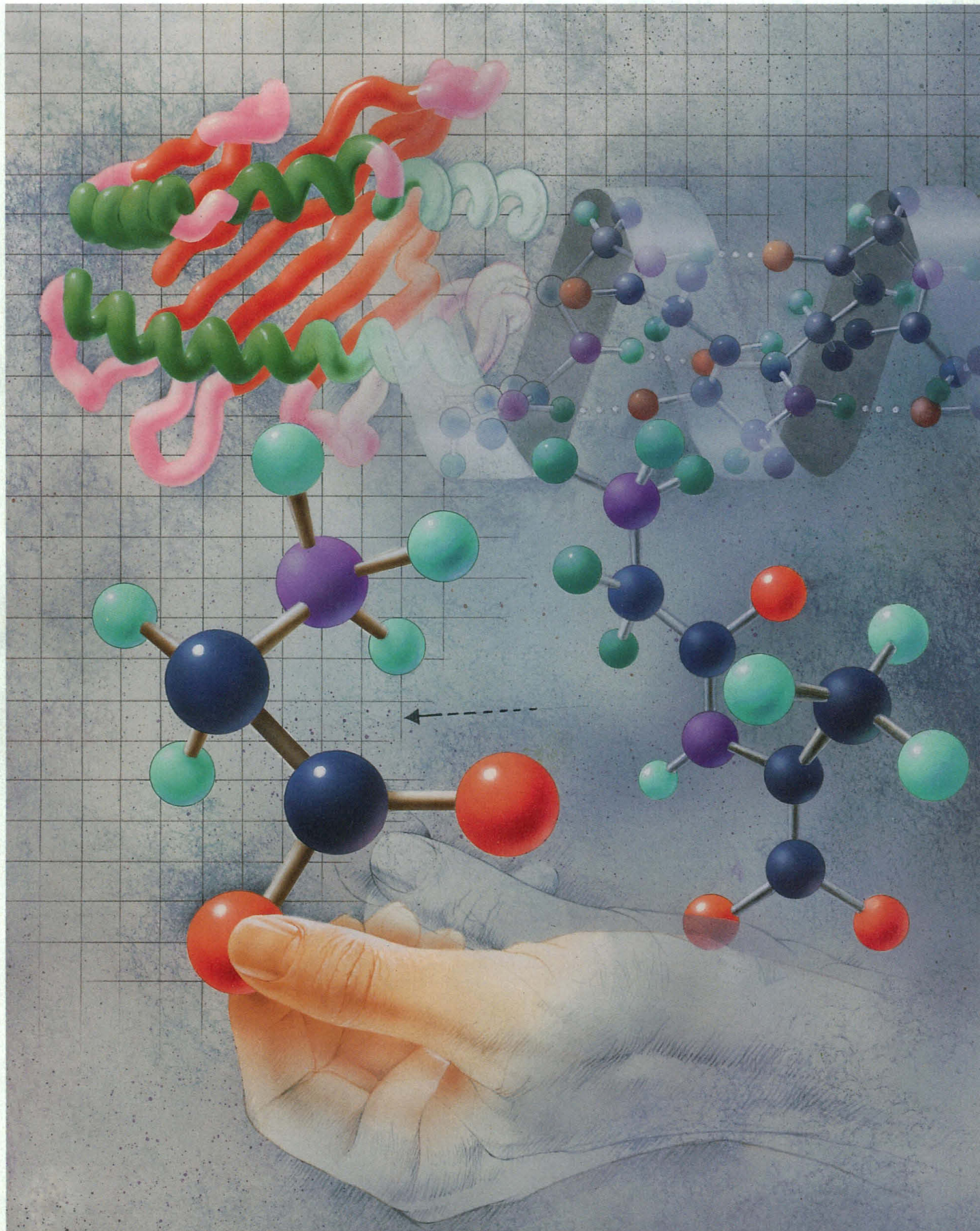
The synthesis of cyclic, branched chain, sulfonated, glycosylated, and phosphorylated peptides have traditionally been time consuming and problematic.

