

**Cover**

Solving the puzzle of protein-protein interaction. While the fit between two protein molecules in a complex resembles lock and key, the structures of the two free molecules before binding are usually far less complementary. This matrix (modified from the original figure for the cover) illustrates how different the two conformation sets can be. For a report on the development of a novel model, which explains the binding process and reconciles the popular notions of »induced fit« and »conformer selection«, see Raik Grünberg's article on pages 127–129.

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RNA silencing. 90th International Titisee Conference
The discovery of RNA interference (RNAi), the sequence-specific regulation of gene expression by double-stranded RNA molecules, is thought to be one of the most important findings in the last decade. At the conference, leading scientists discussed the natural function of the small RNAs involved in RNAi and the possibility of exploiting RNAi to mediate silencing of disease-causing genes.
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Curbing the genome. The DNA-binding factor CTCF co-ordinates gene expression
Correct temporal and spatial expression of a particular gene involves the concerted action of a great number of different regulatory factors. The DNA-binding protein CTCF may be the genome organizer which enables co-ordinated function of regulatory factors concentrated in subnuclear domains.

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Funding knowledge for tomorrow. The Volkswagen Foundation – a partner for creative researchers
A portrait of one of Germany's most potent private research funding organizations. It was founded by the Federal Republic of Germany and the State of Lower Saxony after converting one of Germany's most important automobile manufacturers, the Volkswagen Corporation, into a stock company. Today, the Foundation provides approximately 100 million euros each year for research projects in all disciplines of basic research.

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