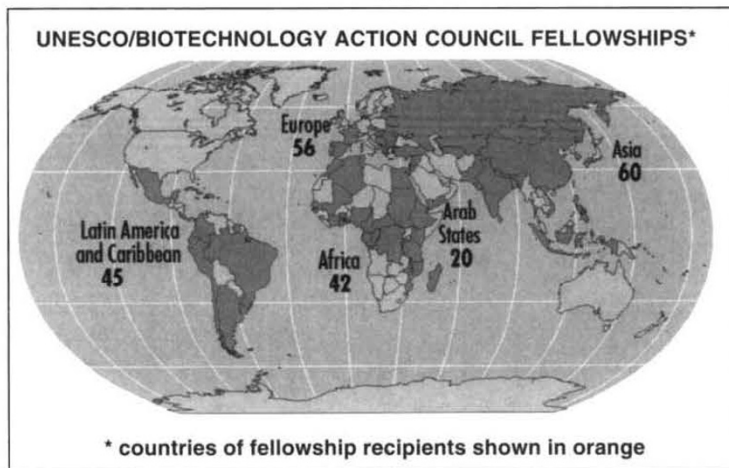


UNESCO centers on biotechnology

GAINESVILLE, FL—If you need evidence that the world has changed since the beginning of this decade, just look at the latest initiatives of the Biotechnology Action Council (BAC) of the UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Paris, France). In the 1980s and before, today's realities from UNESCO—biotechnology training centers for Arab states in Israel, an Asia center in China, an African center in South Africa—would have stretched credulity.

Under a new initiative established in 1995, BAC designated a number of existing institutes as regional biotechnology education and training centers: the Agricultural Biotechnology Center (Godollo, Hungary) for Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean; Bethlehem University (Bethlehem, Israel) for the Arab States; CINVESTAV (Irapuato, Mexico) for Latin America and the Caribbean; Ocean University of Qingdao (Qingdao, China) for Asia; and the Vegetable and Ornamental Plant Institute (Pretoria, South Africa) for Af-



rica. During 1994-1995, BAC also launched special programs in plant biotechnology for scientists in South Africa and Palestine.

From September 1991 to June 1995, BAC awarded 223 fellowships, from a pool of nearly 1000 applicants, to scientists from developing countries. BAC fellowships are awarded twice a year, on a competitive basis, to enable young scientists (up to 40 years old) to spend

up to three months in any laboratory in the world. The awardees represented 78 countries and went to host laboratories in 32 countries. Seventy-seven of the awardees were women.

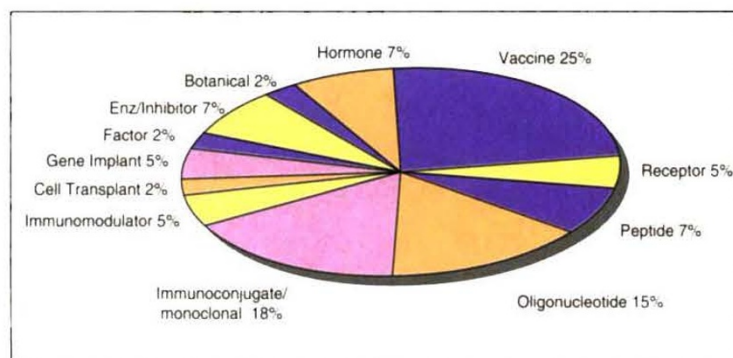
—Indra Vasil

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AIDS drugs: A patchwork quilt

NEW YORK, LONDON—The quilts sewn in remembrance of those who have died of AIDS are ornate and individual: Seen collectively, they are enormously moving. The drugs in development for treating AIDS are also many and varied (see "Pinning down a moving target: A standard HIV, p. 1163). Of 138 antiviral drugs making their way through the pharmaceutical development pipeline, 107 (77%) are targeted to the treatment of AIDS or AIDS-

related diseases, according to data from the market researchers, Technical Communications (Lafayette, CA). Vaccines still represent the biggest single slice of the development activity, but oligonucleotides and antibody conjugates also have substantial shares. The complexity of both combination therapies and patterns of viral resistance will increase enormously as the products move through research and clinical development. —JH, SME



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