To synthesize these complex peptides quickly and efficiently, Biosearch scientists have perfected convenient techniques using allyl-based protecting groups. Allyl amino acids can be selectively deprotected in a manner which is compatible with other classical protecting groups (such as Fmoc, Boc, tBu), sensitive amino acids (Met, Trp), and side chain modifications (Tyr(SO₃H)). Biosearch has also developed protocols for the fully automated synthesis of cyclic peptides, branched peptides, and MAPs on our 9050 Plus PepSynthesizer™.

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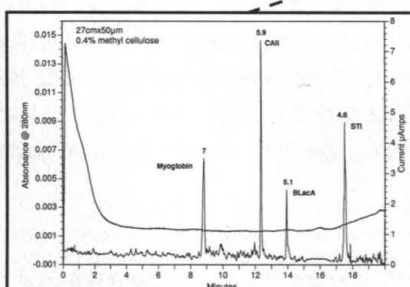
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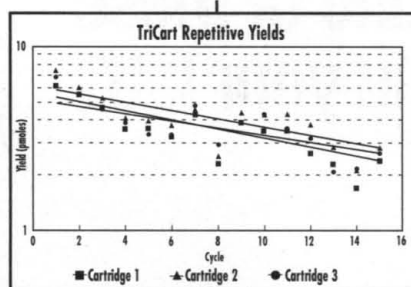
