

table documenting how often each type of bioethics evidence or testimony has been offered, whether the court allowed it, and how it was used.

Bioethics in Law offers a treasure trove of information that cannot readily be found elsewhere, shedding light on the complex interaction between bioethics and law. Spielman's pathbreaking research and thoughtful organization of the issues provide an important resource for those concerned about the confusion over the roles of bioethics and law. After all, as Spielman suggests, we should not want judges to defer to bioethicists to determine our legal rights, but neither should we want judges determining our rights as patients, research subjects, or health professionals by ignoring the insights that bioethics can offer.

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**SURVIVAL OF THE SICKEST:
A MEDICAL MAVERICK DISCOVERS
WHY WE NEED DISEASE**

By Sharon Moalem, with Jonathan Prince. 267 pp. New York, William Morrow, 2007. \$25.95. ISBN 978-0-06-088965-4.

THIS BOOK, INTENDED FOR GENERAL READERS, reviews recent research on a major question at the intersection of evolutionary biology and medicine: Why does evolution, which, as Moalem and Prince write in their introduction, "is supposed to weed out harmful traits and promote helpful ones," allow serious genetic diseases to persist? The answers, as the authors make clear, are complicated and incomplete, requiring responses from many research communities.

Moalem, a researcher in neurogenetics and evolutionary medicine, and Prince, a former adviser and speechwriter in the Clinton White House, have not written a comprehensive review but instead focus on specific examples of genetic traits that can prove helpful or harmful depending on the environmental context or general evolutionary process, such as the coevolution of parasites and their hosts. The result is a grab bag that contains discussions of Barbara McClintock's "jumping genes," bubonic plague, pinworms, telomeres, work on heritability in the former Soviet Union, frozen wood frogs, and Jean-Baptiste Lamarck, to name just a few.

The authors liken their approach to a "magical medical mystery tour," which seems apt given their tendency to devote similar degrees of attention to the incidental and the significant. A sub-theme that runs through several chapters is that the scientific "maverick" — which is how Moalem describes himself — will eventually win out against the skeptical establishment "expert." Suggestive findings, such as E. Fuller Torrey's research on the relationship between infection with *Toxoplasma gondii* and schizophrenia, are presented not quite as established science but with rather more implication than the original researcher might claim for them.

The uncritical assemblage of fascinating facts and intriguing preliminary research in *Survival of the Sickest* reflects a tendency I have observed in other popular texts on evolutionary biology, which is to veer away from science — which depends on tight arguments that withstand the scrutiny of empirical repetition — and toward the beguiling hypotheticals of scientism. In certain contexts, genetic diseases may confer some evolutionary advantages, and the authors provide some engaging case studies, but this is hardly news. To their credit, the authors explain complicated phenomena in clear and jargon-free prose. Nonetheless, they and their publisher should have sought a higher standard, as both their subject and the intelligent lay audience deserve better.

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CORRECTIONS

Diabetic Gastroparesis (February 22, 2007;356:820-9). The last sentence of the second paragraph under Impaired Gastric Emptying in Patients with Diabetes (page 821) should have read "In a clinical trial of exenatide, nausea occurred in 57% of patients, and vomiting occurred in 17% of patients; nausea or other gastrointestinal symptoms were identified as the reason for withdrawal from the study in 6% of patients," rather than "vomiting occurred in 19% of patients, leading to the cessation of treatment in about one third of patients." Also, the second sentence under Areas of Uncertainty (page 825) should have read "Agents such as the 5-HT₄-receptor agonist tegaserod (which is approved for the treatment of patients with the irritable bowel syndrome in whom constipation is predominant and patients with chronic constipation) and acetylcholinesterase inhibitors (e.g., pyridostigmine) have been used off-label in patients with gastroparesis, but data from clinical trials providing support for their use are lacking," rather than "acetylcholine inhibitors." The text has been corrected on the *Journal's* Web site at www.nejm.org.

Posaconazole or Fluconazole for Prophylaxis in Severe Graft-versus-Host Disease (January 25, 2007;356:335-47). The second sentence of the third paragraph under Efficacy (page 341) should have read "In other analyses, posaconazole was superior to fluconazole in reducing the incidence of proven or probable aspergillosis (odds ratio, 0.31; 95% CI, 0.13 to 0.75; P=0.006) during the treatment period and was superior to fluconazole in reducing the incidence of breakthrough proven or probable invasive fungal infections (odds ratio, 0.30; 95% CI, 0.12 to 0.71; P=0.004) and invasive aspergillosis during the exposure period (odds ratio, 0.17; 95% CI, 0.05 to 0.57; P=0.001) rather than "invasive aspergillosis during the treatment period." The text has been corrected on the *Journal's* Web site at www.nejm.org.

NOTICES

Notices submitted for publication should contain a mailing address and telephone number of a contact person or department. We regret that we are unable to publish all notices received. Notices also appear on the Journal's Web site (www.nejm.org/meetings). The listings can be viewed in their entirety or searched by location, month, or key word.

