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Algonquian fishermen on Pamlico Sound, painted in 1585 by John White, later governor of the Roanoke colony. The abundant marine life includes hammerhead sharks and sturgeon, species rarely seen in shallow waters off North Carolina today. Such images show the extent to which our views of natural abundance have changed. [copyright, British Museum Press]

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SCIENCE EXPRESS

Global Analysis of Protein Activities Using Proteome Chips H. Zhu et al.

A chip containing 80% of the proteins encoded by *S. cerevisiae* is used to study protein-protein and protein-lipid interactions.

Resistance to an Herbivore Through Engineered Cyanogenic Glucoside Synthesis D. B. Tattersall *et al.*

Metabolic engineering applied to *Arabidopsis* has resulted in increased effectiveness of defenses against the plant's pests.

www.sciencexpress.org

Segregation of Human Neural Stem Cells in the Developing Primate Forebrain V. Ourednik *et al.*

Human neuronal stem cells transplanted into fetal brains of bonnet monkeys can migrate through the developing brain, a finding that offers clues about the origin of neural stem cells in human brains.

TECHNICAL COMMENTS

The Y Chromosome and the Replacement Hypothesis

Ke *et al.* (Reports, 11 May 2001, p. 1151), in an analysis of three Y chromosome markers characteristic of African origins in 12,127 males from 163 Asian populations, found no support for even a minimal contribution to the gene pool from previous Asian hominids—a result consistent with the "Outof-Africa" or replacement hypothesis for the origin of modern humans. Hawks comments that the Ke *et al.* study relied too heavily on a single line of evidence, and that a "balanced view" that encompasses both other genetic data and archeological and fossil evidence argues against a simple replacement hypothesis "for East Asians, or indeed for any ancient human population." Jin and Su respond that Y chromosome markers, although not the only genetic evidence, represent "the best choice so far," and that historical and fossil evidence, valuable as a snapshot of events, "can hardly illuminate whether human beings living at that moment actually contributed to the extant populations." The full text of these comments can be seen at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/293/5530/567a.

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Review: Stressed to Death—Regulation of Apoptotic Signaling Pathways by the Heat Shock Proteins H. M. Beere

How HSPs influence JNK, Akt, death receptor, and Ras-Raf signaling pathways.

Protocol: Analysis of Protein Arginine Methylation and Protein Arginine-Methyltransferase Activity K. A. Mowen and M. David

Assaying for protein methylation—it's not just for histones anymore.

Perspective: HOG on the Promoter—Regulation of the Osmotic Stress Response S. P. Chellappan

Transcriptional regulation by Hog1 mitogen-activated protein kinase in a protein complex at the promoter of target genes.

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SUMMARIES OF RESEARCH IN THIS ISSUE

THIS WEEK IN Science

Shocking Behavior in Condensates

Although defects are often unwanted, their controlled introduction can provide useful signatures or probes of a medium. The ability to introduce localized defects into Bose-Einstein condensates (BECs) would be an extremely useful tool to probe the properties of such macroscopic quantum systems and superfluids. Combining their slow-light technique with electromagnetic-induced tranparency, Dutton *et al.* (p. 663) report the formation of localized de-

fects in a BEC and the response of the BEC to the defect. Small-scale, large-amplitude sound wave collapse in the BEC results in the breakdown of the superfluidity by the formation of topological defects such as solitons and the nucleation of vortices. The results present a superfluid analog to classical shock waves. \Re

Building β-Helical Polymers

Although less common than α -helices and β -sheets, the β -helix motif, in which parallel β -strands coil up to form a large helix, can occur, such as in the fibrous form of transthyretin, which is associated with a number of diseases, and are also present in insect antifreeze proteins. Cornelissen *et al.* (p. 676) have synthesized a polymeric iso-

cyanopeptide that also organizes into β helices but with variation on the motif. The backbone of the polymer forms a central helix, about which the adjoining peptides form sheetlike arrangements. This structure shows stability in both organic solvents and in water, and it may be possible to use these materials as templates for crystal growth, anchors for metal catalysts, or for organizing nonlinear optical chromophores.



