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COVER

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[Illustration: Mike A. De LaFlor]

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References: (1) Bobrow M, et al. Journal of Immunological Methods. 1991; 137:103-112. (2) Bobrow M, et al. Journal of Immunological Methods. 1989; 125:279-285.

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Magic numbers and multicages

Metallo-carbohedrenes, cagelike molecules of transition metals and carbon, can form higher multiple connected cages. Mass spectroscopy studies by Wei et al. (p. 818) revealed "magic numbers," that is, truncations in the intensity of spectral features as a function of mass. They found evidence for double cages $(Zr_{13}C_{22} \text{ and } Zr_{14}C_{21}, \text{ the latter})$ of which also coincides with $Zr_{14}C_{23}$), triple cages ($Zr_{18}C_{29}$), and quadruple cages $(Zr_{22}C_{35})$. This series is unusual; for example, magic numbers for clusters of Ta and C also correspond to the formation of closepacked cubic structures rather than cages.

Brominated buckyball

Reaction of C60 with liquid bromine might have yielded numerous bromine derivatives, but Tebbe et al. (p. 822) report the formation at room temperature of a yellowish-orange product, C₆₀Br₂₄. An x-ray study reveals that the bromine ligands are arranged in a highly symmetrical fashion so that the molecule displays the rare point group symmetry of T_h . The 24 added bromine atoms are bonded to sp³ carbon atoms, and the remaining carbon atoms form 18 double bonds. The addition of more bromine atoms would lead to crowding of the bromine atoms.



Signaling through GAP

The guanosine triphosphatase– activating protein GAP can inactivate the guanine nucleotide–binding protein Ras by promoting conversion of the active (guanosine triphosphate-bound) form of Ras to the inactive (guanosine diphosphate-bound) form. Schweighoffer *et al.* (p. 825) present results that indicate that GAP also functions to transmit signals to the biochemical pathways activated by Ras. Their experiments with a truncated form of GAP suggest that the NH_2 -terminus of GAP is required to modulate the activity of the enzymes (or effectors) that are controlled by Ras.

Function of p53

The p53 protein is a tumor suppressor that has sequence-specific DNA binding activity and contains a domain that can activate transcription when attached to the DNA binding domain of another protein. The encoding gene for p53 has been found to be mutated in a variety of human cancers. Kern et al. (p. 827) show that normal p53 activates the expression of a gene that has a p53 DNA binding site and that activation correlates with the ability of p53 to bind DNA. Cancer-causing forms of p53 do not activate transcription and inhibit activation by normal p53. Thus, oncogenic forms of p53 may promote tumor formation by interfering with normal p53-mediated activation of genes involved in growth inhibition.

Scent for

ewe As in many species, a selective bond based on smell is formed between a ewe and her offspring shortly after birth due to a change in the mother's processing of olfactory signals. Kendrick *et al.* (p. 833) made electrophysiological recordings from ewes before and after they gave birth. Before birth lamb odors had little effect on neurotransmitter release or electrical activity, and no cells responded preferentially to lamb odors as compared to other odors such as those from food. After birth the number of mitral cells (the principal cells of the olfactory bulb) that responded to lamb odors increased, and some cells responded preferentially to the ewe's own lamb. There were also indications of an increased efficacy of glutamate-evoked release of the neurotransmitter γ aminobutvric acid.

Functional expression

Ion channels often have multiple subunits, and the expression of functional channels often requires the expression of more than one subunit type. Voltage-sensitive sodium channels initiate and propagate action potentials; the channels' α subunits from rat brain have been previously cloned and expressed, but channels containing only α subunits inactivate more slowly the sodium channels in neurons. Isom et al. (p. 839) have cloned and expressed the β_1 subunit of rat brain sodium channels. They find that coexpression of the β_1 subunit with the α subunit leads to properties more representative of the wild-type channel, including increasing the peak sodium current, speeding up inactivation, and shifting the voltage dependence to more negative potentials.

