

In This Issue...

Joseph J. Abrajano
 Department of Neuroscience
 Albert Einstein College of Medicine
 Bronx, New York 10461

► **SCIENTIFIC REVIEW:**

Large Maf Transcription Factors: Cousins of AP-1 Proteins and Important Regulators of Cellular Differentiation (p. 2)

Four large Maf proteins, MafA, MafB, c-Maf and NRL, are transcription factors that are important in terminal differentiation in a number of different and diverse tissue types, including bone, brain, kidney, lens, pancreas, retina, and blood. Ying Yang and Ales Cvekl discuss these evolutionary conserved factors and their essential roles during cellular differentiation. This comprehensive review examines MaF protein structure, namely their basic and leucine zipper domain (bZIP), developmental expression, and specific gene regulatory functions in various tissue types.

► **MEDICAL REVIEW:**

The Role of Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillators in Ischemic and Non-Ischemic Cardiomyopathy and Effect on Mortality and Sudden Death (p. 12)

While implantable cardioverter defibrillators were first used as a treatment of last resort, they have now increasingly become a primary option for ischemic patients. Shervin Eshaghian examines the growing evidence suggesting that these defibrillators can even play an important role in the primary prevention of non-ischemic cardiomyopathy.

► **SCIENTIFIC REVIEW:**

Genomic Medicine (p. 21)

The field of genomic medicine is quickly transforming both basic and clinical research, thereby changing the field of translational medicine itself. Kremena Star and Barbara Birshtein specifically discuss DNA microarray technology in the context of a number of clinical case studies. Clearly, this large scale approach is a vital tool in the treatment, diagnosis, and prognosis of diseases.

► **MEDICAL RESEARCH REPORT:**

Harm Reduction Outreach Services and Engagement of Chemically Dependent Homeless People Living with HIV/AIDS: An Analysis of Service Utilization Data to Evaluate Program Theory (p. 26)

More often than not, although outreach services are available to those who need them most, they inexplicably remain underused or unused. Benjamin



Shepard assesses the theory that outreach engagement lowers the barriers of outreach service utilization. He examines chemically dependent homeless people living with HIV/AIDS in the Bronx and finds that their health care does improve when such limits associated with outreach services are removed.

► **ETHICAL COMMENTARY:**

The Secular Physician and the Religious Patient: Overcoming Religious Discordance in the Clinical Setting (p. 33)

Most physicians have never received any formal training for dealing with spiritually devoted patients. Nina Ghosh describes the issues that medical trainees, specifically medical students and residents, and physicians encounter when treating religious patients. She uses a clinical vignette to point out common mistakes made when communicating with these individuals and ultimately offers practical guidelines for handling such situations.

► **SOCIAL COMMENTARY:**

Primary Care in Cuba (p. 37)

Since 1961, the United States has imposed an embargo on Cuba. In spite of this, the Cuban primary health care system has been successful. Stephanie Hauge begins her discussion on the Cuban primary health care system by discussing this country's current political state. She recounts her personal field experiences in Cuba and discovers that the Cuban health system succeeds because public health and clinical medicine are well-integrated despite economic and social hardships.

► **HUMOR:**

Jargon-Talk (p. 43)

► **HUMOR:**

I Need Data (p. 44)