

TheScientist

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F1000'S MAGAZINE OF THE LIFE SCIENCES

IS THERE NO
SAFE LEVEL OF
MERCURY?

RNA: MASTER OF
CELL FATE

GRANT WRITING
TIPS FROM THE
EXPERTS

PLUS:
SCIENTISTS—
MORE RELIGIOUS
THAN YOU'D
THINK

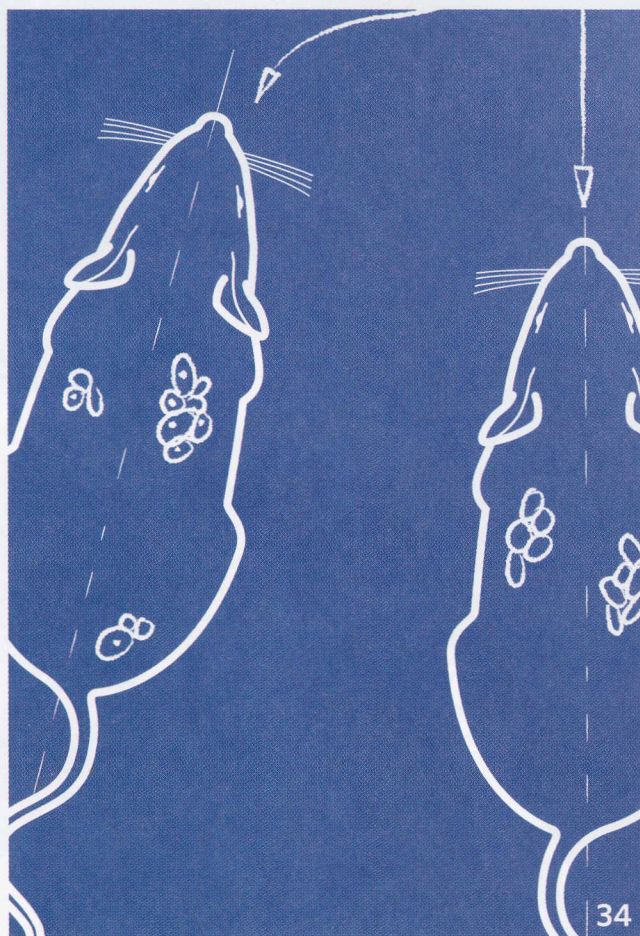
TOP VIEW

A Better Mouse

MOUSE MODELS OF CANCER
ARE UNDERGOING A MAJOR RENOVATION.

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COVER STORY » A notoriously poor proxy for the human experience of cancer, mouse models are now undergoing a major renovation. EDYTA ZIELINSKA asks: Can a new multimillion dollar project find a mouse model that can help patients and save companies millions on drugs that are destined to fail?

- 42 Master of the Cell**
RNA interference, with its powerful promise of therapy for many diseases, may also act as a master regulator of most—if not all—cellular processes, according to JUDY LIEBERMAN, senior investigator at Children's Hospital Boston and a professor of pediatrics at the Harvard Medical School.

- 50 Against the Element**
Grisly research in the Arctic is causing some scientists to wonder: Is there no safe level of mercury? ELIE DOLGIN flew 1500 kilometers north of Montreal (where the wind chill made it roughly -35°C) to find out more.

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Illustration by Andrew Meehan

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The way we research cancer and present our data to the world is undergoing a major revolution.

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