

Clinton takes historic step to regulate tobacco "as a drug"

Washington. The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will begin regulating the tobacco industry under an executive order signed by President Clinton on August 23.

The FDA will implement new rules aimed at curbing smoking by children, based on a finding that nicotine in cigarettes is a drug, and that cigarettes are drug delivery systems. The rules include a ban on vending machine sales, except in adult-only locations, and restrictions on cigarette advertising in youth magazines, on clothing, at sporting events and near schools and playgrounds. Tobacco makers would have to finance a campaign against underage smoking.

In his new book, "Between Hope and History," Clinton writes that the tobacco industry "has no right to peddle cigarettes to children," and called marketing directed at them "immoral." Cigarette workers' unions and the tobacco industry adamantly oppose the changes. □

Einstein medal for Indian chemist

New Delhi. Chintamani Nagesa Ramachandra Rao, a solid-state chemist and president of the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research in Bangalore, has been awarded the Einstein Gold Medal by UNESCO. The award recognizes his "outstanding contribution to science".

The medal was first minted in 1979 to mark the 100th anniversary of Einstein's birth. UNESCO's office in New Delhi said that Rao, who has written 700 research papers and 30 books, will receive a diploma and the Einstein medal at a ceremony in Paris later this year. □

NYU sued in 'whistle-blowing' case

Washington. Jan Moor-Jankowski, the former director of New York University's Laboratory for Experimental Medicine and Surgery in Primates (LEMSIP), has filed a lawsuit against the university alleging wrongful dismissal. Moor-Jankowski claims the university fired him in retaliation for his 'whistle-blowing' on crack cocaine experiments conducted on monkeys by another researcher, Ron Wood, last summer (see *Nature* 376, 543; 1996).



The US Department of Agriculture, which ruled in May that Moor-Jankowski had not been victimized by the university, is also named in his suit to the US District Court in New York. □

German venture capital for biotech

Munich. Germany's first venture-capital company dedicated to biotechnology will be launched next month with an initial investment fund of DM75 million (US\$50 million). The company, Global Life Sciences Fund, has three equal partners: Corange, the holding company that owns the pharmaceutical companies Boehringer-Mannheim and DePuy; Bayerische Vereinbank; and Dutch investment bank, ING. It hopes to raise its fund to DM125 million by attracting further investors. □

Algeria to have atomic commission

Paris. Algeria is to set up an atomic energy commission by the end of the year, its government announced. It will coordinate existing nuclear research, and promote medical, agricultural and industrial applications, said an official from the country's delegation to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The

To **save an hour**
each time you
purify histidine-
tagged proteins,
put it on the
tip of a syringe

