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1941, 2002 & 2005 Medfly transformed

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COVER

Artist's conception of supercooled atoms in an exotic phase of matter called the Bose-Einstein condensate, which is Molecule of the Year for 1995. Each of the atoms in the condensate (in blue) has the same quantum mechanical wave function, and so they all move as one. Atoms outside the condensate move faster and in all directions. See Editorial on page 1901 and Molecule of the Year section beginning on page 1902. [Illustration: Steve Keller]

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1973 Computer vision

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This Week in Science

edited by DAVID VOSS

Mild alkane activation

The carbon-hydrogen (C-H) bonds of alkanes are strong and rather unpolarized and usually become chemically reactive only under extreme conditions or in the presence of very reactive species such as superacids. Arndtsen and Bergman (p. 1970) report the synthesis of a cationic iridium complex that can thermally activate methane and terminal alkanes in solution at 10°C. The reaction is selective and can also activate C-H bonds in functionalized molecules such as ethers and esters.

A little NMR

Although nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) is a powerful structural technique, it is not usually a method of choice for analyzing trace samples. Olson et al. (p. 1967) describe an approach for boosting NMR sensitivity. They have made radiofrequency (rf) coils that are about 0.5 millimeter in diameter and 1 millimeter long and wrapped around microcapillary tubes. The field is sufficiently uniform that spectra with linewidths of about 0.5 hertz can be obtained from nanoliter volume samples. Applications would include detection in capillary separation methods or for masslimited samples of biomolecules.

Human genome map

Sequence-tagged sites (STSs) can be used to provide a physical map of a genome to connect sequences determined from large-scale cloning libraries and to aid in identifying disease genes and analyzing genomic organization. Hudson *et al.* (p. 1945; see the news story by Marx, p. 1920) present a map of the human genome that contains 15,086 STSs, which corresponds to an average of 199 kilobases between markers.

-

Golgi GAP

The budding and fusion of transport vesicles are essential to establish and maintain intracellular organelle integrity. Several proteins have been implicated in vesicle budding; in particular, the small guanosine triphosphatase (GTPase) ARF1 (adenosine diphosphate--ribosylation factor 1) plays a role in recruiting coat proteins onto Golgi membranes as a prerequisite for the budding of transport vesicles. Cukierman et al. (p. 1999) have now isolated a GTPase-activating protein, or GAP, that acts on ARF1 and thus is likely to participate in the budding of transport vesicles from the Golgi complex. The GAP identified is localized to the Golgi complex and contains a zinc finger motif that is necessary for its GAP activity.

_

Kinase cascade

The receptors for transforming growth factor- β (TGF- β) are transmembrane serine theonine kinases, but the signaling pathways that they activate have been obscure. Yamaguchi *et al.* (p. 2008) present evidence that, like receptor tyrosine kinases,

TGF- β receptors appear to transmit signals through a cascade of protein kinases that lead to activation of members of the mitogen-activated protein kinase (MAPK) family. They descibe a new MAPK kinase kinase (MAPKKK) that participates in signaling by TGF- β .

Fountain of Youth

Senescence of leaves is a normal part of plant development that produces autumn colors as well as suboptimal crop yields. Gan and Amasino (p. 1986) have



found a way to inhibit the normal process, allowing leaves to remain on the plant and healthy for a longer time. The authors combined a promoter from a gene induced during normal senescence with a gene encoding an enzyme important in cytokinin synthesis. In response to senescence signals, transgenic plants expressing this hybrid

Cosmic ray origins

The origin of cosmic rays, which consist of energetic atomic nuclei from outer space, remains a puzzle. Sigl *et al.* (p. 1977) report an analysis of recent experimental data for ultra high energy cosmic rays (above 10^{18} eV) that indicates unusual structure in the energy spectrum. There appears to be a dip in the spectrum around 10^{20} eV, and cosmic rays above this energy may not result from acceleration mechanisms, but rather from decay of particles from some higher energy scale. Background and comment are provided in the news story by Glanz (p. 1924). gene produce small amounts of cytokinin, which in turn inhibit the senescence process. This system may be useful for increasing the longevity and productivity of certain crops.

