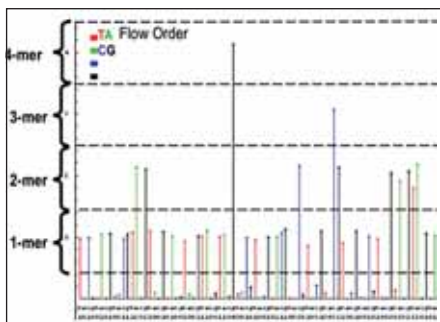


The J. Craig Venter Institute has proclaimed to have generated the first synthetic living cell. An announcement that deserves a closer look. (p. 20)



Collecting samples in the Ooijpolder, where Mike Jetten's group in Nijmegen discovered a bacterium that uses a novel pathway to produce oxygen from nitrate. (p. 32)



Companies like Roche, Applied Biosystems and Ion Torrent present "junior" DNA sequencing systems at affordable prices, pulverising current price ranges. (p. 48)



Society demands that researchers convey their science to other scientists and the general public, to reveal what they are doing and why. (p. 60)

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