nascent careers and providing them the resources to flourish. However, as John Schaefer of Research Corporation says in the article, communication has been lacking among these foundations. The BWF, along with the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the American Cancer Society, is convening private funders in February 2000 to discuss how philanthropy can respond to gaps and opportunities in research training.

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The Bible Code

In the Random Samples item "Bible code bunkum" (24 Sept., p. 2057), there is a description of findings by mathematician Eliyahu Rips of Hebrew University and two colleagues that "names of famous rabbis were located closer in the text to their own dates of birth and death than to those of other rabbis." As one of the authors of a paper (*1*) in which a flaw in the study by Rips *et al.* (*2*) is reported, I wish to point out that this is not what they found. The names of most rabbis are actually closer in the text to the dates of birth and death of other rabbis than to their own dates ("closer" is defined in a complicated mathematical fashion that does not correspond to the intuitive sense suggested by their letter arrays). What Rips *et al.* found is that the "distances" between rabbis' names and their own dates are, on average, less than one would expect by chance.

Most misreports of the Bible code findings tend to present the findings as neater than they actually are. However, the Random Samples item got the main point across—whatever "code" is found in the book of Genesis can be replicated in any other text of comparable length.

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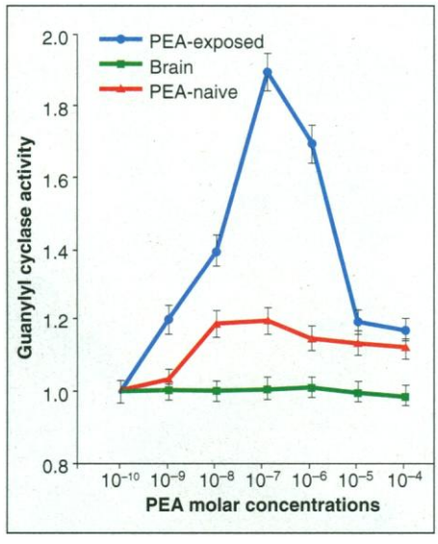
References

1. B. McKay, D. Bar-Natan, M. Bar-Hillel, G. Kalai, *Stat. Sci.* **14** (no. 2), 150 (1999).
2. D. Witztum, E. Rips, Y. Rosenberg, *Stat. Sci.* **9** (no. 3), 429 (1994).

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

In Marcia Barinaga's News article "Salmon follow watery odors home" (22 Oct., p. 705), the graph on page 706 showing guanylyl cyclase activity in response to PEA was incorrectly labeled. The green squares should have been labeled "brain" and the orange triangles should have been labeled "PEA-naive." The corrected figure appears at right.



In the second paragraph of the News Focus article "Does life's handedness come from within?" (12 Nov., p. 1282) the first name of Puru Jena was misspelled.

Table 1 of the report "Osmium isotope constraints on ore metal recycling in subduction zones" by Brent I. A. McInnes *et al.* (15 Oct., p. 512) had incorrect units listed for two column headings. The unit over columns 3 through 12 should have read "ppb," not ppm, and the unit for the γOs column should have had a percent sign, not a per mil sign.

In the News Focus article "Fighting fire with fire" (David Malakoff, 17 Sept., p. 1841), the intended exotic hosts of the weevil *Rhinocyllus conicus* should have been identified as *Carduus* species, including musk thistle (*C. nutans* complex), not Russian thistle. Svata Louda *et al.* (Reports, 22 Aug. 1997, p. 1088) showed that *R. conicus* has attacked five kinds of native North American thistle and speculated that it could threaten a related rare species in the future, not that it had already attacked the rare species. Louda and Daniel Simberloff were critical of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to release an exotic thistle-feeding beetle, not weevil. The California "weedy thistle" attacked by the mistakenly released fly is starthistle (genus *Centaurea*), which is distantly related to true thistles (genus *Carduus*).