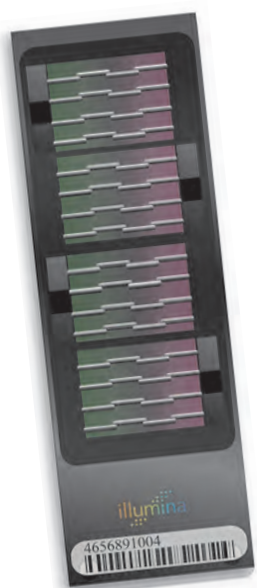


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What a Time I Am Having

SELECTED LETTERS OF MAX PERUTZ

Edited by **Vivien Perutz** with a memoir by **David Blow**

Selected by his daughter, Vivien, from Max Perutz's voluminous correspondence, the letters reproduced here portray their author with a spontaneity and directness no autobiography could have matched. They chronicle Perutz's adventurous life through his own vivid, erudite and humorous pen, documenting the hopes, roadblocks and moments of elation of his sixty-year quest to understand the molecular biology of hemoglobin. The first great step in this quest — unraveling the molecular structure of hemoglobin — earned Perutz the 1962 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. Narrated against a backdrop of family and friends, politics and war, literature, travels, and Max's beloved mountains, these letters provide rare insight into the thoughts of a remarkable and very human scientist, and delightful sketches of some of the people he encountered. Starting with lively letters to a girlfriend written in his youth in Vienna and the impressions of a young scientist in Cambridge, the letters progress to the desperate pleas of an "enemy alien" interned in Canada during World War II. The diary of Perutz's subsequent super-secret war work for the British to build a floating ice airstrip in the North Atlantic, ardent campaigning letters to scientists and politicians, and self-deprecating stories of his own mishaps written to amuse his children and grandchildren are some of the many highlights of these fascinating letters, unique in the annals of recent scientific history. This book is a companion to Georgina Ferry's *Max Perutz and the Secret of Life*. Together these volumes provide a portrait of an extraordinary character in the development of molecular biology.

2009, 506 pp., 90 photographs, cover painting by Tina Wendon, index

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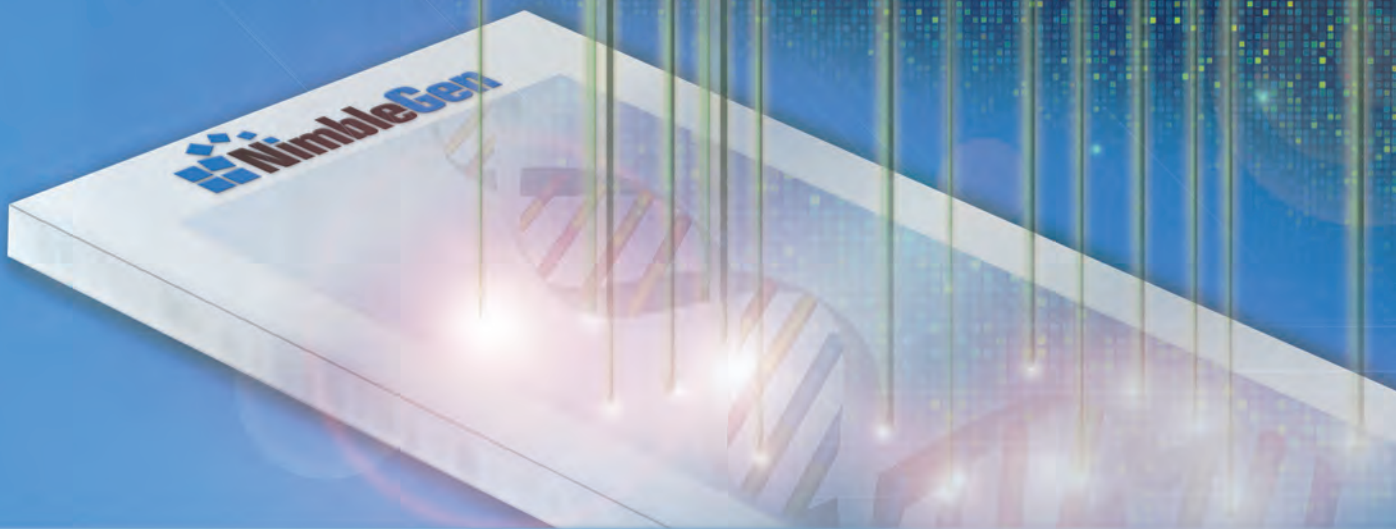
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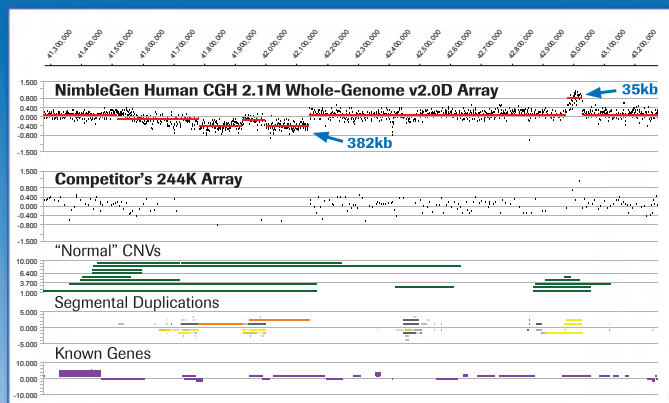
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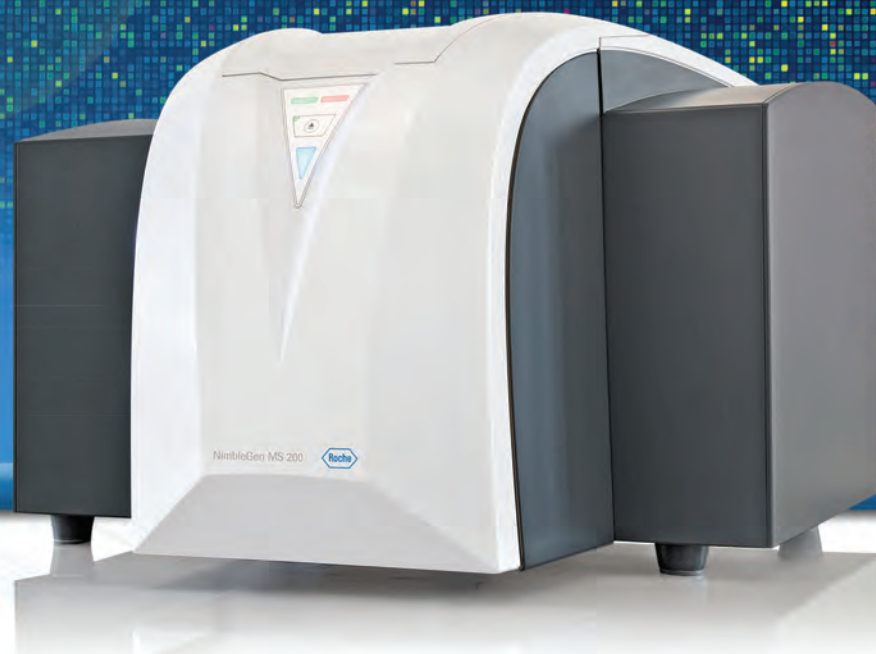


