

formation. Perhaps diminishing the easy access to foreign scientists will spur the development of mechanisms to increase the numbers of U.S. scientists. We are all familiar with data that show that some 50% of Ph.D.'s granted in science and engineering by U.S. universities are to foreign nationals.

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If academics spent more time and effort encouraging science participation in the secondary schools and increasing the number of required courses for graduation from colleges and universities in mathematics, chemistry, biology, and physics, perhaps better-prepared American citizens eligible for consideration at the graduate level would appear. Several generations ago, the great chemical educator Joel Hildebrandt, when he was department chairman at his school, taught freshman chemistry. His rationale was that encouraging a beginning interest was too important to leave the introduction to graduate assistants. All too many educators today have no time for lecturing, as their future depends too much on their abilities in "grantsmanship."

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Scanning SQUID Microscopy

R. L. Greene's letter of 23 February (p. 1039) mentions the important contributions of F. Wellstood and his co-workers to our present understanding of the pairing symmetry of high- T_c superconductors, as well as the Maryland group's involvement in the development of scanning SQUID microscopy. Readers should also be aware of the original pioneering work in the field of SQUID microscopy at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center in the early 1980s. F. P. Rogers, then a co-op student from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, working with S. Berman of IBM, developed the first scanning SQUID microscopy and demonstrated sensitivity to individual superconducting flux vortices (1). An integrated thin film version of the SQUID system used by Rogers and Berman, from which all subsequent designs used in the recent IBM work were derived, was disclosed in the early 1980's and was ultimately published in 1985 (2).

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References

1. F. P. Rogers, thesis, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1983.
2. S. Berman *et al.*, *IBM Tech. Disclos. Bull.* **27** (10a), 5847 (1985).

HERG Sequence Correction

Since our 7 July 1995 report "HERG, a human inward rectifier in the voltage-gated potassium channel family" was published (p. 92) (1), two previously undetected differences between our expression clone and the published nucleotide sequence (2) have been identified: T593A, yielding amino acid change V198E; and C605T, yielding P202L. These differences are thought to be the result of artifacts generated by use of the polymerase chain reaction technique. The fundamental consequence of the two mutations is a variable reduction of inward rectification. Full characterizations of the mutant and the wild type phenotypes will appear in a subsequent report.

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1. M. C. Trudeau *et al.*, *Science* **269**, 92 (1995).
2. J. W. Warmke and B. Ganetzky, *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **91**, 3438 (1994).

Letters to the Editor

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