

be the best way to preserve Columbia Basin salmon—is described on the Web site as “without merit” (3).

Charles C. Mann
Mark L. Plummer

References

1. Available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/CEQ/testimony0912.html>
2. Available at <http://www.americanrivers.org/template2.asp?cat=105&page=105&id=875>
3. Available at <http://www.amrivers.org/template2.asp?cat=2&page=175&id=256&filter=249>

Thyroid Tumor Banks

A large increase in thyroid carcinoma incidence among those exposed as children to the high levels of fallout from the nuclear accident at Chernobyl in 1986 has been reported (1). This increase was noted about 4 years after the accident and is continuing (2). Tissue from these tumors that is not needed for diagnostic purposes is a valuable research resource, representing a large number of tumors directly related to exposure to the same mutagen at the same time. It is important that knowledge that may be of general benefit to humankind and be of value in responding to future nuclear accidents is not lost.

The governments of the three states most affected—Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine—have joined with the European Commission, the U.S. National Cancer Institute, the Sasakawa Memorial Health Foundation of Japan, and the World Health Organization to create a tumor bank for thyroid tumors in each of the three countries. The project is coordinated from a center in Cambridge, United Kingdom. Nucleic acids will be extracted from tumor tissue and from normal thyroid and will be available for study (3). DNA from blood is expected to become available at a later date.

The tumor bank organization at present holds DNA and RNA extracted from ~200 thyroid tumors from patients who were younger than 19 at the time of the accident; the incidence of thyroid tumors is expected to increase considerably in the next few years. Only tissue not needed for diagnosis and obtained with full ethical permission will be used. An international group of pathologists has provided an agreed diagnosis for all extracted tumors.

The establishment of these tumor banks is intended to lead to work that will increase our understanding of the biological effects of radiation and of thyroid carcinogenesis, and provide an example of international collaboration that can be followed in other situations.

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References and Notes

1. E. D. Williams *et al.*, in *One Decade After Chernobyl* (International Atomic Energy Authority, Vienna, 1996), pp. 207–240.
2. E. P. Demidchik *et al.*, in *Radiation and Thyroid Cancer*, G. A. Thomas *et al.*, Eds. (World Scientific Publishing, Singapore, 1999), pp. 51–54; M. Tronko *et al.*, in (2), pp. 61–70; A. F. Tsyb *et al.*, in (2), pp. 59–88.
3. Further information is available at <http://www.srl.cam.ac.uk/nisctb/facts.htm>

The First Predictions

In the Random Samples item “Fine-tuning an award” (25 Aug., p. 1285), the astronomer P. J. E. Peebles is described as “a theorist who predicted the remnant of the big bang in the form of microwave radiation.” Although this is technically correct, he is not recognized as the first to make this prediction. Peebles in 1965 recreated the discovery of Ralph A. Alpher and the late Robert C. Herman, who in the late 1940s published two articles in which they predicted the presence of the radiation and its approximate temperature (1).

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References

1. R. A. Alpher and R. C. Herman, *Nature* **162**, 774 (1948); *Phys. Rev.* **75**, 1089 (1949).

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Reports: “The global spread of malaria in a future, warmer world” by D. J. Rogers and S. E. Randolph (8 Sept., p. 1763). In Figure 1, panel A was printed as a duplicate image of panel B in an earlier version of the figure. The correct panel A and final version of the figure are shown on the next page, depicting the present-day global dis-

