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SCIENCE'S COMPASS

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Response

My essay ended with the statement, "Neither science nor the humanities have so far adequately prepared us for...the fact that the effective treatment of genetic infertility has made the uninheritable heritable." The purpose of my play was precisely to raise in nontechnical dramatic discourse the type of heritability questions described by Hawkins and Barratt in scientific terms backed by literature citations. Their questions are valid ones, but as with any new reproductive technology (for example, the introduction of oral contraceptives nearly 40 years ago), they have a catch-22 component: Answers cannot be obtained until sufficient "human guinea pigs" are available to carry out statistically meaningful epidemiological studies. The number of offspring required for

such studies is appropriately listed by Hawkins and Barratt. The only consolation is that the number of ICSI offspring is rising so rapidly that reasonable answers to several of the questions should be available within a decade. Let us hope that the United States, with the largest number of offspring and the least regulation, follows the British example of establishing a national register of ICSI offspring.

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Expected Relatedness: Correction

In our report "The selective advantage of low relatedness" (6 Aug., p. 891), reference 15 contained an error. The expected relatedness in a colony as a function of the effective number of matings should have read, $(0.25 + 0.5)/n_e$, where n_e is the effective number of matings. This relation leads to an estimate of the effective number of matings in *Pogonomyrmex occidentalis* of 6.76, rather than 3.75. The larger, correct number was used in the procedure of reference 22 to determine the effect of diploid males. The smaller number was used in the procedure of reference 15 to determine the correlation of actual and estimated relatedness. Underestimating the number of effective matings results in a conservative estimate of the true correlation of actual and estimated relatedness. Using the procedure outlined in the reference, we find the correlation between estimated and actual relatedness to be 0.15 (± 0.031 = SD, 1000 replicates). We estimate that the correlation between growth and actual colony relatedness is at least eight times the measured value of -0.102, that is, -0.86, rather than the -0.54 that we reported.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In the Techview article "Sequence server samurai" by P. Simakov (*Science's Compass*, 20 Aug., p. 1226), the price given for Informax Software Solution for BioMedicine was incorrect. It should have been \$250,000, not \$250.

In the article "Kansas dumps Darwin, raises alarm across the United States" by Constance Holden (*News of the Week*, 20 Aug., p. 1186), Fred Spilhaus should have been referred to as executive director (not president) of the American Geophysical Union.

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