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As many of us know, giving individual scientists their own RO1 grants provides them with the opportunity and incentive needed for them to explore their own creative ideas with the perseverance required for new discoveries. Let us as scientists thank Vice President Gore for communicating with us and reminding us of our obligations in helping to create and harness the power of "distributed intelligence" that can be used to improve our lives.

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Nesting Dinosaur

The idea that dinosaurs might brood their eggs ("Another nesting dino," Random Samples, 10 May, p. 819) is not unexpected. Among their living reptilian cousins, the snakes and lizards, well over 100 species are known to brood eggs or maintain a nest, and more than 10 species engage in communal nesting, including the green iguanas of Panama. Maintaining and guarding nests with eggs is particularly well known in such reptiles as crocodilians, king cobras, and pythons, the latter becoming endothermic during brooding. However, the conclusion drawn from these dinosaur nesting finds—that oviraptorids are engaged in avian-style brooding behavior—stretches far beyond the evidence (accordingly, a crocodile, turtle, or python, preserved similarly, would be exhibiting "avian brooding behavior"). Perhaps "the strain of egg-laying" would have resulted in the fossil python's untimely death, as it was with *Oviraptor*. Hirsch *et al.* (*1*) showed that the addition of the shell to dinosaur eggs and bird eggs is fundamentally different. This is illustrated by an Upper Jurassic dinosaur egg, which had a pathological multiple shell, typical of modern pathological reptilian eggs (commonly seen in marine turtles), but dramatically different from those of birds. Pathological reverse peristalsis in the avian oviduct produces an "ovum in ovo," as opposed to a double-shelled reptilian pathology, thus degrading the dinosaur-bird connection.

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1. K. F. Hirsch, K. L. Stadtman, W. E. Miller, J. H. Madsen Jr., *Science* **243**, 1711 (1989).

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Benefit-Cost Analysis and the Environment

In their Policy Forum of 12 April (p. 221), Kenneth J. Arrow *et al.* argue that benefit-cost analysis should play a role in determining environmental, health, and safety regulation—a conclusion with which we agree. But we disagree with their proposed method for discounting future costs and benefits. "Ideally," they write, "the same range of discount rates should be used in all regulatory analyses." It seems to us, though, that there is a big difference between short-term health and safety regu-