Steroid Hormone– and Neurotransmitter-Induced Rat Sexual Behavior: Addendum

After publication of our report "Convergent pathways for steroid hormone– and neurotransmitter-induced rat sexual behavior" (S. K. Mani *et al.*, 26 Aug. 1994, p. 1246), we realized that, in our revision, we omitted some important methodological details relating to figure 1, presented in the short paragraph below, that should have been included in reference 28.

Ovariectomized female rats that were administered E (10 μg) followed 48 hours later by P (100 μg) were pretested to exclude animals that did not exhibit good lordosis response to progesterone in the presence of sexually active males. Stainless steel cannulae were then stereotaxically implanted in the animals that exhibited good lordosis response (Hardy and DeBold Grade 2 or greater). Any cannulated animals that responded to E priming alone by exhibiting good lordosis in the presence of males were excluded. Animals that exhibited good lordosis response upon subcutaneous priming with E followed by icv injections of P (2 μg) were used in further experiments. The animals were tested for sexual behavior in the presence of males in the light phase of the cycle.

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Corrections and Clarifications

In the report "Natural protection against HIV-1 infection provided by HIV-2" by K. Travers *et al.* (16 June, p. 1612), the first full sentence in the second column on page 1613 should have read, "The samples were classified as seropositive to either virus if antibodies reactive to *env* in the presence or absence of *gag* or *pol* antigens were detected."

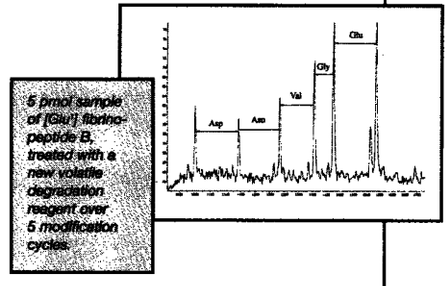
In the report "Multiple origins of lichen symbioses in fungi suggested by SSU rDNA phylogeny" by A. Gargas *et al.* (9 June, p. 1492), the color code was omitted from the caption of figure 1 on page 1493. The following sentence should have appeared at the end of the caption. "Lichen-forming fungi are shown in green, mycorrhizal fungi in pink, plant pathogenic fungi in blue, animal pathogenic fungi in orange, and saprobic fungi in black; the green branches represent independent origins of the lichen habit."

Opinion

A new rapid, sensitive peptide sequencing method using MALDI

A new approach to peptide sequencing has been developed by researchers at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London. Using a novel, volatile degradation reagent in conjunction with the LASERMAT™ 2000 MALDI instrument, the team has achieved dramatic improvements in speed of analysis and sensitivity.

MALDI TOF mass spectrometers enable rapid, automatic analysis of peptide mixtures at high sensitivity. The ladder sequencing techniques offer increased speed of analysis, sub-picomole detection limits and the potential to process multiple samples in parallel. This new method minimises risk of peptide loss or sample contamination as all excess reagent, buffer and reaction by-products are removed under vacuum, eliminating extractive and transfer loss of peptides. A new isothiocyanate, trifluoroethylisothiocyanate, was synthesised for this method.



5 pmol sample of [Glu¹] fibrinopeptide B, treated with a new volatile degradation reagent over 5 modification cycles.

The mass accuracy for the LASERMAT™ has been confirmed on real samples as ±0.4Da. Such high precision allows unambiguous identification of all 20 common amino acids. With sample loads as low as 50fmol, the presence of residual buffer salts and excess reagent had no observable suppressive effect on the data.

Samples can be run unattended using the 48 position autosampler. OPAL™ software optimises laser power and aim, and the unique MassMatch™ software package identifies relationships between peaks, matching to the mass differences of corresponding amino acids, and automatically labels the amino acid sequence.