

Retraction

IN OUR REPORT, "EVIDENCE FOR COHERENT proton tunneling in a hydrogen bond network" (1), we presented nuclear magnetic resonance relaxometry results for calix(4)arene in the solid state. A peak at 35 MHz in the magnetic field dependence of the proton spin-lattice relaxation rate was interpreted as a manifestation of coherent proton tunneling in a cyclic array of four hydrogen bonds. In the course of further investigations, it has become apparent that the sample supplied to us contained residues of dichloromethane. This brings into question the assignment of the spectral feature because we cannot now rule out the possibility that it derives from quadrupole resonance transitions associated with chlorine nuclei. Thus, we must retract our report. Conclusions regarding the incoherent tunneling of protons in this material are not in question.

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Reference

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HIV Among Drug Users in China

J. KAUFMAN AND J. JING PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT overview of the potentially catastrophic epidemic of HIV/AIDS in China in their Policy Forum "China and AIDS—the time to act is now" (28 June, p. 2339). They note that the Chinese epidemic began among injecting drug users (IDUs) and call for education on safer injection and clean needle programs to reduce HIV transmission among IDUs. HIV among IDUs is clearly a major problem in China: (i) 68.7% of all reported cases of HIV are among IDUs; (ii) HIV infection has spread along drug distribution routes and has occurred among IDUs in all provinces; (iii) extremely rapid HIV transmission has occurred in some populations of IDUs, with incidence rates of over 30% per

year; and (iv) transmission from IDUs to noninjecting sexual partners is becoming a substantial public health problem (1).

Although education and clean needle programs are urgently needed, such programs alone are unlikely to address the problem adequately. Despite very punitive laws, the number of illicit drug users has been increasing dramatically. There are currently 860,000 officially registered drug users, and the number of registered drug users has increased by 53.3% over the last year (1). The actual number of drug users is likely much greater.

Large-scale programs to reduce the start of illicit drug use (2), to reduce transitions from use of noninjected drugs to use of injected drugs (3), and to provide effective long-term treatment (such as methadone maintenance) for drug addiction are all needed.

Programs to increase safer injection and programs to reduce drug use should be considered complementary and not competing methods to reduce HIV transmission among IDUs. Although implementing large-scale programs to provide safer injection and to reduce illicit drug use may be more expensive initially, such comprehensive programming is likely to be both more effective and more sustainable over the long term.

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References

1. D. K. Yin, paper presented at the First HIV/AIDS/STD National Conference, Beijing, China, December 2001.
2. Z. Wu et al., *Addiction* **91**, 1675 (1996).
3. D. C. Des Jarlais, C. Casriel, S. R. Friedman, A. Rosenblum, *Br. J. Addict.* **87**, 493 (1992).

Response

FENG AND DES JARLAIS RAISE IMPORTANT points, and we fully agree with their opinions. Policies and programs to contain the spread of HIV among IDUs require much

more than just making clean needles available. We noted in our Policy Forum the crucial importance of formulating laws and policies to support best practice initiatives and the necessity of multisectoral responses, including collaboration between health and public security departments regarding programs for drug users and sex workers. We

pointed out that seven provinces have increasing incidence of HIV among IDUs, that there is intravenous drug use by many sex workers, and that these provinces need to act urgently to avoid the high rates of infection found in Yunnan and several other western provinces. The brevity of the Policy Forum

did not allow for full discussion of all issues. With more space, we would have offered a more comprehensive proposal for programs to prevent HIV among IDUs along the lines suggested, as well as further suggestions for programs for other high-risk groups and the general population, all based on proven international best practices.

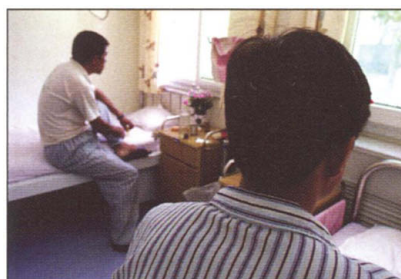
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Trying to Make Sense of Disorder

IN HIS ARTICLE "A FRESH TAKE ON DISORDER, or disorderly science?" (News Focus, 23 Aug., p. 1268), Adrian Cho reports on a lively controversy presently raging over what is called "Tsallis entropy," which has been wrongly supposed to be the physical entropy of the natural world, superseding the universal and general Clausius-Boltzmann statistical-thermodynamic entropy. The new definition of entropy developed by Constantino Tsallis is a very useful—and sophisticated—tool for generating a so-called nonextensive thermodynamics, which can be used for adjusting and analyzing experimental data in certain partic-



Two unidentified AIDS patients in a hospital in Beijing.