

shows how unfortunate it is that Nemirovsky's papers are unknown and untranslated. Perhaps this is because Nemirovsky does not have the advantage of working in a well-known institution, nor of having these papers published by well-known journals.

Nemirovsky is a scientist of the highest caliber whose major field is pure mathematics, in particular, functional analysis. We urge our colleagues to seek out and translate his papers and books.

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Confidentiality: Rights and Responsibilities

The article by Gordis and Gold on privacy and confidentiality in medical records research (11 Jan., p. 153) is an excellent statement about the rights and obligations of scientists in a search for an equitable balance between the information needs of the biomedical research community and the individual rights of patients and research subjects to confidentiality and privacy. It is made even more valuable by its original presentation as congressional testimony on behalf of the professional societies whose members' activities are directly affected by such ethical and legal issues, and as such it is a noteworthy public contribution by these societies.

The article does not mention, however, a new policy question that has emerged in the context of balancing researchers' rights with the public's right

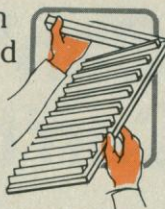
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to know. The request (1) by the National Institutes of Health to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Ethics Advisory Board for a review of a proposed additional exemption to the Freedom of Information Act (FOI) for epidemiological and clinical research data raises a topic of concern that should be brought to the attention of the broader scientific community and the public beyond the researchers and the government agencies immediately affected. In the proposed FOI exemption for preliminary research data, the traditional rights of scientists to analyze incomplete data outside the arena of public review are recognized. This would minimize the premature release of misleading and incomplete research findings. Researchers and the government also have a responsibility, however, to make available for review and criticism evidence supporting scientific claims used in formulating public policies. The "timing" of access to preliminary research data may place this right and responsibility in conflict.

The AAAS Committee on Scientific Freedom and Responsibility has identified this issue of proposed FOI exemptions for research data as an important topic for future discussion. The committee invites individuals from the scientific community and the public to express opinions on the proposed exemptions in correspondence to the committee office at the AAAS address. These opinions will be used as a basis for future examination of this issue and will be forwarded to appropriate government offices when and if the proposed exemption is drafted.

JOHN T. EDSALL

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References

1. *Fed. Reg.* 44, 45252 (1 August 1979).

Automotive Research

In view of the "progress" in American automotive research (Letters, 9 May, p. 550) the Cooperative Automotive Research Program (CARP) might be renamed the Program for Automotive Research Cooperation.

RETO ENGLER

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Erratum: The title of the report by K. Robie-Suh *et al.* (30 May, p. 1031) was incorrectly printed. It should have been "Aryl hydrocarbon hydroxylase from humans is inhibited by antibody to rat liver cytochrome P-450."

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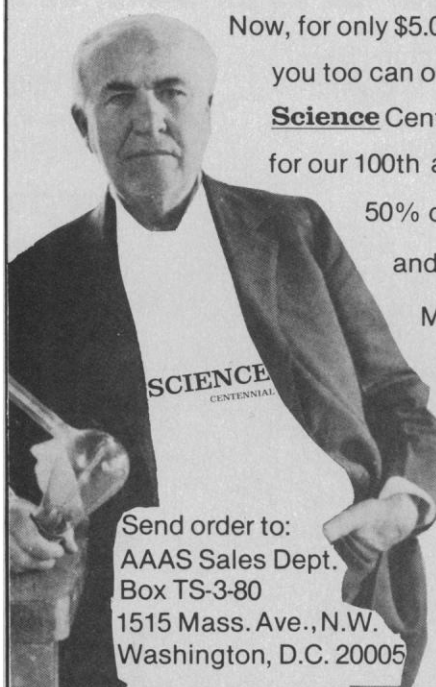
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