

## SCIENCE'S COMPASS

molecular testing for late-onset Alzheimer's disease (AD) is not clinically justified. It is not mentioned that Roses is named as an inventor on a patent (1) claiming exclusive rights to the detection of the *APOE4* allele. The patent, resulting from research funded in part by the U.S. National Institutes of Health, has been licensed by Duke University (where Roses did the research) exclusively to AthenaDiagnostics, Inc. Athena has taken clinical AD testing in-house nationwide and has written to clinical laboratories to stop them from performing *APOE* genotyping for the purpose of diagnosing AD (2).

Like most universities, Duke routinely pays its faculty inventors a healthy share (up to 50% after expenses) of the royalties of licensed patents (3). This situation raises ethical concerns, not the least of which is that those who benefit financially from the performance of genetic testing and screening could be said to have a conflict of interest that might lead to aggressive promotion of those tests (4).

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### References

1. U.S. patent no. 5,508,167.
2. M. A. Boss, letter to L. Godmilow, 21 March 1997.
3. [www.mc.duke.edu/admin/aa/policy/invent1.htm](http://www.mc.duke.edu/admin/aa/policy/invent1.htm)
4. J. F. Merz, M. K. Cho, M. A. Robertson, D. G. B. Leonard, *Mol. Diagn.* 2, 299 (1997); D. F. Thompson, *N. Engl. J. Med.* 329, 573 (1993).

### Haeckel's Embryos, Continued

I am concerned to find that I may have helped perpetuate a Creationist myth, as described by K. Sander and R. Bender (Letters, 17 July, p. 349). The claim that Ernst Haeckel was convicted of fraud was made in *The Times* (1). I relied on that statement in a subsequent publication (2) without seeking a primary source—clearly a mistake on my part. Nonetheless, the core scientific issue remains unchanged: Haeckel's drawings of 1874 (3) are substantially fabricated. In support of this view, I note that his oldest "fish" image is made up of bits and pieces from different animals—some of them mythical. It is not unreasonable to characterize this as "faking." Later editions of Haeckel's drawings were somewhat more accurate, and showed

significant variations among embryos of different species. Sadly, it is the discredited 1874 drawings that are used in so many British and American biology textbooks today.

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### References

1. T. J. Hamblin and R. E. M. Moore, *The Times*, 18 August 1997, p. 18.
2. M. K. Richardson, *Physiol. Soc. Mag.*, no. 29 (1997), p. 30.
3. E. Haeckel, *Anthropogenie* (Engelmann, Leipzig, 1874).

### CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

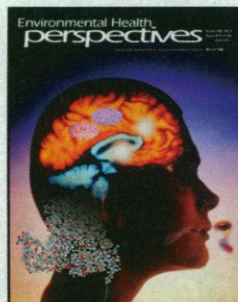
Marcia Barinaga's article "First images show monkey brains at work" (News of the Week, 10 July, p. 149) erroneously stated that Carl Olson of Carnegie Mellon University is working to develop a vertical magnet for monkey research. Olson is using an animal-dedicated magnet that is horizontal, not vertical.

In the Research News article "New clues to alcoholism risk" by Constance Holden (29 May, p. 1348), the affiliation of Ernest P. Noble should have been given as the University of California at Los Angeles.

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