been neither sought nor granted. We argue instead that publicly released data and analyses should be given respect analogous to that given to personal communications. Finally, projects such as the mouse MHC locus research are of sufficient complexity that the time frame for mapping, sequencing, and analyzing the data can be long, especially if funding resources are limited. With an immediate data release policy, some of the data will be available well before completion of the entire project. Thus, imposition of a time frame is only fair to data producers if the clock begins to tick when the data-gathering phase is done.

In sum, we endorse the policy of open data release, and we encourage third parties to make use of the data to further research. However, we maintain that the right to publish a peer-reviewed, well-defined landmark or comprehensive analysis of the primary data should be reserved for the data producers. Precedents set now will define the norms and standard practices for the future. Thus, we urge journal editors to exercise fair and reasonable judgment vis-á-vis third-party publications.

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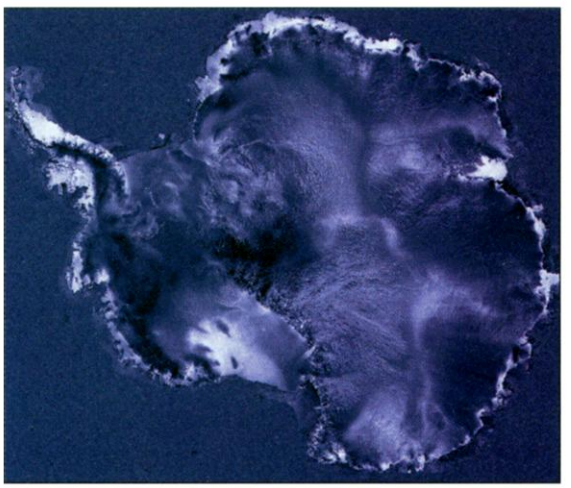
CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

Letters: "Consideration of copollutants" by S. H. Moolgavkar (20 Oct., p. 453). Editing of the letter for publication changed the meaning of a sentence in the first paragraph. In reference to the morbidity study, it is the method, not the study, as stated in the letter, that "has little power to control confounding by copollutants."

Cover: (15 Sept.). The figure shown here in proper orientation depicts the first high-resolution (25-meter), synthetic aperture radar mosaic of Antarctica. Data for the mosaic were collected over an 18-day period in 1997 as part of a Canadian Space Agency and NASA collaboration to map Antarctica with RADARSAT-1, the first Canadian Earth Observation satellite. The mosaic was assembled by a team that included The Ohio State University, Vexcel Corporation, the Alaska SAR Facility, and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. It represents a unique "snapshot" of the southern continent, providing a benchmark for gauging future changes of the ice sheet and coastal ocean, which are possible indicators of global warming. The 1997 mosaic will be compared with new and even higher resolution radar imagery collected during the fall of 2000 using RADARSAT-1. Along with searching for spatial changes in ice sheet surface properties and extent, the 2000 data will be used for radar interferometric analysis of ice sheet surface velocity to yield new information about the dynamics of ice sheet motion. RADARSAT-1 imagery is copyrighted by the Canadian Space Agency.



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