Crystal Packing Directs C70 Polymerization

When subjected to pressure, the fullerene C_{60} can polymerize through cycloaddition to form three-dimensional networks. Similar reactions for the next higher known fullerene, C_{70} , have been elusive, and pressurization normally forms only C_{70} dimers. Soldatov *et al.* (p. 680), following a lead from theoretical modeling, show that the packing of the C_{70} crystal makes all of the difference. Unlike cubic packed crystals, hexagonally packed crystals contain a twofold screw axis that allows zig-zag polymer chains to form under pressure. The resulting structures were verified by x-ray diffraction and spectroscopy.

edited by Phil Szuromi

668 Nitrogen-Fixing Symbiont The α-proteobacterium Sinorhizobium

meliloti not only has affinity with important plant (Agrobacterium) and animal (Brucella)

pathogens but is also a symbiont of leguminous plants. This symbiosis is responsible for a substantial proportion of the approximately 100 million tons of nitrogen fixed in terrestrial ecosystems. Galibert *et al.* (p. 668) sequenced the 6.7-megabase genome of *S. meliloti*, which consists of three replicons (one chromosome and two megaplasmids). Some surprising features include partitioning of several classes of insertion elements among the replicons, the presence of 26 nucleotide cyclases, a type IV secretion system and two types of pili genes, as well as the apparent absence of type III secretion, the sigma factor *rpoS*, and the nitrogenase *nifQ*.

When the Crust Took Shape

Although the use of the uranium-lead system for dating may be more familiar, the radioactive decay of lutetium to hafnium (176 Lu to 176 Hf) has also been a critical tool for dating old crust. Scherer *et al.* (p. 683; see the Perspective by Kramers) have determined a more precise value for the decay constant of 176 Lu to 176 Hf through age comparisons. Their value agrees with recent decay counting experiments and is smaller than previous age com-

parison values. Their result pushes back the appearance of Earth's first crust from 4.1 billion to 4.3 billion years ago and indicates that differentiation occurred quickly after the formation of the planet.

Volcanic Piston

In June 2000, the volcano on Miyake Island, Japan, developed a relatively large caldera at its summit amidst a small flurry of minor eruptions. Caldera formation was synchronous with some verylong-period seismic signals that indicated the outflow of magma at depth. The signals indicated that the magma was flowing away from Miyake Island to the northwest toward Kozu Island. To explain this unusual combination of observations, Kumagai *et al.* (p. 687; see the Perspective by Scarpa) have developed a model of a "piston" of solid material within the conduit that pushes down into the shallow magma chamber and forces magma outflow at depth. Each downstroke of the piston increases the size of the caldera.

Prides and Prejudice

Recent models have shown the circumstances in which reproduction can be apportioned among female group members in social animals. Many empirical studies have focused on species in which reproduction is highly skewed. Packer *et al.* (p. 690; see news story by Pennisi) have examined the degree of reproductive skew within African lion prides using data collected during the past few decades, which tell a different story. They compared the observed variance in reproduction within prides with the variance produced by simulations that under or overestimated variance in reproduction. In most cases, reproductive output was partitioned fairly evenly among the females in a pride. These results provide a rare example of egalitarianism in an animal society.

A Model for Control of Chagas Disease

Chagas disease is a widespread, chronic, and ultimately fatal disease of the rural poor in Latin America that is caused by the parasite, *Try-panosoma cruzi*. This protozoan is transmitted by blood-sucking triatomine bugs. It has long been suggested that improving the quality

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CONTINUED FROM 569 THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

of housing could control this disease. Cohen and Gürtler (p. 694) have now mathematically modeled the complex set of variables that contribute to disease transmission within a house-hold. They offer simple recommendations for exclusion of pets and structural improvement of sleeping areas that would virtually eliminate Chagas disease in human beings.

Getting to Grips with SNARES

The SNARE proteins are involved in the promotion of faithful fusion events during membrane traffic. Tochio *et al.* (p. 698) examined the structure of one of the SNARE proteins, Ykt6p, from yeast using nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy. The amino-terminal structure did not resemble that of another well-characterized SNARE protein, syntaxin, but rather has characteristics in common with the actin regulatory protein profilin. Ykt6p may adopt different conformations that would affect its incorporation into productive fusion complexes.

Death Without Entanglements

Many human neurodegenerative diseases are characterized by abnormalities in the conformation and phosphorylation of the microtubule-binding protein tau, and it has been speculated that these abnormalities play a causal role in neuronal killing. Wittmann *et al.* (p. 711; see the 14 June news story by Ferber) have created a genetic model of these so-called "tauopathies"



by expressing human wild-type and mutant tau in the nervous system of the fruit fly *Drosophila melanogaster*. The transgenic flies developed many features of the human tauopathies, including adult-onset progressive neurodegeneration and early death. Curiously, however, the dying neurons showed no signs of neurofibrillary tangles—the large filamentous aggregates of tau—that are a prominent feature of tauopathies in humans and rodent models. Because of its genetic accessibility, the fly model is expected to provide new insights into the cellular mechanisms that underlie tau-mediated neurotoxicity.

