

## SCIENCE'S COMPASS

and to thwart development in Cuba. As a scientist, I would never continue the same failed experiment for 38 years. It is time for our government to change its experimental strategy as well.

**Mark M. Rasenick\***

Departments of Physiology and Biophysics and of Psychiatry, University of Illinois, Chicago, College of Medicine, Chicago, IL 60612-7342, USA

\*Director, Biomedical Neuroscience Training Program

### References and Notes

1. The meeting was organized as a continuing medical education course at the University of Illinois, Chicago, through the efforts of Moises Gaviria and was sponsored by several pharmaceutical companies (Janssen, Astra-Zeneca, Wyeth-Ayerst, and Solvay), as well as the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur foundation of Chicago.

## Responding to *The River*

In the book *The River: A Journey to the Source of HIV and AIDS* (Little, Brown, 1999), author Edward Hooper suggests that we covertly used chimpanzee cells to produce the live oral polio vaccine (OPV) that was used in the first mass campaign with OPV in the former Belgian Congo. Hooper postulated that the cells contained a simian immunodeficiency virus that later mutated to human immunodeficiency virus.

In his review of *The River* (*Science's*

Compass, 12 Nov., p. 1305), Robin Weiss expresses skepticism about the book's basic hypothesis. His skepticism is well founded, because no chimpanzee cells were ever used by us to make OPV. Data bearing on this point are being collected and will be published in a scientific journal. It is thus ironic that the year 2000 will be the 50th anniversary of the first trials in humans of an OPV (1), and also the year in which polio will perhaps be eradicated, thanks to the use of mass campaigns of vaccination such as the ones performed in the then Belgian Congo (2, 3) and in the then Soviet Union (4).

**Stanley A. Plotkin\***

Department of Pediatrics, University of Pennsylvania, Doylestown, PA 18901, USA

**Hilary Koprowski**

Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, PA 19107, USA

\*Emeritus professor

### References

1. H. Koprowski, G. A. Jervis, T. W. Norton, *Am. J. Hyg.* 55, 108 (1952).
2. G. Courtois, A. Flack, G. A. Jervis, H. Koprowski, G. Ninane, *Br. Med. J.* 1958 (no. 2), 187 (1958).
3. S. A. Plotkin and H. Koprowski, *Live Poliovirus Vaccines: Proceedings from the First International Conference on Live Poliovirus Vaccine* (scientific publication no. 44, Pan Am Sanitary Bureau, Washington, DC, 1959), pp. 419-436.
4. M. P. Chumakov et al., *Bull. WHO* 25, 79 (1961).

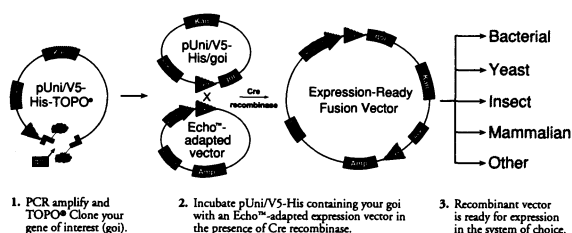
## Tenured Women in Academia

In Andrew Lawler's News Focus article "Tenured women battle to make it less lonely at the top" (12 Nov., p. 1272), the information in the graph of the faculty mix at Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (p. 1273) appears to undermine his thesis that senior women scientists are being hired and promoted at these institutions in disproportionately low numbers. The graph indicates that faculty size has been essentially flat at both institutions since 1979. At MIT the decline in male faculty since 1979 appears to be balanced by growth in female faculty. If the decline in male faculty represents most of the positions that became available between 1979 and 1999, then MIT has been hiring mainly women to fill vacancies left mainly by men. At the very least, women have been hired to a greater degree than their proportion in the applicant pool. How can MIT do much more to increase the number of faculty women? The main problem is one of not enough available jobs, and this means, of course, that there are many highly qualified men who will never find satisfactory employment of any form in

## The Future of Cloning is Here.

Learn more at a seminar near you.

Eliminate traditional subcloning—the Echo™ Cloning System allows rapid, efficient cloning of your gene of interest into multiple state of the art expression systems.



Call today for more information on the Echo™ Cloning System or for information on a seminar near you.

### January 2000 Echo™ Cloning System Seminar Series

Day	Location	Day	Location
4	Bethesda, MD	26	New Haven, CT
6 & 7	Boston, MA	27	Princeton, NJ
12	Seattle, WA	28	New York, NY
13 & 14	San Francisco Bay Area, CA		

1600 Faraday Avenue • Carlsbad, CA 92008  
Tel: 760-603-7200 • Fax: 760-603-7201  
Toll Free: 1-800-955-6288  
www.invitrogen.com

**Invitrogen**

Circle No. 27 on Readers' Service Card

**SUBSCRIBING OR RENEWING?**

1-44 (0) 1223 326500

1-1 202 326 6417

membership@aaas.org

**SUBSCRIPTIONS MADE EASY**

**Science**