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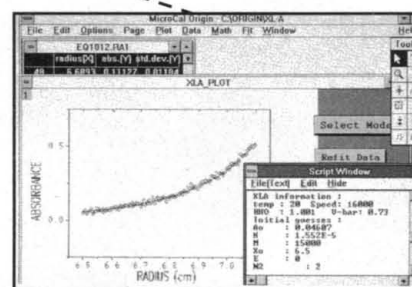
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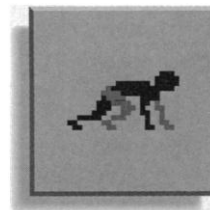


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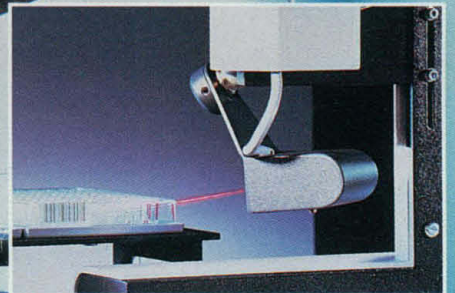
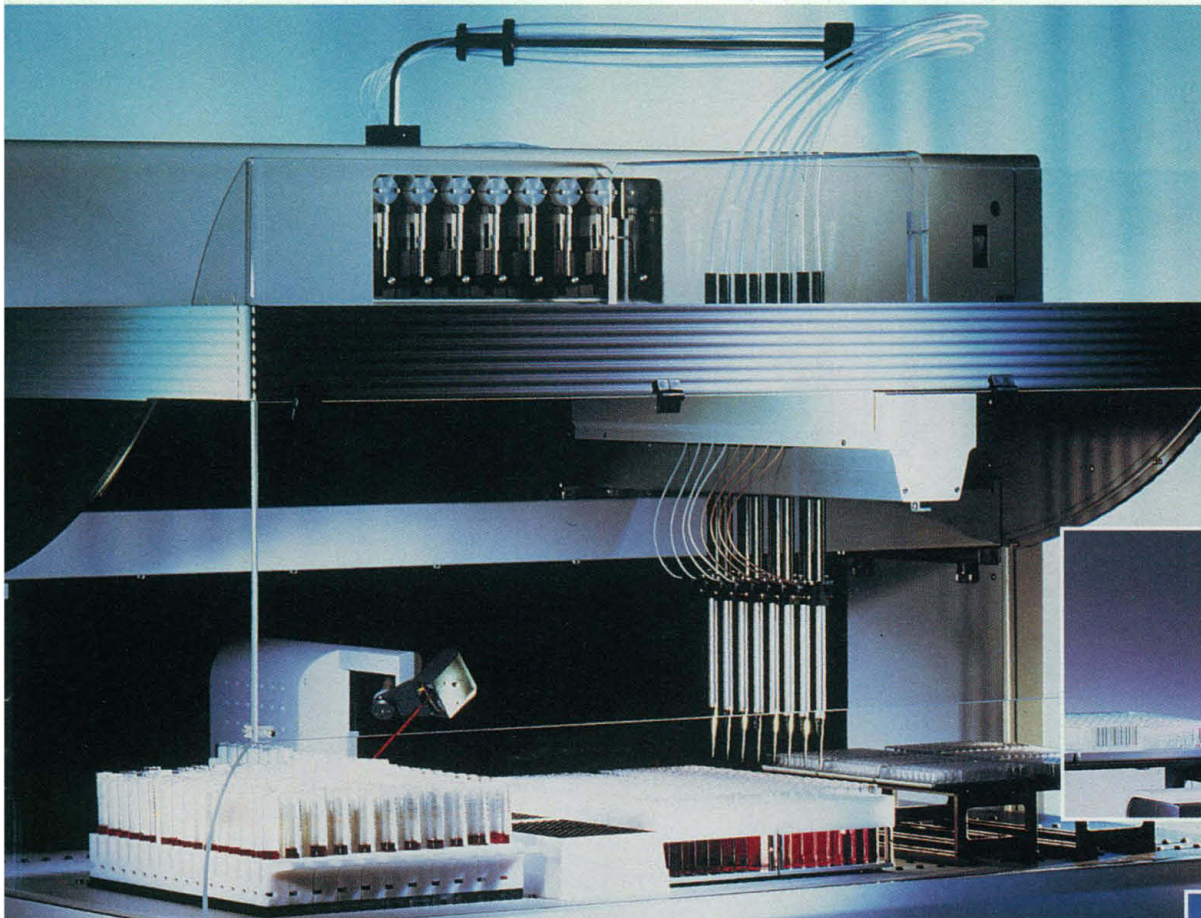
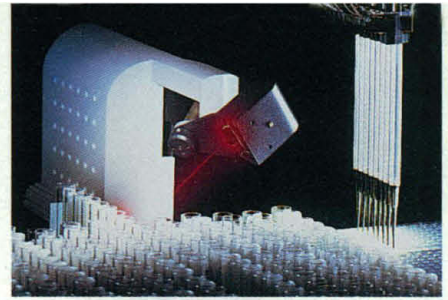
