THE SCIENTIST

CONTENIDO

VOLUMEN 26 No. 9, SEPTEMBER 2012

FEATURES

28 A Nose for Touch.

The remarkable ability of the star-nosed mole to interpret its surroundings through touch is yielding clues about mammalian sensory processing in general.

Kenneth C. Catania.

34 Pleasant to the Touch.

Scientists hope an understanding of nerve fibers responsive only to pleasant touch will give insight into the role the sense plays in social bonding.

40 Missing Touch.

Bionic fingers. Rewired nerves. Science fiction becomes reality as scientists attempt to give prosthetics a sense of touch. *Megan Scudelllari*.

DEPARTMENTS

12 From the Editorial

Sense and Sensibility.

Why is tactile perception so fundamental lo life? *Mary Beth Aberlin.*

16 Notebook

Good Vibrations; Down and Dirty; Get a Whiff of This; Gifted in Science.

24 **Thought Experiment.**

The Pliable Brain.

Altered touch perception in deaf people may reveal individual differences in brain plasticity. *Christina Karns*.

26 Critic at Large.

Stress Tests.

Judiciously applied pressure could benefit the scientific system by providing an opportunity for renewal. *H. Steven Wiley*.

27 Modus Operandi.

The Inside Scoop. Probing cells with nanometer scale electrodes. *Ruth Williams*.

48 **The Literature**

Circadian clocks and waves draw microglia to brain injuries; flu protein impersonates histone.

50 **Profile.**

Taking the Long View.

In exploring how embtyos take shape, John Wallingford has identified a key pathway involved in vertebrate development – and human disease. Karen Hopkin.

53 Scientist to Watch. Kartik Chandran.

Jef Akst.

55 Lab Tools Stemming the Toxic Tide.

How to screen for toxicity using stem cells. Kelly Rae Chi.

58 Lab Tools.

Enter the Third Dimension.

Cell culture goes 3-D with devices that better mimic in vivo conditions. Amber Dance.

63 **Bio Business.**

Sharing Made Easy.

Biological resource centers are bigger and better than ever before, storing and distributing shared reagents, plasmids, and more. Megan Scudellari.

66 **Reading Frames.**

A Story Biological.

Using scientific information as narrative can be a powerful way to communicate. John Coates.

Capsule Reviews.

Annie Gottlieb.

80 Foundations. Painting the Protein Atomic, 1961. Sabrina Richards.

IN EVERY ISSUE

- 11 **Contributors**
- 14 **Speaking of Science.**
- 70 The Guide.
- 76 **Recruitment.**