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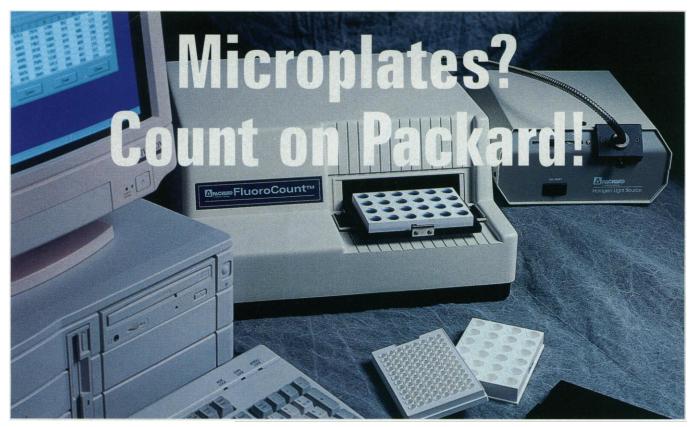
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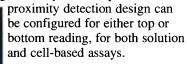


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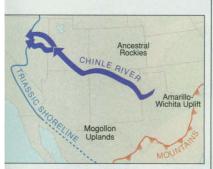


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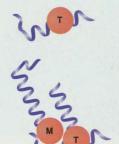
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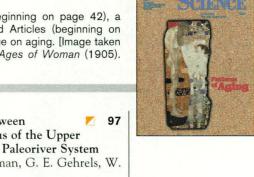
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Demographics show that populations are growing older, a situation that is putting a strain on the social and economic resources of countries around the world. The outlook for those gray populations as well as the biological and physiological causes of aging are ex-

plored in News stories (beginning on page 42), a Perspective (page 80), and Articles (beginning on page 54) in this special issue on aging. [Image taken from Gustav Klimt's *Three Ages of Woman* (1905). Scala/Art Resource]



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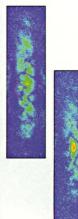
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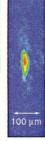
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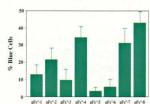


Figure 1: Percent blue cells produced by transfection of CHO cells with a <u>lac</u>Z control vector using PerFect Lipids" (pFx"1 - pFx"8).

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Quantum dot spectra

In a quantum dot, a nanometer-size semiconductor structure, exciting an electron across the band gap produces an exciton (the electron interacting with the hole left in the valence band) that is confined in three dimensions. These excitons can act like atomic states. Gammon et al. (p. 87) measured photoluminescence exciton spectra from individual gallium arsenide quantum dots and were able to measure homogeneous (nonbroadened) linewidths of these transitions, which allows exciton lifetimes and dynamics to be explored.

Different waters

Water can form different amorphous solids—for example, condensing water vapor at 100 kelvin (K) produces amorphous solid water (ASW), which if cooled and compressed can form a different phase, a high-density amorphous (HDA) solid. Johari et al. (p. 90) show that both ASW and hyperquenched glassy water (formed by rapidly cooling water droplets) form viscous water (water A) at 136 K. Heating HDA water forms a lowdensity amorphous phase that at 129 K forms another viscous water phase, water B. These two viscous water forms do not thermally interconvert even when they are heated to 148 K. The existence of this barrier between liquids can provide insight into the configuration relaxations that occur in liquid water.

Tide and time

Tides on the Earth, induced by the sun, have resulted in the retreat of the moon from the Earth and an increase in day

Seeing the Bose condensate

Although Bose condensates of alkali metals have been recently observed, this new state of matter has not been directly observed. Such states are distinct in momentum or energy space and thus can coexist spatially with normal state matter. However, application of a potential can force the real-space separation, and Andrews et al. (p. 84) now report the observation of light scattering of a Bose condensate of sodium atoms in a magnetic trap.

length. Sonett *et al.* (p. 100) examined several sedimentary rock records that provide an indicator of tidal periods. The day was 18 hours long 900 million years ago, and the moon has retreated at a roughly constant rate since the Precambrian.

