

the origin of mutations is cited as an exemplary model because of a footnote to the title that reads, "Theory by M.D., experiments by S.E.L." Ironically, this turns out to be a flawed example; nevertheless, it proves the rule.

In a conversation with one of us (I.T.) around 1959, Luria regretted that footnote and attributed the wording to an editor. Because the experiments were completely theory driven, the words and their order in the footnote could easily mislead a reader to think that it was Delbrück who initiated the study and that Luria's role was merely to perform the obvious experiments. In fact, it was Luria who conceived of the key idea, which was to contrast the clonal with the Poisson mutant distribution.

Luria's autobiography (2) is explicit: the idea of the fluctuation test occurred to him while at a faculty party at Indiana University on a Saturday night, and by the following Tuesday afternoon he designed and performed the experiments, and found the results predicted by the genetic model. At this point, he consulted Delbrück, who soon converted Luria's intuitive theory into a more rigorous mathematical form and who thus made his essential contribution to the study.

In its novel way, this story confirms the importance of assigning proper credit.

**C. K. Gunsalus**  
Office of the Provost,  
University of Illinois,  
Champaign, IL 61820, USA  
E-mail: [gunsalus@uiuc.edu](mailto:gunsalus@uiuc.edu)

**Irwin Tessman**  
Department of Biological Sciences,  
Purdue University,  
West Lafayette, IN 47907, USA  
E-mail: [itessman@purdue.edu](mailto:itessman@purdue.edu)

#### References

1. S. E. Luria and M. Delbrück, *Genetics* **28**, 491 (1943).
2. S. E. Luria, *A Slot Machine, a Broken Test Tube: An Autobiography* (Harper & Row, New York, 1984), p. 75.

#### Corrections and Clarifications

The lower illustration in the article "A living fossil is dethroned" by Wade Roush (*Research News*, 5 Sept., p. 1436) showed a coelacanth. It should have shown a lungfish.

The article "Reseeding the Green Revolution" by Charles Mann (*Special News Report*, 22 Aug., p. 1038) referred incorrectly to UNESCO in the sixth line. The reference should have been to "UNICEF," the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund.

The editorial "Of timeliness and timelessness" by E. Rubinstein (22 Aug., p. 1019) should have mentioned (in the last sentence of the fourth paragraph) "Academic Press journals" (not Associated Press).

The letter "Corn genome initiative" by M. E. Sorrells (15 Aug., p. 884) should have mentioned (in the first column on page 885, line 14 from the top) "the National Research Initiative" (not the National Rice Institute). *Science* regrets the error.

The table of contents in the issue of 7 March (under the heading "Letters," p. 1390) should have included, as the last item, "The Cause of Obesity: P. Södersten."

#### Letters to the Editor

Letters may be submitted by e-mail (at [science\\_letters@aaas.org](mailto:science_letters@aaas.org)), fax (202-789-4669), or regular mail (*Science*, 1200 New York Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20005, USA). Letters are not routinely acknowledged. Full addresses, signatures, and daytime phone numbers should be included. Letters should be brief (300 words or less) and may be edited for reasons of clarity or space. They may appear in print and/or on the World Wide Web. Letter writers are not consulted before publication.

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