Better circulation models

Langmuir circulation, consisting of wind-driven vortices, provides a key mechanism for mixing surface waters of the ocean, but it has been difficult to incorporate into ocean models. Li et al. (p. 1955) present a scheme to take into account the effects of this process in models and, using data from the Sargasso Sea, show that at times it can be more important than shear in determining the depth of the mixed layer. It thus likely influences stratification of the ocean both seasonally and diurnally.

Medfly manipulation

The lack of a germline transformation system has blocked efforts to genetically manipulate most insects, especially those important for agriculture and disease. Zwiebel et al. (p. 2005) have isolated the white gene from the Mediterranean fruit fly (medfly), a major agricultural pest. They show that it can be used as a marker for germline transformation in Drosophila. Loukeris et al. (p. 2002) have used this white gene as a marker in combination with a transposable element, Minos, and have achieved germline transformation in the medfly. It is hoped that the use of Minos will permit transformation of other insects. Ashburner provides background to the story in his accompanying Perspective (p. 1941).

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Theme Symposia

Prominent physicians and scientists highlighting multidisciplinary areas of biomedical research and clinical investigation.

Human Immunodeficiency Virus Disease: Epidemiologic, Pathogenic, and Therapeutic Considerations Anthony S. Fauci, National Institute for

Allergy and Infectious Diseases

Transgenic Models of Metabolic Disease C. Ronald Kahn, Joslin Diabetes Center E.M. Rubin, University of California

Intracellular Membrane Trafficking Jennifer Lippincott-Schwartz, National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Ion Transport and Disease*** H. William Harris, Children's Hospital, Boston Mark T. Keating, University of Utah Health Outcomes Research Allan S. Detsky, University of Toronto

Regulation of Apoptosis: Cellular, Molecular and Genetic Factors John D. Mountz, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Translational Research in Dermatology* Juoni Uitto, Thomas Jefferson Medical College

Delivering Information to Clinicians in the Era of National Networking*** Edward H. Shortliffe, Stanford University School of Medicine David Lipman, National Library of Medicine

Developmental Biology: Organogenesis*** Jeffrey A. Whitsett, Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati Jeffrey I. Gordon, Washington University School of Medicine

The New Biology of Obesity Jeffrey S. Flier, Harvard Medical School

Emerging Infections*** Ruth Berkelman, National Center for Infectious Diseases Monica M. Farley, Emory University School of Medicine

Training in Subspecialty Medicine: Current Status and Public Policy Eric G. Neilson, University of Pennsylvania Robert J. Mayer, Harvard Medical School

Abstract Presentations

Original abstracts will be presented either in oral session, chaired by teams of senior investigators, or in poster sessions.

Infectious Diseases/AIDS James B. Dale, University of Tennessee School of Medicine

Cardiovascular Christine Seidman, Harvard Medical School

Hematology Dorothea Zucker-Franklin, New York University Oncology George Bosi, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Clinical Epidemiology/Health Care Research** Pamela G. Williams-Russo, Cornell University Medical Center

Pulmonary/Critical Care Jeffrey M. Drazen, Harvard Medical School

Gastroenterology/Hepatology/ Nutrition Tadataka Yamada, University of Michigan School of Medicine

Immunology/Allergy/ Rheumatology William J. Koopman, University of Alabama at Birmingham

Gerontology/Aging Mark A. Supiano, University of Michigan School of Medicine

Endocrinology/Metabolism Leslie DeGroot, University of Chicago Medical Center

Renal/Hypertension Barry M. Brenner, Harvard Medical School

Inflammation William M. Nauseef, University of Iowa

Regulation of Gene Expression Herbert H. Samuels, New York University

Physiology J. Chris Gillin, University of California, San Diego Cytokines/Growth Factors Derek LeRoith, National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases

Dermatology* Juoni Uitto, Thomas Jefferson Medical College

Gene Therapy Elizabeth G. Nabel, University of Michigan

Satellite Symposia/ Meetings

Molecular Medicine Society May 3, 1996

Association of Subspecialty Professors May 4-5, 1996

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