formed frogs have fueled widespread controversy and alarm in the media from the very beginning, effectively performing an end-run around scientific research. I agree with David Wake (director of the Museum of Vertebrate Zoology at the University of California, Berkeley) that sorting this out could be a scientific nightmare.

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Royalties or Research Funds?

The University of California's recently reported maneuvering to deny to faculty the 50% of royalties from corporations due them according to university policy on licensing fees for inventions is deeply disturbing. (Jocelyn Kaiser, "Inventors' court victory worries universities," ScienceScope, 19 Dec., p. 2045).Understandably, university administrators and their legal staff wish to maximize the amount of discretionary funds available to them from all sources and may well take extraordinary steps to do so. But to justify such attempts on the grounds that "[t]he university has to be able to ... assure the corporate sponsor that the money will go for research and not royalties," as stated by an attorney for the University of California, is the height of hypocrisy. Such "research funds" are managed by university administrators who have broad discreionary powers regarding disbursement. By using these funds for certain types of designated research, they may well be able to free up other funds already targeted for such purposes and divert them to other uses. But in so doing, the university may not be fulfilling its obligations to its own faculty inherent in its policies.

If corporate sponsors do not wish to have royalties paid to the inventors of the technology they wish to license, the university can advise them to seek an alternative technology elsewhere from a source that does not recognize the rights of inventors.

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Drugs for the Third World

The News article by Nigel Williams (5 Dec., p. 1704) about the failure of drug companies to collaborate in an effort to develop drugs for the diseases of the Third World does not surprise me. What I find amazing is that no one has come forward with a really innovative approach to this problem. Felix Lobo, former director of pharmaceuticals at the Spanish Ministry of Health, made the following suggestion: Foster an agreement between the health authorities of the major markets (the United States, Europe, and Japan) whereby any pharmaceutical company that develops a drug for a tropical disease is automatically given an *x*-year extension of the patent life of one of its "Western" drugs marketed thereafter. This plan might bring some results.

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Nuclear Research at Duke

In the News & Comment article "Physicist sues Duke over control of lab" by Eliot

Marshall (21 Nov., p. 1393), a claim in the legal brief of John Madey is summarized as follows: "nuclear physicists on Duke [University's] faculty who are short of funds are scheming to 'take control of the MFEL [Medical Free Electron Lasar] project and to remove Dr. Madey from his position of authority in order to facilitate their nuclear research plans.'" Madey's claim has no basis in fact. It was Madey who encouraged his colleagues at the Duke Free-Electron Laser Laboratory (DFELL) and nuclear physicists from Duke's faculty to work together in order to produce high-intensity gamma-ray beams through Compton backscattering of FEL photons from high-energy electrons using the facilities at the DFELL and using detection systems provided by the Duke faculty. Madey was part of the collaboration and helped spread the news of the first successful gamma-ray production at the DFELL around the world. He was a co-author of the article in *Physical Review Letters* (*1*) which reported this result.

Madey also encouraged his colleagues at the DFELL and nuclear physicists at the Triangle Universities Nuclear Laboratory (TUNL) to write a proposal with the aim of seeking funds from the Department of Energy (DOE) to support an upgrade of the existing electron storage ring and the existing accelerator at the DFELL to make it possible to produce gamma-ray beams of higher energy than currently possible with the existing equipment. Such a proposal has recently been submitted to the DOE.

Madey, through his former Associate Director, requested that the TUNL physicists define the space needed in the planned new addition to the DFELL in order to carry out the proposed nuclear research program. Based on mutual agreement with Madey, a "gamma vault" was made part of the new building design.

The Duke University nuclear physicists conduct their research as part of TUNL's basic research program in nuclear physics. TUNL is jointly staffed by nuclear physicists from Duke University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and North Carolina State University at Raleigh. The TUNL program has been well funded for more than 25 years by DOE and its predecessors; this funding was recently extended for 3 years at the requested level.

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Presenilin Interactions and Alzheimer's Disease

In their article "Genetics of aging" (Advances in Aging Research, 17 Oct., p. 407), Caleb E. Finch and Rudolph E. Tanzi cite our observation that the protein β-catenin interacts with the protein presenilin 1 (PS1), as does δ-catenin, a novel member of the *Armadillo* gene family that is expressed specifically in nervous tissue (*1*). The interaction occurs through the hydrophilic loop region of the PS1 molecule. The most clearly identified roles for presenilin are in development (*2*) and in promoting the formation of Aβ peptide (*3*). Because mutations affect cleavage within the loop region of a presenilin molecule (*4*), interactions in this region may be critically important in determining the enhanced γ-secretase activity observed in the presence of such mutations.