

CORRESPONDENCE

ACCIDENTAL AIDS INOCULATION

To the editor:

In his Letter to the Editor (*Bio/Technology* 6:217, Feb. '88), George Moore refers to "the development of AIDS from accidental inoculation of scientific personnel." I am not aware of any references that support this; to the contrary, the AIDS Report in the Nov. 23, 1987, issue of *Chemical and Engineering News* cites data from the Center for Disease Control that all such known cases are asymptomatic.

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ANOTHER HEMA SUPPLIER

To the editor:

I would like to update information that appears in the article on "Chromatography and Affinity Separations" (*Bio/Technology* 6:158-165, Feb. '88). The table on page 165 refers to hydromethylmethacrylate

(HEMA) being available from various companies, but it neglects one. In January 1987, an agreement was concluded with the Czech producers of HEMA and holders of patents relating to this compound for exclusive sales rights in the West via a new co-venture company called Tessek (Aarhus, Denmark), 51-percent owned by VHJ Tesla (Brno, Czechoslovakia) and 49-percent owned by Senetek PLC (London).

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ERRATUM

To the editor:

We wish to call attention to an error in our paper entitled "A Modified Human Tissue Plasminogen Activator with Extended Half-Life *In Vivo*" (*Bio/Technology* 5:953-958, Sept. '87).

In the paper, we described a mutant protein reported to have an as-

paragine mutated to glutamine at position 451 in the amino acid sequence. In fact, the protein characterized in this study had this substitution at position 120, not position 451. The source of this error was an accidental switch of plasmids coding for the two mutants prior to cell line transformation and study of the recombinant proteins. We were alerted to this problem in peptide-mapping studies of the protein performed after the publication of the manuscript. Neither we nor the manuscript's reviewers were aware of our switch prior to publication. We apologize to our colleagues in the field and to your readership for any confusion this may have caused.

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