

strates that as population densities increased following the agricultural revolution, new diseases emerged (5). Today we are still facing emerging epidemics such as AIDS and the rise of drug-resistant pathogens. Group selection arguments cannot explain these phenomena.

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Response: McKean *et al.*'s point about epidemiology is well taken: in fact, an increase of population density most of the time increases the frequency, severity, and extent of disease, in balance with herd immunity. I agree that mutual overall balances between infectious agents and host populations are important and that immunity is only one part of this equilibrium. McKean *et al.* point out that I have used a group selection argument. However, I feel this is a misrepresentation of the general thrust of my paper, which is basically about the overall balance between infectious agents and the host, including the immune system. This balance is different for each virus or group of viruses. Therefore, McKean *et al.*'s arguments about "successful viruses" may be incomplete. Noncytopathic viruses such as LCMV and hepatitis B virus are successful, and so are some cytopathic viruses, but at "different costs" and by "different mechanisms."

I wanted to stress the importance of antigen localization of different effector functions because, particularly in skin and solid organs, there is no "local" immunity. The examples discussed in my paper, where T cells ignore self and foreign antigens or where T cells get exhausted by foreign antigens, show that the immune system does not fundamentally distinguish between self and nonself, although functionally the system is set up to not usually react against self.

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Corrections and Clarifications

In the article "New York courts seek 'neutral' experts," by Eliot Marshall (*News & Comment* 12 Apr., p. 189), a member of the scientific advisory panel was incorrectly identified as Fred Alan Wolf. He should have been identified as physicist Alan Wolf of the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art in New York.

Fritz Kleinhaus' name was misspelled in the Author Index (p. 1891) for volume 271, January–March 1996 (29 Mar., p. 1887).

Letters to the Editor

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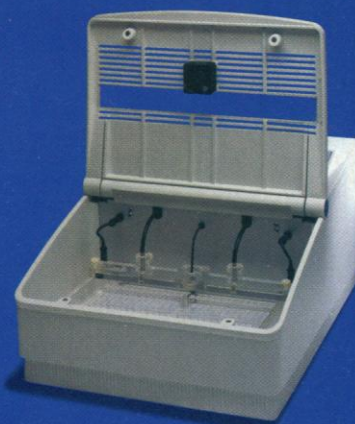
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