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## SCIENCE'S COMPASS

*Journal of Medical Primatology*, Austin, TX 78758, USA; **Roger Fouts**, Chimpanzee and Human Communication Institute, Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA 98926-7573, USA; **Jane Goodall**, Jane Goodall Institute for Wildlife Research, Education, and Conservation, Silver Spring, MD 20911-4890, USA; **Preston Marx**, Tulane Regional Primate Research Center, Department of Tropical Medicine, Tulane University Medical Center, and Aaron Diamond AIDS Research Center, Covington, LA 70433, USA; **Krishna K. Murthy**, Southwest Foundation for Biomedical Research; **Shirley McGreal**, International Primate Protection League, Summerville, SC 29484, USA; **Carole Noon**, Chimpanzee Sanctuary, Center for Captive Chimpanzee Care, Boynton Beach, FL 33462, USA

### References

1. F. J. Novembre *et al.*, *J. Virol.* **71**, 4086 (1997).
2. W. J. Bogers *et al.*, *J. Gen. Virol.* **79**, 2895 (1998).

## Coping with the DAS in Science

For over 30 years, I have been a regular reader of *Science* and have finally decided to protest against the DAS (dreaded abbreviation syndrome) I meet in so many articles. Like many equally busy colleagues in the sciences, I first scan (FS) an article in the following order: title, abstract, first paragraph (FP), bold-type headings (BTH), figures and captions (FC), and last paragraph (LP), with a few glances at the body of the article (BA) to see if something catches my eye. If this quick perusal (QP) reveals anything of possible interest, I read the article more completely.

In a recent issue (4 Dec., p. 1858), the following BTH caught my eye: "The LGS and deglaciation." I did not immediately remember what LGS means and had to search clear back to the abstract to decode it. A few lines down, I read about concentrations of  $\text{Cl}^-$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  in the LGM. It's fair enough to expect me to know the abbreviations in the PT (periodic table) if I'm reading *Science*, no matter what my specialty. However, as I read on in the BA, I stumbled on the DCR, the YD, and the GISP. This was a geology-related article, close to my own field, and I began to feel annoyed that the DAS had forced me to jump out of my normal QP to read back several paragraphs in search of the meanings of those abbreviations. Likewise, the FC sent me back through the text to decode them.

Wondering if this were a special problem of GRA, I looked through articles in several other fields. There, too, my attempts at QP stumbled against the DAS. We talk a lot about scientific literacy (SL) these days, and yet we seem to accept the DAS problem, with specialists continuing to communicate with their fellow specialists in obscure codes. *Science*, as an interdisciplinary journal, ought to set a better example by communicating in good, solid, plain English as much as possible. If it's that important to

save a few lines of space, a possible solution would be to have the first footnote of each article list all of the abbreviations.

William D. Romey

Post Office Box 294, East Orleans, MA, USA

## Kaposi's Sarcoma: Correction

In my Perspective "The enigmas of Kaposi's sarcoma" (*Science's Compass*, 4 Dec., p. 1837), I described some special conditions needed for the growth of human herpes virus-8 (HHV-8)-infected endothelial cells described in the important paper by E. Cesarman and her colleagues (1). In the description, I stated that a 40% serum concentration was needed. However, a careful reading of the methods in that paper indicates that the serum was diluted twofold and that only 20% serum volume per volume was used, which is not inordinately high. Indeed, the results from this group clearly demonstrate that HHV-8 (KSHV) can, under some circumstances, promote long-term survival of some infected endothelial cells.

Robert C. Gallo

Director, Institute of Human Virology, University of Maryland, Baltimore, MD 21201, USA. E-mail: [ihvinfo@umbi.umd.edu](mailto:ihvinfo@umbi.umd.edu)

### References

1. O. Flore *et al.*, *Nature* **394**, 588 (1998).

## CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In the Random Samples item "Locked but not knotted" (12 Feb., p. 931), the name of Heather Johnston of Rutgers University, coauthor of the paper "Nontrivial embeddings of polygonal intervals and unknots in 3-space", which will appear in the *Journal of Knot Theory and Its Ramifications*, was omitted.

The map (p. 23) accompanying Robert Koenig's News Focus article "Eastern Europe's research gamble" (1 Jan., p. 22) should have been color coded so that Sicily, Sardinia, Corsica, Ibiza, Majorca, Minorca, Crete, the Peloponnese peninsula and Euboea in Greece, the Danish islands of Fyn and Sjælland, and Northern Ireland were included as full members of the European Union.

In the report "Immunotherapy of tumors with autologous tumor-derived heat shock protein preparations" by Y. Tamura *et al.* (3 Oct. 1997, p. 117), the right panel of figure 3B (p. 119) was incorrect. The correct figure appears below.

