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COVER

Agrobacterium tumefaciens VirE2 protein (fused to the β -glucuronidase reporter protein, which generates the blue stain) accumulates in the nucleus of a tobacco cell. VirE2, a single-stranded DNA binding protein that associates with Agrobacterium T-strand DNA, is pro-

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1791 Images in silicon



Indicates accompanying feature

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'his Week in Science

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

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After the flood

How do climate changes, streams, and tectonic processes such as uplifting and faulting interact to yield a sedimentary deposit? Koltermann and Gorelick (p. 1775) address the question by performing large-scale computer simulation of an alluvial fan in northern California. They examined a range of hydrologic systems throughout the state to infer likely climate changes. Paleoclimate fluctuations dominated the large-scale changes that occurred in the deposit.

HIV reverse transcriptase

A 3.5 angstrom resolution crystal structure of HIV reverse transcriptase, a target for many AIDS drugs, in a complex with an inhibitor has been reported by Kohlstaedt et al. (p. 1783). In a Perspective, Wlodawer (p. 1766) discusses some of the difficulties involved in obtaining this structure and as well as some of the insights gained from it, especially in the area of rational drug design.

Silicon images

When electrochemically etched, silicon can be made to emit visible photoluminescence. Doan et al. (p. 1791) find that black and white images can be transferred to a silicon surface by means of photoetching. Viewed in visible light the etched image exhibits false colors owing to thin film interference. Under blue light, the image photoluminesces with intensities corresponding to the light and dark regions of the original pattern. The authors were also able to photoetch a diffraction grating, a procedure that may find application in holographic displays, waveguides, and data storage technology.

100

Bigger fullerenes

Theoretical calculations for larger fullerenes (from 60 to 240 carbon atoms) reveal that ballshaped molecules are lower in energy than tubular structures. Adams et al. (p. 1792) performed first-principles calcula-

tions for spherical arrangements of atoms and for capsule structures (cylinders with hemispherical end ministration's recently caps) with different numbers of announced guidelines (MHC). Hunt et al. carbon atoms. for assessing the safety These energies of could be related by a single parameter that they call the discussed in a Policy planarity, which Forum by Kessler et al. relates how well the porbitals of the (p. 1747). carbon atoms align

and thus measures how complete the π -bond network is in the molecule.

Stuck in the solvent

錋

Solvent viscosity can play a major role in the dynamics of protein conformational changes. Spectroscopic studies by Ansari et al. (p. 1796) of the dissociation of carbon monoxide (CO) from myoglobin at ambient temperatures and high viscosities showed that the rate of dissociation was approximately inversely proportional to the viscosity. Conformational changes in myoglobin that accompany CO dissociation may be slowed down in a viscous solvent, so much so that the conformations become "stuck" and that motion of the protein

through the solvent becomes the major barrier to release of the CO molecule. Both unimolecular rate theory and experimental data suggest that these results may explain in part the dissociation kinetics at low temperatures (below 200 K).

쮋

More complexes

Recognition of peptides by T cells requires presentation of the

peptides to the immune system by association with the class I or class II The Food and Drug Ad- molecules of the major histocompatibility complex (p. 1817), using microcapilliary high-performance neered plant foods are liquid chromatography coupled with electrospray tandem mass spectrometry, showed that a large num-

ber of different peptides (between 650 and 2000) are presented to the immune system by the class II MHC molecule I-A^d, thus forming a much more complex system than was previously reported for the class II MHC molecule I-A^b. These peptides are 16 to 18 residues long, and sequencing revealed a six-residue binding motif that occurred at various positions within these peptides. The groove for peptide binding on I-A^d is probably open at both ends, based on binding data for truncated peptides.

NMDA and synaptic elimination

Highly specific connections between neurons form shortly after birth, either through rear-

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rangement of the connections between axons or by elimination of existing functional synapses. Rabacchi et al. (p. 1823) demonstrated the critical involvement of the N-methyl-Daspartate (NMDA) receptor in synaptic elimination by using a selective antagonist of this receptor, D.L-2-amino-5-phosphonovaleric acid (D,L-APV). In the rat cerebellum, Purkinje cells are innervated by several olivary climbing fibers during the first week after birth, but after about 2 weeks each Purkinje cell is innervated by only one climbing fiber. Treatment with D,L-APV administered through an implant allowed about 50 percent of the Purkinje cells to remain multiply innervated by the fibers, implicating the NMDA receptor in synaptic elimination.

驪

Diabetes: class I or class II?

Type I diabetes, an autoimmune disease in which the immune system destroys the pancreatic islet cells that produce insulin, has been genetically linked to the class II major histocompatibility complex (MHC) molecules. A recent article by Faustman et al. suggested that decreased expression of class I molecules may contribute to the disease process. In Technical Comments, Gaskins et al. (p. 1826) present new data from multiple mouse strains on the expression of the transporter genes that are located in the class II region of the MHC and that are thought to affect class I expression, and Wicker et al. (p. 1828) reexamine class I expression in diabetic mice. Faustman et al. (p. 1830) describe new data supporting their interpretation of the involvement of class I molecules.



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Gearing, A.J.H. et al, In Press, Annals N. Y. Acad. Sci.

For Technical Service:-UK calls: 0865 781 045, International calls: +44 865 781 045 Cancer researchers report a growing interest in endothelial adhesins....

Current reports have suggested a role for intracellular adhesion molecule 1 (ICAM-1) in the progression of human malignant melanoma and other cancers. Stage I, II and III patients with histologically diagnosed malignant melanoma had significantly increased serum levels of circulating ICAM-1, (cICAM-1). We suggest that elevated levels of serum cICAM-1 may be of diagnostic and prognostic importance in patients with malignant cutaneous melanoma.⁴⁴

Harning, R. et al,Cancer Research (1991) 51, 5003-5005.

On-going studies into inflammatory diseases cite soluble adhesins as an area of potential importance....

Studies have shown differences in intensity related to age and to particular inflammatory conditions (Such as rheumatoid arthritis, systemic lupus erythematosus, metastatic cancer, and acute urolithiasis) of both ICAM-1 and VLA (unpublished).

Seth, R. et al, The Lancet (1991) 338, 83-84.

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Diseases where Cytokines are important may also have a role for adhesins.... Tumour necrosis factor, interleukin-1 and

γ-interferon cause the release of soluble ICAM-1. Giavazzi, R. et al,Cancer Research (1992)

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