

to roll out new bench-top devices capable of decoding an entire human genome in less than a day. At the JP Morgan Healthcare Conference in San Francisco on 10 January, San Diego-based Illumina unveiled its HiSeq 2500, a next-generation sequencing machine that is dramatically faster than the company's current market-dominating model. The same day, Illumina's main competitor, Life Technologies of Carlsbad, California, announced that it would be launching the Ion Proton, a successor to the Personal Genome Machine made by the company's subsidiary Ion Torrent, which Life Technologies claims will be able to sequence a whole genome in a few hours for under \$1,000. Both products will be commercially available later this year.

PEOPLE

Teva titan

After helping New York's Bristol-Myers Squibb (BMS) expand its portfolio, Jeremy Levin (pictured) now faces the

same task with the Israel's Teva Pharmaceuticals. Last month, the world's largest generic drug manufacturer announced that Levin, a physician who oversaw BMS's 'string of pearls' strategy of innovative alliances as senior vice president for strategy, would succeed Shlomo Yanai as Teva's chief executive in May. Yanai is stepping down after broadening Teva's portfolio of innovative medicines with the \$6.5 billion acquisition of Pennsylvania's Cephalon last year. Levin, a citizen of both the US and the UK born in South Africa, will become the company's first non-Israeli CEO.



Sivan Farag

RESEARCH

Tuberculosis terror

A virtually untreatable form of tuberculosis is on the rise. On 21 December, physicians in Mumbai described four patients with a strain of tuberculosis that is resistant to every known drug available for combating the lung infection (*Clin. Infect. Dis.* doi:10.1093/cid/cir889, 2011). The discovery makes India the third country, after Italy and Iran, in which so-called 'totally drug-resistant' tuberculosis has emerged over the past five years. The Indian case report "should be a wake up call," says Mel Spigelman, chief executive of the TB Alliance, a drug development initiative based in New York. "Resistance is getting worse, and when you look at the resources that are going into developing new drugs, the level of investment is woefully inadequate."

Prostate prospect

Researchers claimed to have identified the first genetic vari-

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ant that significantly raises the risk of prostate cancer. A study of 94 unrelated men with family histories of prostate tumors found that four individuals shared the same single nucleotide mutation in a gene encoding the homeobox protein B13 (*HOXB13*). A larger survey of around 6,500 men revealed that the *HOXB13* variant was 20 times more common in those with prostate tumors than in healthy controls (*N. Engl. J. Med.* **366**, 141–149, 2012). "We're cautiously optimistic that this might be the tip of the iceberg for finding genes like *HOXB13* that account for a significant number of hereditary prostate cancers," says Kathleen Cooney, chief of the hematology/oncology division at the University of Michigan Medical School in Ann Arbor, who led the study.

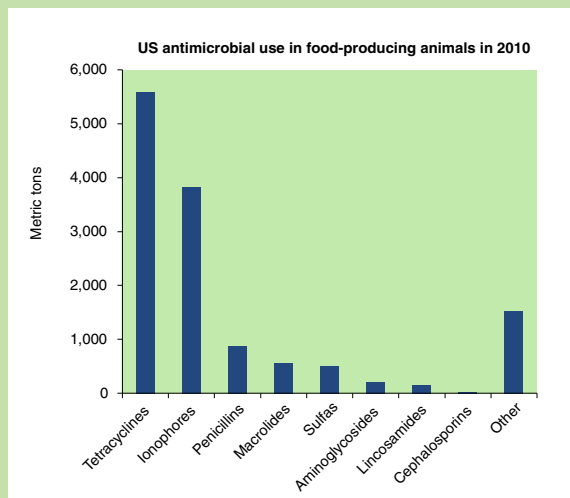
Correction

In the January 2012 issue, the article entitled "An act of tolerance" (*Nat. Med.* **18**, 12–16, 2011) incorrectly stated that Ray Owen's 1945 experiment showed that twin cattle sharing a common placenta but different fathers had the same set of human leukocyte antigen markers. Human leukocyte antigens had not been discovered yet, and Owen's work showed that the cattle shared red blood cell types instead. The error has been corrected in the HTML and PDF versions of the article.

Regulatory action mixed on agricultural drug use

To reduce the risk of pathogens developing resistance against key antibiotics, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced moves last month to outlaw certain agricultural uses of cephalosporins, an antimicrobial drug class commonly used to treat pneumonia, sinusitis and other infections in people. Beginning in April, prophylactic drug use will be banned on farms, and veterinarians will be able to give food-producing animals only two cephalosporin drugs that are not approved for human use. However, the action comes barely a week after the regulatory agency said it was abandoning its long-stated plan to take penicillin and tetracyclines—

two drug classes that are far more widely used on farms than cephalosporins (see chart)—out of animal feed. "It's a bit of a bait-and-switch approach," says David Wallinga of the Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy in Minneapolis. "It's important that the FDA is taking a step to reduce the use of this one critical class of human drug, but when it comes to having antibiotics useful for treating sick people, we would want to have a bigger arsenal than just one drug class."



FDA