

Response: We appreciate the timely comments of Thomas and Capecchi and thank them for their important suggestions. The observations that we described in our report (1) are the initial findings of an ongoing study in which established, stable cell lines, altered genetically by chimeric oligonucleotides, are now being grown out. For all efforts, numerous controls are performed to eliminate alternative explanations, such as polymerase chain reaction artifacts, as the basis for the observations. A number of avenues of investigation opened by our observations are currently being pursued.

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References

1. A. Cole-Strauss *et al.*, *Science* **273**, 1386 (1996).

The Cause of Obesity

According to Trisha Gura (Research News, 7 Feb., p. 751), half of the people

living in the United States are overweight, and one-third are clinically obese. It is difficult to see how alterations in one or two peptide-containing hypothalamic networks alone could cause a problem of such magnitude.

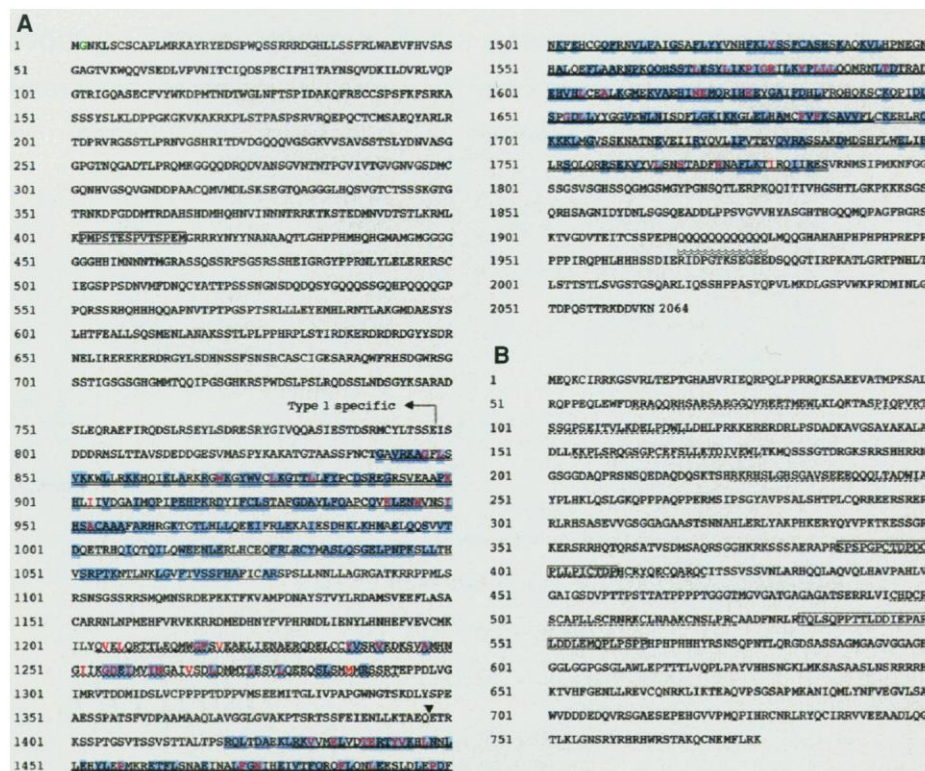
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Letters to the Editor

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Corrections and Clarifications

Figures 2A and B (p. 544) in the report "Still life, a protein in synaptic terminals of *Drosophila* homologous to GDP-GTP exchangers" by M. Sone *et al.* (24 Jan., p. 543) were incorrectly printed, such that the right edge and the label "A" were missing. The correct figure appears below.



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