

others have been unable to reproduce the results we reported (2). Meanwhile, people in many walks of life have, on their own, put great weight on this report as the basis for much discussion, thought, and even public policy.

Whatever merit this publication contained, and despite the enthusiasm it generated, it is clear that any conclusions drawn from this paper must be suspended until such time, if ever, the data can be substantiated.

In our laboratory, for the last 6 months, we have conducted experiments to elucidate the mechanisms to explain the phenomenon of synergy between estrogenic chemicals. These studies have been directed toward understanding the roles that estrogen receptor levels (3), the difference between monomer and dimer conditions of the estrogen receptor (4), and chemical transport across the cell membrane (5) play in the action of weak estrogens. None have provided a satisfactory mechanism to explain our earlier findings. Taken together, it seems evident that there must have been a fundamental flaw in the design of our original experiment. As a consequence of our efforts and those of others, and considering the impact our report has had in so many quarters, we have decided to formally with-

draw the paper and its finding. We take this step in recognition of the reliance so many have placed on our work.

Our laboratory will continue to aggressively conduct research on environmental endocrinology. We believe there are important and verifiable discoveries to be made.

The co-authors have concurred in writing with this decision.

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References

1. S. F. Arnold, D. M. Klotz, B. M. Collins, P. M. Vonier, L. J. Guillelte Jr., J. A. McLachlan, *Science* **272** 1489 (1996).
2. K. Ramamoorthy *et al.*, *ibid.* **275**, 405 (1997).
3. D. Q. Tran *et al.*, *Steroids*, in press.
4. S. F. Arnold *et al.*, in preparation; P. M. Vonier, J. A. McLachlan, in preparation.
5. S. F. Arnold *et al.*, in preparation; D. Q. Tran *et al.*, *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Comm.* **235**, 669 (1997).

Corrections and Clarifications

In line 3 of the report "Hyperplasia of lymphatic vessels in VEGF-C transgenic mice" by M. Jeltsch *et al.* (30 May, p. 1423), "platelet-

derived growth factor" should have read, "placenta growth factor."

In the letter by L. Jenkins and A. Maxam (p. 1178), under the title "Acquiring language" (23 May, p. 1177), reference 1 should have cited "Biolinguistics: The Unification Problem," by L. Jenkins, as "in press."

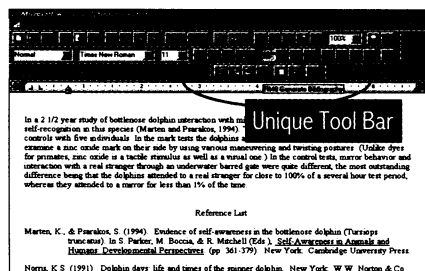
In the profile of Carl Woese by Virginia Morell, "Microbiology's scarred revolutionary" (*Frontiers in Microbial Biology*, News, 2 May, p. 699), William Whitman was incorrectly described as a graduate student of Woese. Whitman was a postdoctoral associate in the laboratory of Ralph Wolfe at Indiana University in the late 1970s.

Letters to the Editor

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