

SCIENCE'S COMPASS

Taking the essential elements of Boorse (1) and Temple *et al.*, I suggest the following definition: Disease is a genotypic or phenotypic state, often influenced by environmental factors, that places individuals at risk for internally derived adverse consequences.

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References and Notes

1. C. Boorse, in *Biomedical Ethics Reviews: What Is disease?*, M. Humber, R. F. Almeder, Eds. (Humana, Totowa, NJ, 1997), pp. 7–8.

Response

BUNGEE JUMPING AND MOUNTAIN CLIMBING are activities rather than states and, therefore, would not necessarily be considered diseases. However, no definition of disease will work in all contexts. Risk-taking behaviors may be better dealt with by Clouser *et al.*'s definition of a malady as "a condition other than rational beliefs or desires, such that [individuals] are incurring, or at a significantly increased risk of incurring, a harm or evil (death, disability, loss of freedom, or loss of pleasure) in the absence of direct sustaining cause" (1). One might argue about the ratio-

nality of either climbing up or jumping off heights. Furthermore, given the potential genetic explanations for behavioral disorders such as risk-taking behavior (2), with time, bungee jumping and mountain climbing might be viewed by some as disease manifestations.

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References and Notes

1. K. D. Clouser, C. M. Culver, B. Gert, in *Biomedical Ethics Reviews: What Is disease?*, J. M. Humber, R. F. Almeder, Eds. (Humana, Totowa, NJ, 1997), pp. 173–218.
2. D. E. Comings, K. Blum, *Prog. Brain Res.* **126**, 325 (2000).

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

PERSPECTIVES: "Dicing up RNAs" by V. Ambros (3 Aug., p. 811). In the last paragraph on p. 811, a reference number is erroneously stated. Reference number (1) on line 4 should have been written as reference number (10), citing a paper by E. Bernstein *et al.*, *Nature* **409**, 363 (2001).

CORRECTIONS, REPORTS: In the 27 July issue (p. 607), in the correction for the report "Quantum mechanical actuation of microelectromechanical systems by the Casimir force" by H. B. Chan *et*

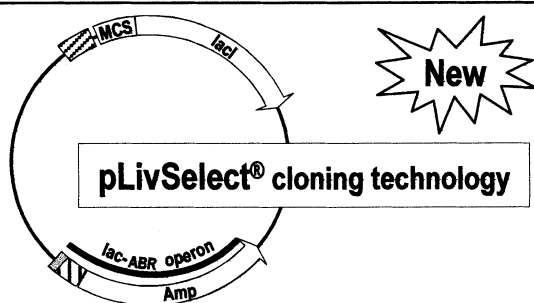
al. (9 Mar., p. 1941), a delta symbol in the expression $F_2(\Delta z + z_1)$ printed as a capital "D."

REPORTS: "Calibration of the lutetium-hafnium clock" by E. Scherer, C. Munker, K. Mezger (27 Jul., p. 683). In note 47, an "f" was inadvertently inserted in front of "cgi" in the URL for the supplemental Web material. The correct URL is www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/293/5530/683/DC1

NEWS OF THE WEEK: "Interest blooms in growing jellyfish boom" by D. Malakoff (6 Jul., p. 29). *Mnemiopsis leidyi* was incorrectly referred to as a jellyfish (phylum Cnidaria); it is a comb jelly (phylum Ctenophora).

REVIEW: "The early evolution of the inner solar system: A meteoritic perspective" by C. M. O'D. Alexander, A. P. Boss, R. W. Carlson (6 Jul., p. 64). The y-axis label for Fig. 2C was incorrect. The label should have read "(Abundance - xCI)/CI/(1 - x)."

PERSPECTIVES: "How to make a superior cell" by G. Stephanopoulos, J. Kelleher (15 Jun., p. 2024). In paragraph 1, members of the genus *Streptomyces* were misidentified as "fungus" rather than as bacteria. The mistake does not affect the central points of the article.



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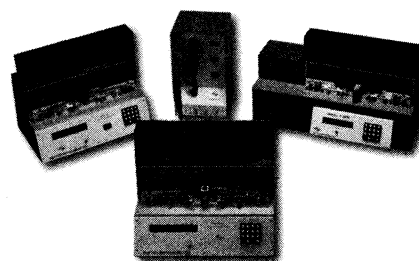
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