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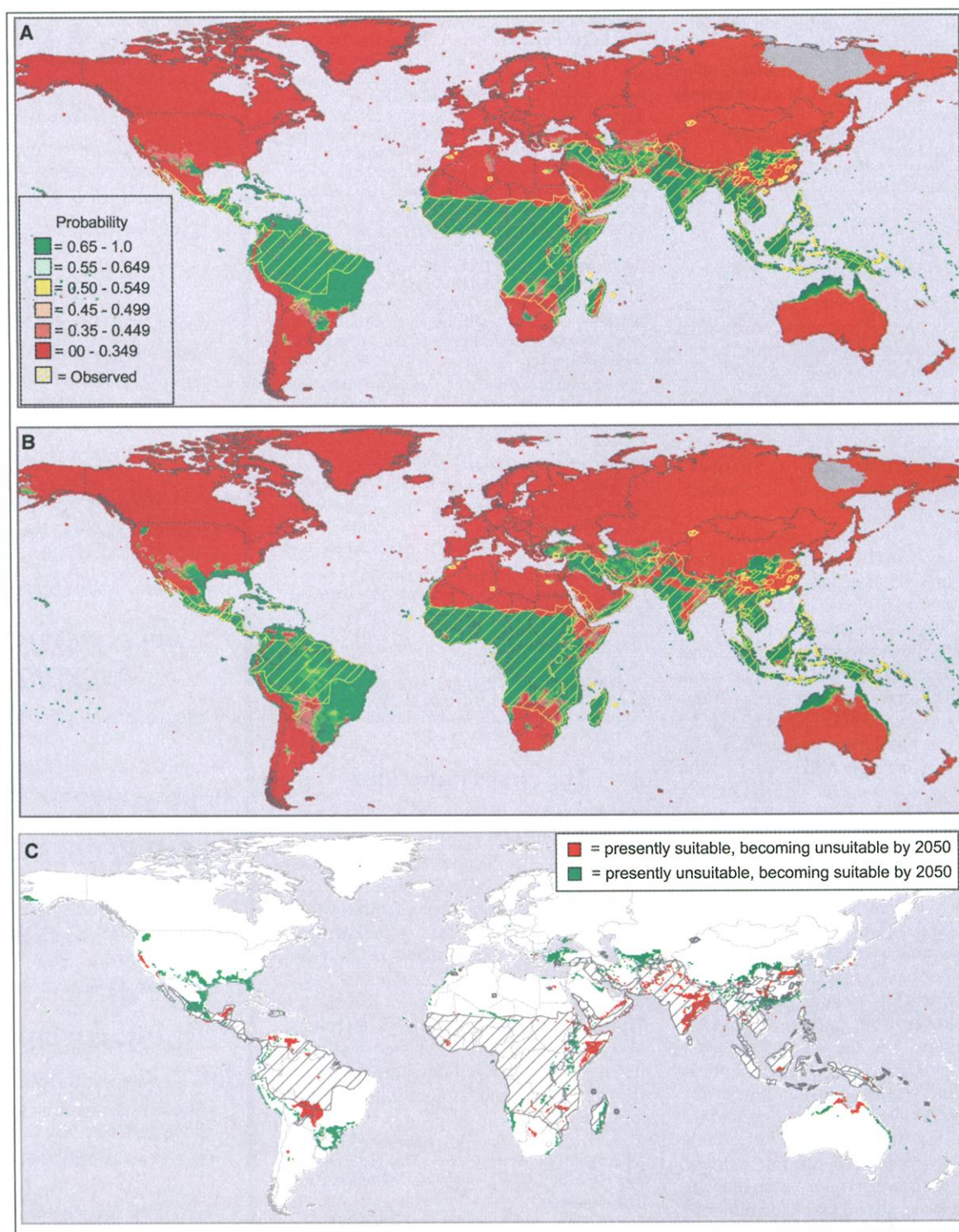
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tribution of *Plasmodium falciparum* malaria predicted with maximum likelihood methods (see probability scale inset) applied to 30-year climate averages (A), the predicted future distribution under the HadCM2 High scenario for the year 2050 (B), and the difference between these two distributions (C). The current global distribution of *falciparum* malaria, as recorded by the World Health Organization [Wkly Epidemiol. Rec. 72, 285 (1997)], is shown

by the cross-hatching in each panel.

NetWatch: "Mountain view" (1 Sept., p. 1427). The height of the ridge in the Colorado Rockies referred to was incorrect. It is 3536 meters, not 18,700 kilometers, high.

Reports: "A single adenosine with a neutral pKa in the ribosomal peptidyl transferase center" by G. W. Muth *et al.* (11 Aug., p. 947). A term in the numerator of equation 1

in note 11 was missing. The correct equation is as follows:

$$I_{\text{obs}} = \frac{I_{\text{HA}} [\text{H}^+] + I_{\text{max}} K_a}{K_a + [\text{H}^+]}$$

News: "A sinister plot or victim of politics?" by E. Marshall (28 Jul., p. 571). David Wasserman is at the College Park, not Baltimore, campus of the University of Maryland.