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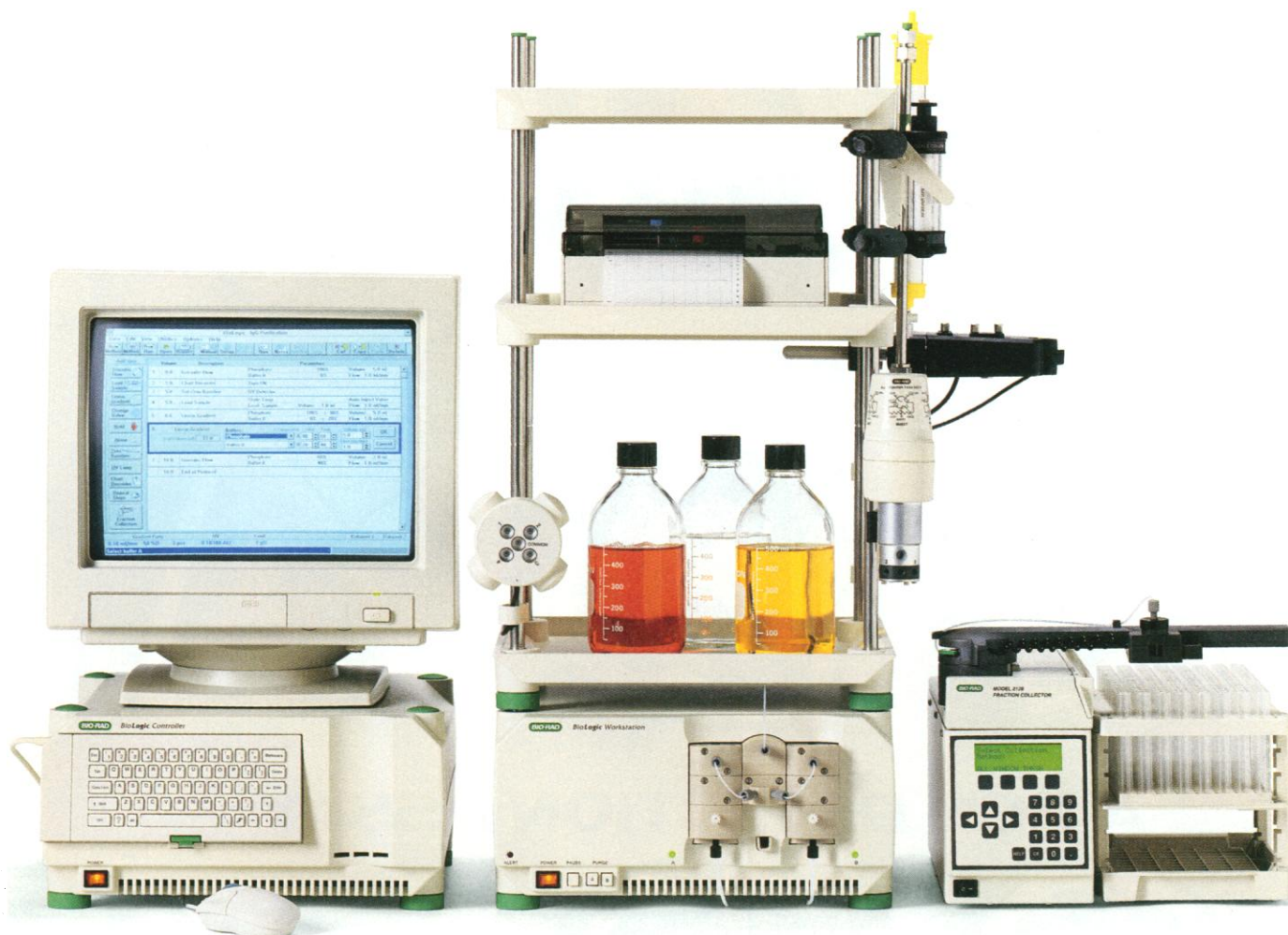
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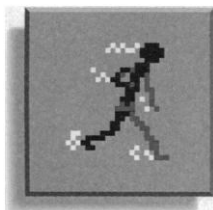
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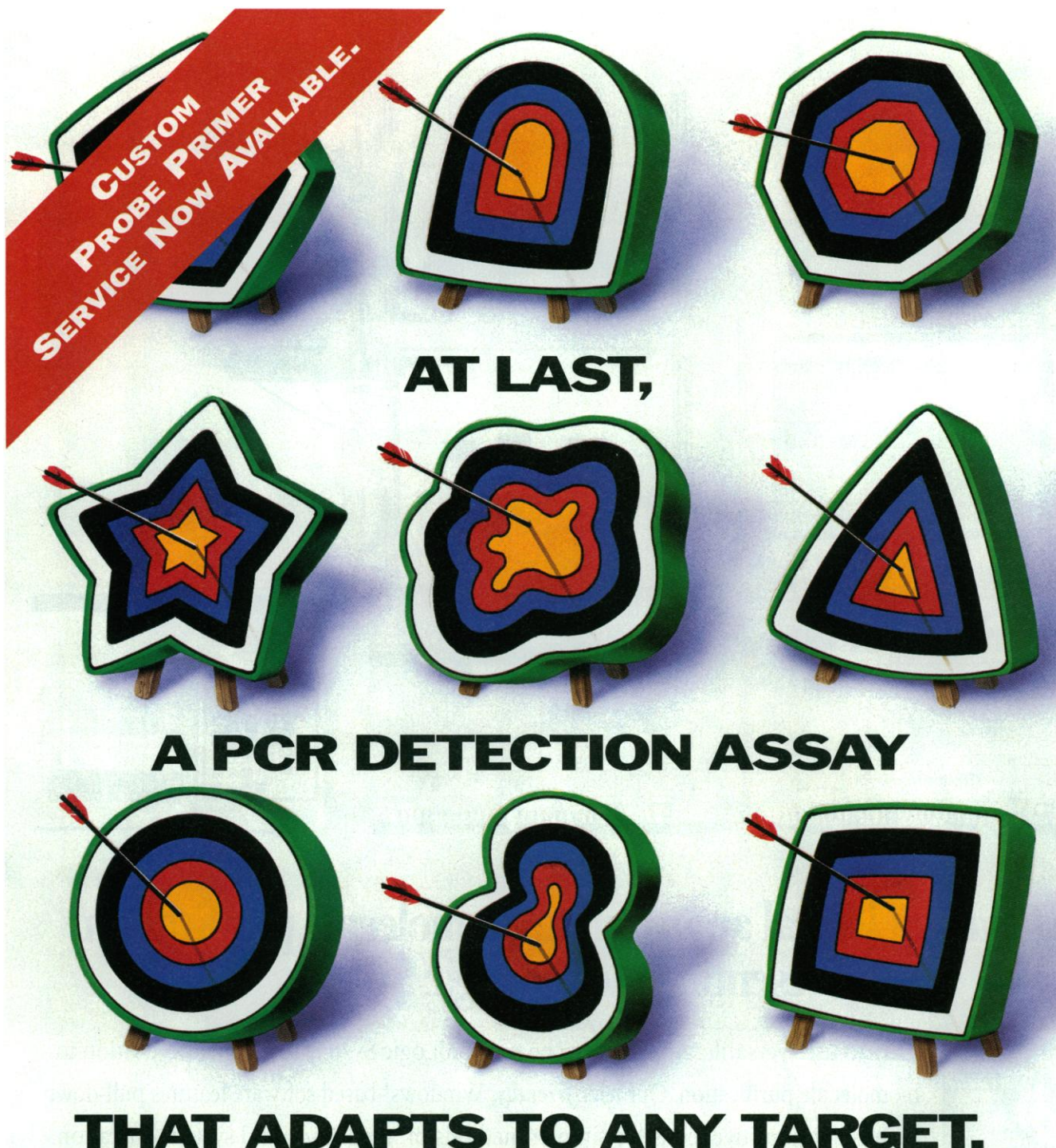
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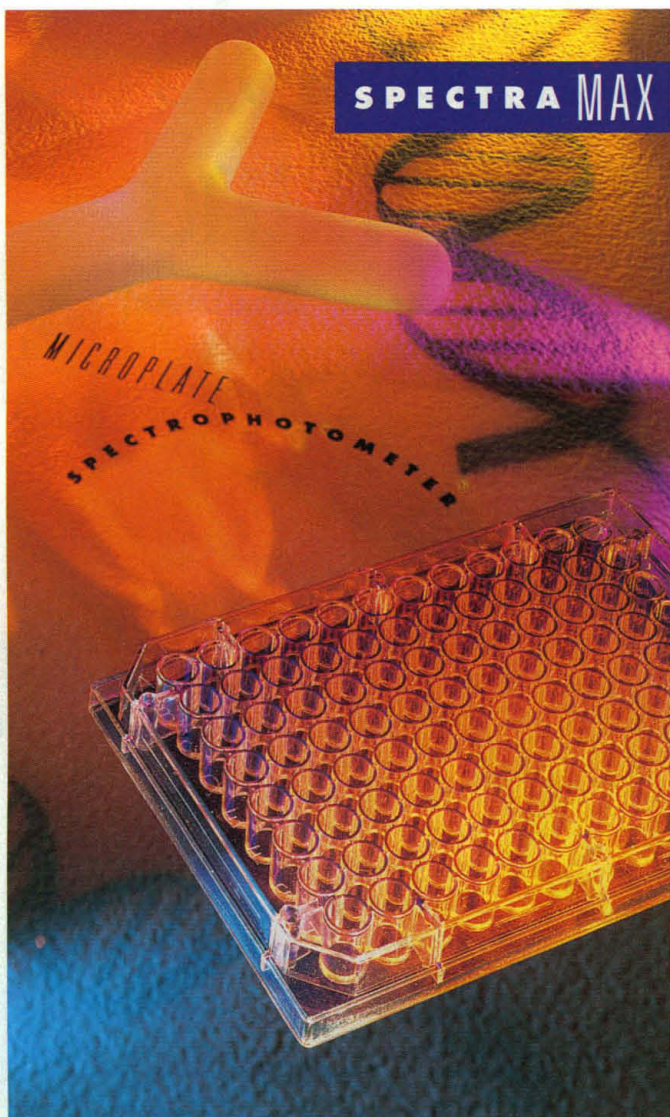