Receptor for an Inflammatory Lipid

An orphan G protein–coupled receptor called G2A has important immunoregulatory roles because its deletion in mice results in an autoimmune disorder similar to systemic lupus erythematosus. Kabarowski *et al.* (p. 702; see the Perspective by Carson and Lo) have now determined that a lipid present in cell membranes and serum called lysophosphatidylcholine (LPC) is the activating ligand of this receptor. LPC has previously been implicated in chronic inflammatory conditions such as systemic autoimmune diseases and atherosclerosis. The G2A-LPC interaction altered the migratory behavior of T cells.

Destined for Destruction

When cells are starved, they tend to cannibalize excess proteins. Kuroda *et al.* (p. 705; see the Perspective by Gottesman and Maurizi) examined this process in bacteria and discovered that inorganic polyphosphate appears to be a key factor in promoting the specific degradation of unassembled (excess) ribosomal subunits, presumably in order to recycle their constituent amino acids. They propose that the inorganic polyphosphate binds noncovalently to the ribosomal proteins and targets them for degradation by the adenosine triphosphate–dependent protease, Lon.

How One Phosphate Changes Actin

Monomeric actin binds adenosine triphosphate (ATP) and associates with itself to form actin polymers, the core component of the thin filaments that make up the cytoskeleton. Polymerization can take place in the absence of ATP hydrolysis, which occurs at a slow rate and appears to increase the propensity of monomers to dissociate from the filament (see the Perspective by De La Cruz and Pollard). How this works has been unclear because the available structures of actin (necessarily in complex with other proteins to prevent polymerization) have not revealed any differences between the ATP and adenosine diphosphate (ADP) states. Otterbein *et al.* (p. 708) present a structure of uncomplexed actin with ADP bound and thus describe the conformational changes triggered by nucleotide hydrolysis and phosphate release.





ANNOUNCEMENT OF FAMRI AND THREE CLINICAL RESEARCH AWARDS

In October 1991, Miami attorneys, Stanley and Susan Rosenblatt, brought a class action suit against the tobacco industry seeking damages on behalf of flight attendants and their survivors, for the diseases and death that have been caused by their exposure to environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) in airline cabins. The October 1997 settlement, after four months of trial, among other substantial benefits to class members, established an endowment fund of \$300 million that has supported a not-for-profit research foundation, the Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI). The Mission of FAMRI is to sponsor scientific and medical research for the early detection, treatment, and cure of diseases and medical conditions associated with exposure to ETS. FAMRI is headed by a board of trustees, with the majority of flight attendants, a Medical Advisory Board of highly qualified, internationally recognized clinical scientists, chaired by former United States Surgeon General Julius Richmond, M.D. FAMRI has contracted the American Institute of Biological Sciences to conduct the peer review of the three clinical research awards detailed below. More information about FAMRI and the awards, including the Requests for Applications is available on the web at: http://www.famri.org. Other communications should be directed to: FAMRI, c/o Stanley M. Rosenblatt and Susan Rosenblatt, Class Counsel, 66 West Flagler Street, 12th Floor, Miami, FL, 33130. TEL: (305) 374-6131 FAX: (305) 381-8818

YOUNG CLINICAL SCIENTIST AWARD (YCSA)

The purpose of the FAMRI YCSA is to help prepare and support new clinical investigators with a M.D. or Ph.D. as they begin their careers as independent researchers. The program is limited to the development of young researchers in smoking-related disorders. FAMRI is particularly interested in helping to provide the bridge between the clinic and the laboratory for the critical translation of basic research findings into diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. The YCSAs are being offered to two groups of scientists: research fellows and junior faculty members

CLINICAL INNOVATOR AWARD (CIA)

FAMRI established the CIA to stimulate novel medical and clinical scientific research studies on the topic of ETS. While considerable government and non-government funding is available to support established mainstream biomedical research projects, funds for high-risk projects are generally quite limited. With the CIA, FAMRI hopes to foster innovative breakthroughs and creative collaborations. The CIA is available to clinical investigators with a M.D. or Ph.D.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (CoE)

FAMRI's CoE will be the centerpiece to linking physicians and scientists from various disciplines into multidisciplinary programs in patient care and research. The aims of FAMRI's Centers of Excellence are to enhance the knowledge base relating to the exposure of ETS, to serve as a new source for more effective approaches to detection, diagnosis, and therapy for diseases associated with exposure to ETS, and to serve as principal deliverers of medical advances to those suffering from exposure to ETS. FAMRI has developed this award program on an institutional basis, striving for comprehensive research plans, including the entire range of research endeavors from basic to clinical research, as well as community outreach.

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