

way of symmetry, the repressor of the lactose system must act on the DNA containing the genes of the galactosidase and of the permease'. Jacob persuaded Monod to consider these ideas and the classical model of the operon developed. The anticipation that the mutations in *λvir* prevent repressor from binding to its target sequences gave confidence in the search for operator-constitutive mutants that would leave the switch for the *lac* genes set in the 'on' position.

I suspect that failure to obtain one transcript on time has delayed publication of the others; the lag between the literature surveyed and publication is commonly 2 years, but occasionally as much as 4 years. The problem of unmet deadlines frustrates the task of publishing a collection of reviews, which together contribute more than a series of independent articles.

Perhaps, in the absence of a guaranteed high 'impact factor', editors have no 'carrot' with which to persuade laggards. Despite this problem the editor has produced a useful monograph.

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