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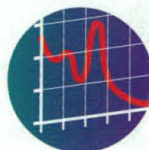
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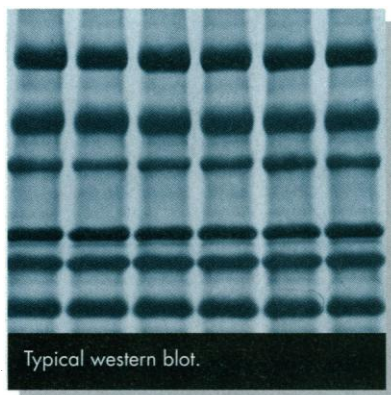
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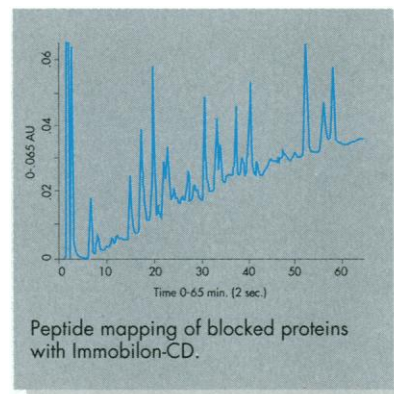
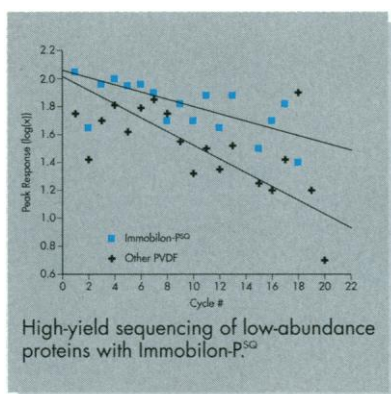
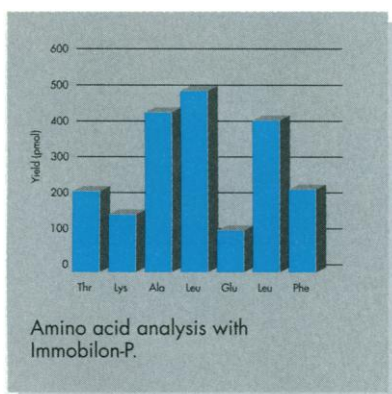
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