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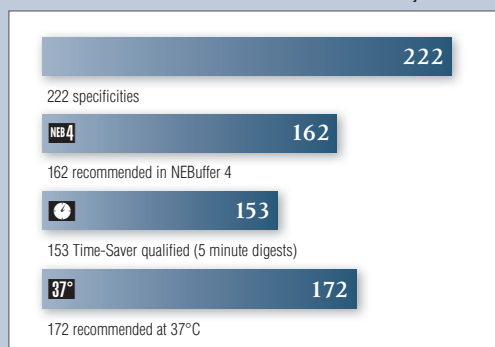


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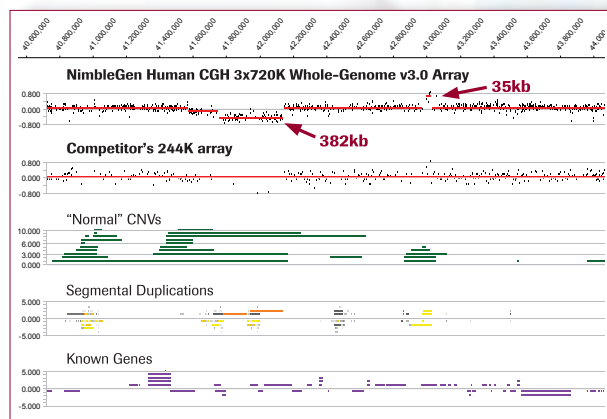
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Contents

GERM CELLS AND TOTIPOTENCY

R. Lehmann, M.A. Surani, T. Shinohara, S. Yoshida, and D. Solter

NICHES AND ASYMMETRY

T. Xie, A.C. Spradling, R. Nusse, S. Nishikawa, S.L. Reiner, and R. Rothstein

EMBRYONIC DEVELOPMENT AND MULTIPOTENT PROGENITORS

U. Grossniklaus, G.M. Keller, L.I. Zon, K.S. Zaret, J.C. Izpisua Belmonte, and M.T. Fuller

REPROGRAMMING SOMATIC CELLS

R. Jaenisch, K. Hochedlinger, T.P. Zwaka, G.Q. Daley, and D.A. Melton

GENE EXPRESSION AND TRANSCRIPTIONAL NETWORKS

R.A. Young, S.H. Orkin, H.-H. Ng, I.R. Lemischka, R. Tjian, and S. Majumder

EPIGENETICS

B. Scheres, M.C.P. Timmermans, K. Helin, R.A. Martienssen, H. Lin, and G.J. Hannon

ADULT STEM CELLS

B.L.M. Hogan, K.R. Chien, M. Buckingham, A.J. Wagers, M.A. Rudnicki, E. Fuchs, and H. Clevers

NEURAL STEM CELLS AND BRAIN TUMORS

A. Alvarez-Buylla, N. Gaiano, L. Studer, M. Maletic-Savatic, R.D.G. McKay, J.N. Rich, L.F. Parada, and R.A. DePinho

STEM CELLS AND CANCER

I.L. Weissman, J.M. Adams, C.J. Sherr, J.E. Visvader, C.F. Kim, O.N. Witte, F.M. Watt, and S.W. Lowe

RENEWAL AND REGENERATION

A.H. Brand, M.M. Shen, S.J. Morrison, G. Sauvageau, A. Sánchez Alvarado, P.A. Newmark, and E.M. Tanaka

SUMMARY

B.L.M. Hogan

Author Index

Subject Index

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