NORTH CAROLINA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH EDUCATION & RESEARCH CENTER

The following courses will be offered in Chapel Hill, NC, unless otherwise indicated: "Supervising Lead Abatement Programs" (Aug. 14); "Comprehensive Industrial Hygiene (CIH) Review Course" (Sept. 17-21); "Asbestos Operations and Maintenance" (Oct. 2 and 3); "Building Inspection and Management Planning for Asbestos" (Oct. 8-12; refresher course, Sept. 11, Dec. 4); "Occupational Health Nursing: Introduction to Principles and Practice" (Oct. 30-Nov. 1); "Supervising Asbestos Abatement Projects" (Nov. 5-9; refresher course, Sept. 10, Dec. 3); "Certified Safety and Professional (CSP) Review Course" (Nov. 12-16); "Designing Asbestos Abatement Projects" (Dec. 5); and "29th Annual Occupational Safety and Health Update: Compliance and Beyond" (Dec. 6 and 7).

Contact Occupational Safety and Health Education & Research Center, University of North Carolina, 3300 Hwy. 54 W., Chapel Hill, NC 27516-6248; or call (888) 235-3320 (national) or (919) 962-2101 (NC); or fax (919) 966-7579; or see <http://www.sph.unc.edu/osherc/>; or e-mail oshercww@sph.unc.edu.

MAYO CLINIC

The following courses will be offered in Rochester, MN, unless otherwise indicated: "Mayo Clinic Gastroenterology & Hepatology Board Review" (Chicago, Sept. 6-9); "Mayo Clinic ERCP A to Z" (Sept. 13 and 14); "Mayo Clinic Hepatology State of the Art" (Sept. 13 and 14); "Internal Medicine Review for Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants" (Sept. 27 and 28); "Mayo Clinic Professionalism at Academic Medical Centers: Challenges and Opportunities" (Oct. 4 and 5); "Mayo Clinic Human Factors in Health Care: Practical Applications to Improve Patient Safety" (St. Paul, MN, Oct. 17-19); "Neuro-radiology: Practice to Innovation" (Scottsdale, AZ, Nov. 5-9); and "Mayo Clinic OB GYN Clinical Reviews" (Nov. 8 and 9).

Contact Mayo School of CME, 200 First St. SW, Rochester, MN 55905; or call (800) 323-2688 (national) or (507) 280-2509 (MN); or fax (507) 284-0532; or see <http://www.mayo.edu/cme/>; or e-mail cme@mayo.edu.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The National Rosacea Society is accepting applications for its research grants program. Deadline for submission is Sept. 15.

Contact the National Rosacea Society, 800 S. Northwest Hwy., Suite 200, Barrington, IL 60010; or call (888) 662-5874; or e-mail rosaceas@aol.com; or see <http://www.rosacea.org/grants/>.

9TH SEMINAR OF THE EUROPEAN SOCIETY OF CONTRACEPTION

The seminar, entitled "From Abortion to Contraception," will be held in Bucharest, Romania, Sept. 21 and 22.

Contact Mrs. Nancy Hablis, European Society of Contraception, Opalfeneweg 3, 1740 Ternat, Belgium; or call (32) 2 582 08 52; or fax (32) 2 582 55 15; or e-mail congress@contraception-esc.com; or see <http://www.esccentraloffice@contraception-esc.com>.

VIENNA MEDICAL ACADEMY

The following meetings will be held: "XX International Workshop on Helicobacter and Related Bacteria in Chronic Digestive Inflammation (EHSG)" (Istanbul, Turkey, Sept. 20-22) and "2nd Joint Meeting of the European Federation of Autonomic Societies and the American Autonomic Society" (Vienna, Oct. 10-13).

Contact Vienna Medical Academy, Alser Strasse 4, 1090 Vienna, Austria; or call (43) 1 405 13 83 0; or fax (43) 1 407 82 74; or e-mail ehsg2007@medacad.org or efas2007@efasweb.com, respectively; or see <http://www.helicobacter.org> or <http://www.efasweb.com/2007>, respectively.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

The following meetings will be held in Toronto, unless otherwise indicated: "4th Annual G-I-N Conference 2007: Collaboration in Clinical Practice Guidelines" (Aug. 22-25; sponsored by the Guidelines International Network); "International Ocular Blood Flow Symposium" (Oct. 13); "Update in Surgical Oncology 2007" (Oct. 26); "International Interprofessional Wound Care Course" (Oct. 19-22, April 11-14); "CME Update in Pathology 2007" (Nov. 2 and 3); and "Cardiovascular Pathology: Current Concepts" (July 25-27, 2008).

Contact the Office of Continuing Education & Professional Development, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, 500 University Ave., Suite 650, Toronto, ON M5G 1V7, Canada; or call (416) 978-2719 or (888) 512-8173; or fax (416) 946-7028; or e-mail ce.med@utoronto.ca; or see <http://www.cme.toronto.ca>.

MAYO CLINIC SCOTTSDALE

The following courses will be offered: "Mayo Clinic Practical 21st Century Clinical Neurology Review" (Kohala Coast, HI, Aug. 1-4); "20th Annual Advanced Techniques in Endoscopic & Robotic Gynecologic Surgery" (Maui, HI, Sept. 26-29); "2007 Parkinson's Disease & Other Movement Disorders for the Practitioner" (Kauai, HI, Nov. 8-10); "Update in Hospital Medicine 2007" (Tucson, AZ, Nov. 14-17); and "Mayo Clinic Interactive Surgery Symposium" (Wailea-Maui, HI, Feb. 10-15).

Contact CME Department, Mayo Clinic Scottsdale, 13400 E. Shea Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85259; or call (480) 301-4580; or e-mail mcs.cme@mayo.edu; or see <http://www.mayo.edu/cme/>.

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