Hearing words and music

Listening to a song requires processing of both the lyrics (distinguishing elements of speech or phonemes) and the music (distinguishing pitches). Zatorre et al. (p. 846) used positron emission tomography to map out the lateralization in the brain of these two aspects of speech, phonetic structure, and pitch discrimination. Studies in human volunteers revealed processing of phonetic structure by the left-hemisphere side of Broca's area, which is usually associated with articulation. This result is consistent with the motor theory of speech, which holds that decoding speech requires access to information in the brain on making the sound. Pitch discrimination activated the right prefrontal cortex, which is also involved in other auditory functions.

Parkinson's drug

Parkinson's disease results from degeneration of neurons in a specific region of the brain, the substantia nigra pars compacta. Currently available treatments can help, but do not clearly stop, the disease process. Schneider *et al.* (p. 843) investigate the effect of treatment with G_{M1} ganglioside on experimental parkinsonism. Monkeys were treated first with 1-methyl-4-phenyl-1,2,3,6-tetrahydropyridine (MPTP), which acutely induces behavioral and cognitive deficits similar to those caused by Parkinson's disease. When treated with G_{M1} , such monkeys recovered most of their motor function and apparently all cognitive function. Their brains showed greater dopamine levels and innervation than did brains of monkeys that received only MPTP.

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60 mg of RNase B was incubated with 3,000 units of Endo H or Endo H_f under standard assay conditions. Allquots were removed at various time points and measured for released carbohydrate. (Dubois et. al [1956] Anal. Chem. 28, 350-356).

MOBILITY SHIFT ANALYSIS



1 unit of Endo H, Endo H_f or PNGase F was incubated per 10 µg of RNase B under standard assay conditions. At various time points, aliquots were removed and analyzed on a 10-20% SDS-gel for carbohydrate (CHO) release. 1 unit is defined as the amount of enzyme required to remove all of the carbohydrate from 10 µg of RNase B at 37°C in 1 hour.

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Scientists reluctant to incorporate nonradioactive labeling and detection into their research techniques have historically accused nonradioactive products of lacking sufficient levels of sensitivity. However, recent technological advancements — chemiluminescent detection, to be exact have allowed select products to meet or exceed the sensitivity levels achievable with ³²P labeling and detection.

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New information identifies ideal techniques for nonradioactive labeling and detection.

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Human genomic Southern blot (RFLP) showing chemiluminescent detection of single-copy genes following a 2.5 minute X-ray film exposure

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Comparison of slot blot hybridizations using Genius-labeled oligonucleotide probe (left panel, 60 minute film exposure) and ³²P-labeled probe (right panel, overnight film exposure)

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To receive additional information about the Genius System products, their applications and specifications, or to receive a bibliography of publication references, call Boehringer Mannheim at **800-428-5433**.

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Tentative Program

Mapping

(Thursday, 15 October, 8:30am-noon) Bertrand R. Jordan (chair), INSERM-CNRS Jean Weissenbach, CNRS, Inst. Pasteur Daniel Cohen, Ctr. d'Etude du Polymorphisme Humain Malcolm Ferguson-Smith, Cambridge Univ. Cassandra L. Smith, Univ. of California, Berkeley Yoshihide Hayashizaki, Natl. Cardiovascular Research Inst.

Human Genetic Diversity

(Thursday, 15 October, 4:00pm-7:00pm) P. Fasella (chair), Comm. of European Communities L.L. Cavalli-Sforza, Stanford Univ. A. Piazza, Univ. of Torino Alec J. Jeffreys, Univ. of Leicester Kenneth Kidd, Yale Univ. School of Medicine Svante Paabo, Univ. of Munich Julia Bodmer, Imperial Cancer Research Fund

Applications of the Human Genome Project

(Friday, 16 October, 8:30am-noon) Jean Dausset (chair), Ctr. d'Etude du Polymorphisme Humain John Hardy, St. Mary's Hospital Medical School Francis Collins, Univ. of Michigan Yusuke Nakamura, Japanese Fdn. for Cancer Research Hans-Hilger Ropers, Univ. of Nijmegen Ulf Landegren, Univ. of Uppsala

Contributed Papers

(Friday, 16 October, 4:00pm-7:30pm) Howard M. Cann (chair), Ctr. d'Etude du Polymorphisme Humain Speakers will be chosen from poster session abstracts.

