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COVER

Human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) docking onto the CD4 receptor of a T lymphocyte with chemokine receptors (blue) at the ready. The face of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome has changed dramatically over the past few years, as a new generation of researchers comes to

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On the Web

The New Face of AIDS http://www.sciencemag.org/ science/content/vol272/ issue5270/1876a.htm

SCIENCE



A wedge into DNA

SCIENCE • VOL. 272 • 28 JUNE 1996

SCIENCE

1847



the fore, a new class of drugs shows promise, and sci-

entists gain new insight into how HIV infects a CD4-

bearing cell, its primary target. See the special section

(pages 1876 to 1890), editorial (page 1855), and related

reports (pages 1939 and 1955). [Illustration: Terese Winslow]

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1. Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA, 92(14), pp.6339-6343, (1995).

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Imersham LIFE SCIENCE

This Week in Science

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Not quite a star

Now that astronomers have clearly identified a brown dwarf, Gliese 229 B, there is great interest in determining what makes this intermediate between a star and a planet tick. Marley *et al.* (p. 1919) used the methane spectrum of Gliese 229 B



and a jovian atmospheric evolution model to estimate this body's mass and age. In addition, their model suggests that there is a flux enhancement in the 4- to 5-micrometer region that observers might use in their search for other cool objects.

Atomic conductors

Future device applications will require an understanding of electron transport through nanostructures or even atomic structures. Yazdani et al. (p. 1921; see the Perspective by Muller and Reed, p. 1901) measured the electrical resistance of a single xenon atom or a pair of xenon atoms held between a scanning tunneling microscope tip and a nickel surface. Theoretical calculations accurately predict the observed resistivity and show that off-resonant conduction occurs through the tail of the 6s electronic level.

Cluster creation

Two reports focus on new methods for synthesizing nanoclusters. Ahmadi *et al.* (p. 1924) show that the morphology of plati-

Role of bacteriophage in cholera

A filamentous phage has been shown to encode a virulence factor. Waldor and Mekalanos (p. 1910; see the news story by Williams, p. 1869) show that a phage encodes the structural genes for cholera toxin. Transmission of the phage occurs in the gastrointestinal tract. The receptor is an intestinal colonization factor called the toxin-coregulated pili. Because phage focuses in on those strains that can colonize the gut, it may prove useful as a gene therapy vector. Many clinically relevant pathogens express similar pili, raising the possibility that these may also serve as receptors for virulence-related phages.

num particles can be controlled in colloidal synthesis by changing the concentration of a capping material, sodium polyacrylate. Xie et al. (p. 1926) have synthesized nanocrystalline gallium nitride, which has applications in blue-green laser diodes, by a method analogous to hydrothermal synthesis except that benzene is used instead of water. In addition to the hexagonal phase, they also make the rocksalt phase normally seen only at high pressure for bulk samples.

-

Speaking volumes

The oxygen isotope value of plankton preserved in sediments reflects both the water temperature and the amount of water stored in ice sheets, which affects the isotopic composition of the ocean. Schrag et al. (p. 1930; see the Perspective by Broecker, p. 1902) now have analyzed pore waters in sediments from a deep sea core to extract the ice-volume part of the signal, as no temperaturedependent fractionation occurred. The results imply that the deep water in the Atlantic Ocean was 4°C cooler during the last glacial maximum than it is today and that the ice sheet growth modified the ocean isotopic values by 1 per mil.

CD28 and HIV-1 infection of T cells

Although CD4⁺ T cells are the main site of infection for human immunodeficiency virustype 1 (HIV-1), not all of these cells are necessarily infected. Attempts to stimulate polyclonal proliferation of the uninfected cells for immune reconstitution or gene therapy are usually hampered by simultaneous stimulation of infected cells. Levine et al. (p. 1939) now show that costimulation of T cells from infected individuals with immobilized monoclonal antibodies to CD28 decreased HIV-1 viral load. Similar stimulation of T cells from uninfected donors rendered the cells resistant to HIV-1 infection.

Macrophages and HIV-1

Different HIV-1 isolates vary in their ability to infect different CD4⁺ cells because of differences in their envelope glycoprotein, which interact with specific fusion cofactors. Recently, the T cell cofactor was identified as fusin. Alkhatib *et al.* (p. 1955; see the news story in last week's issue by Balter, p. 1740) have now shown that the cofactor for macrophages is CC CKR5, a G protein–coupled receptor for the chemokines RANTES, MIP-1 α , and MIP- 1β. The identification of these cofactors suggests that varying levels of expression of CC CKR5 may explain why some individuals remain uninfected after repeated HIV exposure and may allow for the development of therapeutic strategies and small animal infection models.

Cave dwellers

Ecosystems based on organisms that derive their energy from hydrogen sulfide rather than from the familiar photoautotrophic processes have been described in deep sea thermal vents, in deep freshwater lake thermal vents, and in surface hot springs. Sarbu et al. (p. 1953) have added a fourth chemoautotrophic system, a small terrestrial ecosystem discovered in a cave in Romania. In this karstic system, a diverse fauna, many of which are endemic to the system, subsists on grazing chemoautotrophic primary producers.

Chloroplast import of sigma factor

Chloroplast genomes encode all of the various proteins that make up the RNA transcription machinery except for the sigma factor, which affects promoter selectivity. Tanaka et al. (p. 1932) found that the missing gene is not in the chloroplast but is found in the nuclear genome. The nuclear gene product shows sequence similarity to cyanobacterial sigma factors and is imported into the chloroplast. This unusual distribution of genes may represent transfer of a gene from the primitive endosymbiont to the host nuclear genome during the evolution of eukaryotic cells.

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- 12 R&D Systems URL http://www.____.com 15 Glycoprotein substance
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- mass of about 1,000,000 19 Tests that measure antigen
- or antibody

22 Abbrev. for cell-selective protein that promotes adhesion of cells
 23 Abbrev. for gram negative endotoxin

21 Successively reproducible

within close specified limits

- 25 Site on DNA lacking either purines or pyrimidines
- 26 Abbrev. for a detection enzyme31 Obtained from an affinity
- column
- 32 "The Ice Man Cometh" for cells
- 34 Abbrev. for cluster of differentiation
- 35 Abbrev. for superoxide dismutase
- 36 In exact conformity to fact 37 Cross-linked molecules

 38 Discrete portion of a molecule
 39 Region of an antigen that combines with an MHC class II molecule

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- 2 Cell migration from the interior of small vessels into
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- 9 An end-to-end union or join-
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- 14 The weight of a single hydrogen atom or a member of an outlaw gang
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- Major component of Dawkins' selfish entity
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- 20 A molecule that serves as a homing device24 Having a single binding site
- 25 A substance with which an
- antibody molecule or T cell receptor may bind
- 27 A defining example
- 28 Complementary binding site 29 "M" of ECM
- **30** A specimen of known content used together with an unknown in order that the
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