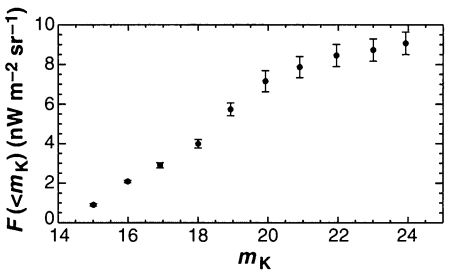

Cumulative flux (F) at 2.2 μm produced by galaxies brighter than the magnitude m_K (*9*).

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about galaxy evolution and formation remains to be seen, but if the CIB detections are confirmed in future data, they would imply very significant levels of star formation in the early universe.

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9. Galaxy counts data used in producing this figure are given in references of, for example, (*6*).

Response

I readily acknowledge that the recent work reviewed in my Perspective confirms the important earlier estimates of Kashlinsky and Odenwald based on fluctuation analysis. The new work by E. L. Wright and E. D. Reese and by B. Gorjian *et al.* has added to the reliability of their result by making a detailed subtraction of the near infrared emission from foreground stars.

On the other hand, I disagree with Kashlinsky and Odenwald that the cumulative K-band flux from observed galaxies, and even less so from theoretical extrapolations of observed galaxy populations, is currently nailed down at the level of a few percent. Even the local luminosity density derived from the local luminosity function of galaxies in the optical bands has current estimates differing by up to 30%; in addition to the difficulty of absolute flux calibrations, the deep infrared imaging data still suffer from very small fields of view and, consequently, large sampling errors. Kashlinsky and Odenwald are, however, correct in pointing out the possibility that some flux may be unaccounted for, and I agree with the main thrust of their comment—that careful comparison of the diffuse backgrounds with galaxy catalogues will continue to be an important constraint on models of galaxy formation.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

News Focus: "Microbes display their versatility at ASM meeting," by Evelyn Strauss (16 June, p. 1958). The fungi shown in the figure on p. 1959 are growing on rare earth aluminum phosphate, not aluminum phosphate, as stated in the legend.

News Focus: "A new breed of scientist-advocate emerges," by Kathryn Brown (18 Feb., p. 1192). The source of the dialogue in the illustration of miscommunication between scientists and policy-makers was not credited. It was quoted from "Cultures in collision," an article currently in revision at *Conservation Biology*, by D. Brosnan and R. Menasse.