Model Organisms

(Saturday, 17 October, 8:30am-noon) George Carle (chair), Univ. of Nice Marc van Montagu, Univ. of Ghent Piotr Slonimski, CNRS John Sulston, MRC Lab of Molecular Biology Steven Tanksley, Cornell Univ. Eric Lander, Whitehead Inst. Michael Ashburner, Cambridge Univ.

cDNA Sequences & Intellectual Property

(Saturday, 17 October, 4:00pm-7:30pm) Lennart Philipson (chair), EMBL J. Craig Venter, Natl. Inst. of Health Kenichi Matsubara, Osaka Univ. Rebecca Eisenberg, Univ. of Michigan Charles Auffray, Inst. d'Embryologie du CNRS Andrei Mirzabekov, Soviet Academy of Sciences

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INTERNATIONAL HUMAN FRONTIER SCIENCE PROGRAM

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS

Research Grants / Fellowships / Workshops 1993

The Human Frontier Science Program (HFSP) aims to promote, through international collaboration, basic research to elucidate the complex mechanisms of living organisms, including man. Applications are invited for the support of research grants, fellowships and workshops in the areas set out below. The program distributed about \$13 m on new awards this year and aim to spend a similar amount in 1993.

Research Areas of the HFSP

- (A) Basic research for the elucidation of brain functions
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Research Grants : Grants for basic research carried out jointly by research teams in different countries. The principal applicant must be from one of the eligible countries*.

Fellowships : Long-Term (up to 2 years), **Short-Term** (up to 3 months); Fellowships for researchers from the eligible countries who wish to do research in foreign countries, or for researchers outside the eligible countries who wish to do research in one of the eligible countries.

Workshops : Grants for international workshops organized by researchers from the eligible countries.

* The eligible countries for the current year are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Switzerland, U.K., U.S.A. and non-summit EC member countries. (Details in the guidebook).

Application Deadline : September 30, 1992

For Research Grants and Long-Term Fellowships, the awards will be announced in April 1993. Applications for Short-Term Fellowships and Workshops can be submitted throughout the year.

Guidebooks and Application forms may be obtained upon written request by using the address form below. Please indicate which program activity you are interested in.

Guidebooks and application Forms for Research Grants & Long-Term Fellowships will not be available after September 1, 1992.

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- The MinipHor is fast. Each run separates up to 0.25 gram of protein in about one hour.
- Mass and activity recoveries are high. Separation occurs in free solution. There are no gels or solid supports to introduce adsorptive losses. Even very small amounts of protein can be purified with good recovery.
- The MinipHor is a modular system. It can be used with most existing power supplies and cooled by recirculating water from an ice bath with a low-cost pump. This saves you money. If you already have these accessories for use with other electrophoresis systems, you can use them with the MinipHor.

For more information, call 800-4-PROTEIN. (800-477-6834)



Manufactured and sold under U.S. Patent No. 4,897,169. Foreign patents pending. Prices and specifications subject to change without notice.

Circle No. 40 on Readers' Service Card



The superior design of Forma Scientific's biological safety cabinet brings innovation to the laboratory. Forma's NEW type A/B3 cabinet features:

Maximum Protection

"Vortex channels" (patent pending) provide added protection for operator and lab environment.

Optimum Accessibility

Interior height creates greater range of motion.

Increased Mobility

Slim design allows clear passage through 30" door opening.

Enhanced Visibility

Unique design of light canopy enlarges viewing area.



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