

# ***THE SCIENTIST***

## CONTENIDO

VOLUMEN 24 No. 11, NOVEMBER 2010

### FEATURES

- 40 **Driving Self-recognition.**  
*COVER STORY*  
One gene can generate more than 30,000 different proteins that affect how neurons grow. S. LAWRENCE ZIOURSKY discusses an entirely unexpected signaling mechanism that regulates wiring in the developing nervous system.
- 46 **Elemental Shortage.**  
The world is running out of cheap phosphorus — a boon to agriculture and a bane to the environment. BRENDAN BORRELL, reports on what biologists are learning about its role in evolution and human health.
- 53 **2010 Life Sciences Salary Survey**  
Dropping salaries and rising lab costs challenge scientists to become more resourceful.  
*Megan Scudellari*

### DEPARTMENTS

- 13 **Editorial**  
**We Must Face the Threats**  
Reading between the lines of a top – ranked Faculty of 1000 article.  
*Sarah Greene.*
- 21 **Notebook**  
**A Model Relationship; Infection Plagues IQ?; Top 7 from F1000; Primate Business; One on One: Genome Blossoms.**
- 33 **Thought Experiment.**  
**On Plasmids.**  
Genome synthesis for the rest of us.  
*Andrew Ellington.*
- 36 **Critic at Large.**  
**The Devolution of Evolution.**  
Why evolution and biosystematics courses must be included in all biomedical curricula.  
*Leonid Moroz.*
- 58 **Profile**

### **Heads and Tales.**

Randall Moon has looked to tadpoles and stem cells for clues about embryonic development and cell fate. Now he has his eye on turning biology into therapy.

*Karen Hopkin.*

63

### **The Literature**

A developmental transition may be a useful model for tumor progression; new biosensor measures force; new hints about protein transfer into cilia; gut bacteria can provoke auto-immune disease; Scientist to Watch:

*Boris Igić.*

69

### **Lab Tools**

#### **Tricking the Light — Fantastic.**

Techniques for achieving super resolution - imaging.

*Amber Dance.*

77

### **BioBusiness**

#### **The Undruggables.**

Can young biotechs chasing elusive drug targets succeed where so many have failed? They think so.

*Megan Scudellari.*

80

### **Careers**

#### **Meet and Greet.**

How successful networking will make you a better scientist.

*Cristina Luiggi.*

88

### **Foundations**

#### **The Pee – in - a – Cup Test, circa 1500.**

*Cristina Luiggi.*

## **IN EVERY ISSUE**

11

### **Contributors**

14

### **Mail**

**Why Trust a Reporter?; Crowdsourcing Drug Discovery; The Discovery of Penicillin, circa 1928?**

18

### **Eavesdroppings**

Speaking of science.

72

### **The Guide.**

83

### **Recruitment.**