nal drug design that takes into account tumor physiology will truly be the next major frontier in cancer therapy.

Amato J. Giaccia
J. Martin Brown
Bradley Wouters
Nicholas Denko
Constantinos Koumenis
Mayer Cancer Biology Research Laboratory, Department of Radiation Oncology, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA 94305, USA
E-mail: giaccia@leland.stanford. edu

References

1. B. G. Wouters, A. J. Giaccia, N. C. Denko, J. M. Brown, *Cancer Res.* **57,** 4703 (1997).

■

Pyramid Scheme?

Eliot Marshall reports (News & Comment, 7 Nov., p. 1007) that the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) is up in arms over the effrontery of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), which has proposed that universities submit detailed justification in order to receive reimbursement for constructing new buildings from the "indirect cost" component of research grants. AAMC president Jordan Cohen says that OMB is seeking to solve "a nonexistent problem."

In fact, since the 1980s many large research universities have used "indirect cost" payments to leverage the construction of new "overhead," in anticipation of new grants to charge the overhead against. The funds are pledged toward the repayment of bonds floated to build new facilities, which provide the university with the opportunity to acquire more grants and thus receive more "indirect cost" revenue. The scheme, has been an open secret in academia for years, and would do credit to the celebrated financier Charles Ponzi. Pyramid operations of this kind work only as long as the revenue stream keeps expanding.

Jonathan Gallant
University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195, USA

■

NASA's SkyView

Contrary to comments in "The dial-up sky" by Ann Finkbeiner (Research News, 7 Nov, p. 1010) that the goal of a digital multi-wavelength survey is a few years off, such a capability already exists (and has for several years) at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA's) SkyView site, skyview.gsfc.nasa.gov. Users can get images derived from surveys ranging from 33-megahertz radio data through gigavolt gamma rays—a substantially wider range than is discussed in the article. We hope to provide SkyView access to new surveys as they are made available to the public, and access to some FIRST radio-survey data are already available.

We look forward to the new datasets coming online. Resolution and sensitivity are dramatically increased from those in existing surveys, and we anticipate that new techniques will be needed to help users effectively sift these large data volumes. However, SkyView's implementation of a digital, multi-wavelength database of surveys is already well proven, as tens of thousands of requests by researchers every month—and a capsule review by *Science* itself (Webwatch, 1 Aug., p. 649) — show.

Thomas McGlynn
NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771, USA
E-mail: tam@silk.gfsc.nasa.gov