

mens for chlamydia and chancroid. Ciprofloxacin, a recommended treatment for gonorrhea, costs only \$1.75 per course.

The Rakai study is not unique; mass treatment with Azithromycin is also being evaluated in a clinical trial of trachoma prevention in several African countries. Historically, therapies such as Ivermectin for river blindness or hepatitis B vaccine, which were expensive during the research phase, are now affordable and widely used. Thus, research costs cannot necessarily be extrapolated to programmatic costs when potential applications are assessed.

The Rakai study was designed to determine the impact of intensive STD control on HIV incidence and to identify which STDs are most strongly associated with HIV transmission. It is an efficacy trial designed to provide the scientific basis for policy and is not intended as an effectiveness study to test an operational strategy per se. The findings from the Rakai study will be used to devise rational, targeted strategies that can be evaluated by operational research. We believe that sound policy should be based on solid science and that the scientific findings from the Rakai study will be applicable to intervention programs in Uganda and elsewhere.

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Additional Reference

We wish to call attention to an additional reference that is relevant to our recent report demonstrating magnetic resonance imaging of elastic properties of materials, on the basis of visualization of acoustic shear waves (29 Sept., p. 1854). Winfried Denk and colleagues have used a method that employs similar motion-sensitizing gradients to observe oscillatory flow of fluid in the cochlea in response to applied longitudinal acoustic waves (1).

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References

1. W. Denk *et al.*, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **90**, 1595 (1993).

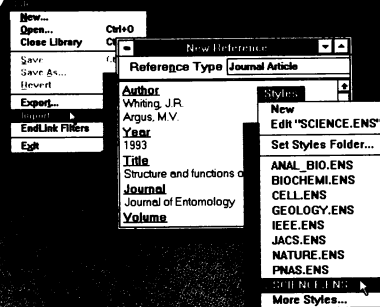
Corrections and Clarifications

In the letter "Asymmetrical ability" by G. Hickok *et al.* (13 Oct., p. 217), the two sets of means and standard deviations that appeared in parentheses were inadvertently interchanged. In line 11 of the second paragraph, the mean should have been -0.34 and the standard deviation, 0.14 . In line 20 of the same paragraph, the mean should have been -0.23 and the standard deviation, 0.24 . Reference 1 should not have been cited in the first sentence of the second paragraph.

Letters to the Editor

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- References
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 3. Whiting, J.R. "Structure of butterfly wings."

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