Pennsylvania, will quit for the pharmaceutical company Amgen early next year, in part because of the struggle to get funding. He notes that few graduate students at his university plan to remain in academia: "People see how hard it is to run a lab."

After the NIH presentation at the neuroscience meeting, Peter Ciarani spoke up. He studied spinal-cord regeneration at Tufts Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts, until his lab ran out of funding two months ago. He won applause for suggesting that the NIH should "make it harder for the rich to get progressively richer". Like others present, he feels that big labs hoover up too many grants, forcing teams like his out of the game. He wants the criteria for second and subsequent grants to be set higher than for an initial application.

Zerhouni cautions that such proposals put key research decisions into the wrong hands. "It would be very dangerous to dictate by bureaucratic fiat that somebody who is meritorious should not be funded because they have a grant or two. The peer reviewers are smart enough to know if someone is being overfunded or not."

He hopes scientists will stick out the hard times: "We still have the largest research budget on Earth: \$28.6 billion is larger than all other countries combined. If you believe in your research, don't give up on it. Things are not great. But they are not as desperate as some people portray them to be." ■
Jim Giles and Meredith Wadman

But some publishers continue to struggle with the Wellcome Trust's requirement. If a paper is available in a public database, this reduces the number of visits to subscription sites, says Martin Frank, executive director of the American Physiological Society.

Frank says this is why his society refuses to comply with the Wellcome Trust's guidelines. But such decisions may be more difficult with the proposed expansion of open-access requirements — Wellcome Trust-funded research accounts for only 2% of the papers in the society's 14 journals, but the NIH supports almost half.

Kathleen Case, publisher of the American Association of Cancer Research's five peer-reviewed journals, also considers the requirements too strict. "The Wellcome Trust tasked us to change our policy and we said no," says Case. "And now we've been blacklisted." ■
Heidi Ledford

RAIN MAKES THE GROUND SHAKE

A wet weekend may be enough to set off an earthquake.

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SNAPSHOT But is it natural?

When Norway's museums authority called for ideas for an exhibition that engaged with contemporary societal debates, Geir Söli, head of exhibitions at Oslo's Natural History Museum, had just the theme. He had been listening to a priest arguing on the radio that homosexuality is a sin and contrary to nature.

People can only make up their minds about whether such behaviour is 'unnatural' if they know the current state of research on homosexuality in nature, he reasoned.

Nosooner had the authority approved his proposal than church groups began to protest against this use of public money. But *Against Nature? An Exhibition on Animal Homosexuality* opened peacefully at the Natural History

Museum on 12 October to wide acclaim. It will run until next August.

Söli focused the exhibition around 50 species, out of the 500 or so in which homosexual behaviour has been well documented. The exhibition comprises photographs, stuffed animals, models and other objects, along with explanatory text in Norwegian and English.

Two male giraffes are shown here indulging in roadside sex. Such encounters have been recorded in the literature as involving anal penetration and ejaculation. The inset shows two male whales (*Eubalaena australis*) engaged in sexual games.

Alison Abbott