River to Nevada

The general paleogeography of a continent can often be determined from the distribution of sediments, but it is much more difficult to reconstruct the origin and course of ancient rivers. Riggs et al. (p. 97; see the news story by Wuethrich, p. 31) used the distinct uranium-lead isotope signatures of detrital zircon grains, in conjunction with sedimentalogic features, to show that a large river flowed from Texas to Nevada in the Late Triassic (about 200 million years ago) and trace the overall drainage of the region.

Deep and hot

Komatiites are volcanic rocks that are enriched in MgO relative to basalts. Found almost exclusively in the Precambrian deposits, they are considered to represent deep, hot magmas generated at hot spot plumes that erupted early in Earth's history when temperatures were higher. Richard *et al.* (p. 93)

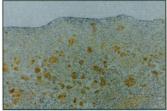
found an enrichment of helium-3 in several fresh olivine crystals in komatiites, indicating that komatiites indeed contain at least a component of a deep mantle plume.

Potassium in the core?

High-pressure, laser-heated diamond anvil studies of the alkali metals by Parker *et al.* (p. 95) show that when potassium is compressed to pressures above 30 gigapascals, it behaves like a transition metal. Compounds of alkali metals and transition metals such as iron and nickel may form at high pressure, and some potassium may be present in Earth's iron-rich core.

Graft protection

Transplanted tissues will normally be rejected unless the T cell response to nonself cells can be avoided. Lau *et al.* (p. 109;



see the news story by Wickelgren, p. 33) show in a mouse model that pancreatic islet transplants can be protected by cotransplanting myoblasts that express the Fas ligand, which triggers cell death in T cells and is the signal that maintains immunoprivileged sites such as the eye. Graft tolerance was maintained until transgenic expression of Fas ligand ceased.

Cell fate partner

Members of the LIN-12/Notch family of receptors function in cell fate decisions during development. When looking for other components of the LIN-12 signaling pathway in the nematode, Hubbard et al. (p. 112) isolated a protein, EMB-5, that interacts with the intracellular signaling domain of LIN-12 and functions in the LIN-12 pathway. Sequencing revealed that EMB-5 is a homolog of a yeast protein SPT6p, that is involved in chromatin structure. Thus, the function of EMB-5 in the signaling cascade could be to alter chromatin structure in order to modify gene activity.

Overlap and disjunction

During meiosis, disjunction ensures that each of the gametes contains the correct number and type of chromosomes. Recombination between homologous chromosomes helps ensure proper disjunction but not all chromosomes undergo recombination. Karpen et al. (p. 118; see the news story by Marx, p. 35) examined disjunction of chromosomes that have not undergone recombination by using minichromosomes in Drosophila. They find that 1000 kilobases of overlap in the centric heterochromatin was necessary for efficient disjunction. A reduction in heterochromatin increased nondisjunction.





In Perfect Balance

According to the ancient Chinese philosophy of yin and yang, the universe is composed of opposing but interdependent forces. Interestingly, this philosophy resembles the concept of homeostasis, the natural balance that occurs within living organisms, including the harmony between antagonists and agonists that regulate vital functions. Thus, an important factor in the search for new medicines is developing compounds that work together with the body's own restorative and regenerative abilities.

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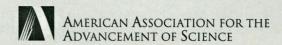


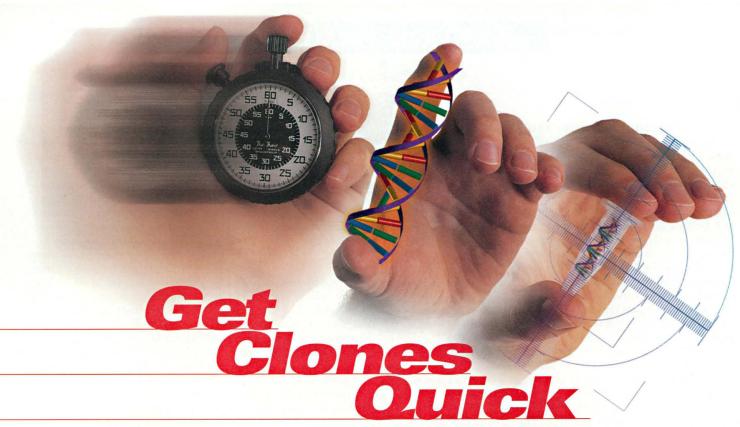
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