over 1127 excess organs would be transplanted by the smaller OPOs in these less severely ill patients. This represents an upper bound on the yearly excess because many patients do change from a less severe to a more severe status level. Nevertheless, these organs could be used for those status 1 patients who shift to status 1 from a less severe status level, who are not counted among the 731 initial status 1 listings.

NO, NO, NO...

In the Editors' Choice selection "Detection of NO" (7 July, p. 15), the editor says that "Nitrous oxide (NO) is implicated in many metabolic processes." Don't you mean nitric oxide? As far as I know, the main thing nitrous oxide, or laughing gas, is implicated in is dentistry.

Natalie Angier
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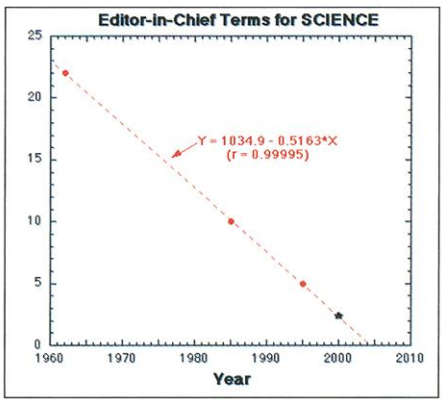
Editors' note

Yes, we did indeed mean nitric oxide.

Keeping Editors in Line

It is rare to find a truly linear phenomenon. However, based on the data presented in *Science*'s Compass (Editorial, "Welcome Don Kennedy," 26 May, p. 1341), the years of service by Editors-in-Chief of *Science* fit a remarkably linear trend. The accompanying figure plots (as solid dots) the number of years served by the last three editors of *Science* (Philip H. Abelson, Daniel E. Koshland Jr., and Floyd E. Bloom, in that order) versus the years when their respective tenures began. The dashed line is the least-squares fit to these data points. The straight line formula shown fits the trend of these data points with a strikingly good linear correlation coefficient of 0.99995.

Also shown (by the asterisk) for the year 2000 is a data point with a value of 2.3 years. According to the linear formula, this is the term of office that Donald Kennedy will serve prior to his subsequent replacement as Editor-in-Chief. The good news for his replacement (in the year 2002) is that the new editor will have to serve only about 1 year before being, in turn, replaced. Recruiting for the position should, furthermore, become easier in the future because there will be an even shorter time commitment. The subsequent editor will serve virtually no time at all.



CREDIT: D. N. BAKER

It is gratifying to see that the AAAS and the staff of *Science* have chosen such a simple approach for determining terms of office for their editors.

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CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

ScienceScope: "Relishing victory" (30 June, p. 2297). The first name of Athanasios Theologis was misspelled.

Random Samples: "China tackles rice genome" (26 May, p. 1331). *Schistosoma japonicum* was incorrectly referred to as a tapeworm. It is a trematode.