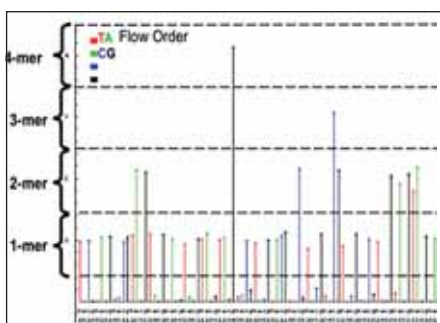




The J. Craig Venter Institute has proclaimed to have generated the first synthetic living cell. An announcement that deserves a closer look. (p. 20)



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)

News

Picture of the issue / Haematology papers retracted / Recently awarded / Less bureaucracy for EU programmes / New ERC funding scheme / Mixer cells break rules of embryogenesis _____ 6-10

Opinion

Research letter from ... Italy: *Fat Birds Fly On Faster* _____ 12
Observations of The Owl (24): *Why Not Grow Bigger?* _____ 14

Analysis

Sex Bias

Does medication have different effects on female and male organisms? _____ 16

Synthetic Life

A bacterial cell controlled by a chemically synthesized genome. Is that already synthetic life? _____ 20

Interview

Jennifer Rohn reveals why lab life, science and fiction are her inspiration _____ 24

Career strategies for young European scientists (XXIII)

Funding opportunities in Norway – where research is gradually becoming a priority _____ 36

Journal Club

Barcelona/Spain The protein (sequence) space is expanding like the universe _____ 30

Nijmegen/Netherlands A new microbial pathway to produce oxygen from nitrate _____ 32

Madrid/Spain A novel key mechanism in cortical development _____ 34

Publication Statistics

Urology research in Europe _____ 42

Don't be misled by citation figures! (22): *Lucky Outliers* _____ 45

Biobusiness

News

World's largest patent offices enhance collaboration / Lithuania's Fermentas acquired /

Wellcome Trust extends drug discovery funding _____ 46

German venture capital firm focuses on later stage European health care companies _____ 47

Next-generation sequencing

While several manufacturers launch price cutting sequencing systems, former 454 protagonist

Jonathan Rothberg is announcing his own solution _____ 48

Close by Glide Pharma (Abingdon, UK)

A needle-free injection technology brings hope for half-hearted patients _____ 50

Personal genomics

Direct-to-consumer tests face growing attention by public health agencies _____ 53

Service

Methods

Product survey: Mechanical Pipettes _____ 54

Bench philosophy (25): Communicating science _____ 60

Tips and tricks of the trade: Effective lipofection _____ 62

New products _____ 64

Book review

Michael Ruse and Joseph Travis (Eds.): *Evolution. The First Four Billion Years* _____ 63

Calendar _____ 65

Humour

Paul the Postdoc _____ 06

One fine day in the lab (19) _____ 41

The other dictionary (4) _____ 15

Cartoon: *Superdoc* (19) _____ 70

Contact _____ 45



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