



2044

Shaky precursor to Athens quake

2048

The race to the ribosome



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A plethora of feathered dinosaurs

The consortium's experience with chromosome 22 has helped the leaders of the Human Genome Project decide on a definition of "finished" that likely will be applied to sequencing of the remaining human chromosomes. Earlier this month, at a meeting in Cambridge of the international partners involved in this massive effort, the partners reached a consensus on what's needed. The three major criteria are: More than 95% of the chromosome must have been sequenced; the number, location, and size of remaining gaps must be pinned down; and individual gaps must be shorter than about 150,000 bases.

Dunham says the criteria may never be "written in stone," but the chromosome 22 consortium is already well within these criteria if the sequence data "in the pipeline" count, along with what has been posted in databases. What remains, he says, is to "check everything" and make sure that the entire sequence is correctly labeled and deposited in a public database. Completion of that task will be a signal to pop the champagne corks. But the celebration will be brief. "Mapping and sequencing has already taught us a lot about the nature of the genome," Shimizu says. The next step, he says, will be to clarify the biological significance of it all. And that work has barely begun.

—DENNIS NORMILE AND ELIZABETH PENNISI

SCIENCE PUBLISHING

Turnover at the Top at *Cell* and *NEJM*

Earlier this year, *Cell* and *The New England Journal of Medicine* went through abrupt transitions as *Cell* changed owners and the *NEJM*'s editor was forced out. Now, the management of both journals is changing again.

Cell Editor Steps Down

Benjamin Lewin, the editor of *Cell* and its sister journal *Molecular Cell*, announced to his staff and editorial board last week that he plans to retire on 1 October. His sudden departure represents "a big loss for *Cell*," says cell biologist Tony Hunter of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California.

After Lewin founded *Cell* in 1974, it quickly became a premier journal of molecular and cell biology. Scientists attribute the journal's success largely to Lewin's depth of



scientific knowledge and his hands-on management style. "It will be very different without Benjamin there," says Hunter, who has been on the journal's editorial board since 1980. "He was always there to talk with you about your paper or someone else's. This was in contrast to most other journals."

Lewin sold the journal, along with its three sister journals—*Neuron*, *Immunity*, and *Molecular Cell*—to Dutch science-publishing giant Elsevier Science in April, for an amount rumored to be close to \$100 million. Insiders wondered how long Lewin would stay on, although Elsevier had announced that he would remain editor for 5 years. When reached by *Science*, Lewin declined to comment.

Some close to the journal fear that Lewin's departure, combined with Elsevier's takeover, will trigger an exodus of staff. But Deputy Editor Vivian Siegel will stay on at the helm, and editorial board member Ira Herskowitz of the University of California, San Francisco, expresses "absolute faith" in her. Siegel, he says, shares Lewin's engaged management style, but he expects *Cell* to "evolve in some manner. She is not a clone of Ben."

—MARCIA BARINAGA

NEJM Publisher Resigns

The publisher of *The New England Journal of Medicine*, Joel Baron, quit his job less than 2 months after former Editor-in-Chief Jerome Kassirer was forced out. In a 13 September letter to colleagues, Baron said that after an expansionary push in which the journal's owner, the Massachusetts Medical Society, launched several new publications, he was ready to move on.

Under Baron's 2-year tenure, the society has started up new publications such as *Heurwatch*, a consumer newsletter, and acquired *Hippocrates*, a journal for physicians. It has also been looking into lucrative arrangements with commercial publishing enterprises. Now that things have quieted down, Baron, who calls himself a "strategist" rather than an "implementation" person, said in the letter, "I think I will be able to make a bigger contribution elsewhere." (Baron couldn't be reached for comment.)

Some observers suspect that in the turmoil following Kassirer's dismissal, Baron no longer had a free hand to do what he was hired to do. Kassirer was pushed out because of "differences of opinion" with the

medical society over activities that he claimed would compromise the journal's good name (*Science*, 30 July, p. 648). "There's been enough concern expressed by editors of the journal and the academic community" over the new publications initiatives that management may have decided to shelve its plans for the present, says *NEJM*

Associate Editor Morton Swartz, former chief of infectious disease at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston.

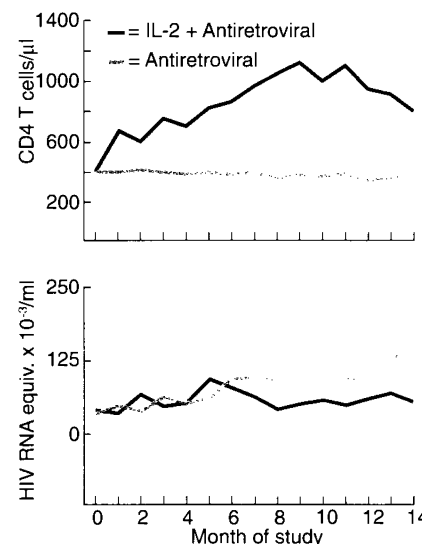
Taking it one departure at a time, the society last week announced the appointment of a search committee, headed by Harvard Medical School professor Ronald A. Arky, chair of the medical society's publications committee, to look for Kassirer's replacement.

—CONSTANCE HOLDEN

AIDS THERAPY

Ambitious Clinical Trial Stirs Debate

The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) last week decided to fund what will likely be the largest and most expensive trial of an AIDS treatment the institute has ever backed. During the next 5 years, the \$43 million study will follow 4000 HIV-infected people who are already taking anti-HIV drugs to see whether adding an immune-



Mixed results. IL-2 treatment raised CD4 levels but had little effect on viral load.