



“Why should peer review continue?” Just one of the provocative statements made by open access proponent Richard Smith in our interview on p. 18.



The stem cells which give rise to the renewal of gut tissue have remained elusive for a long time. Now Hans Clevers *et al.* have found a specific marker (p. 28).



When pharmaceutical companies get charitable they are mostly accused of cynical self interest. What do *you* think about Novartis' new research institute in Siena? (p. 42)



Do you struggle to explain your job at parties? You're not alone. Imagine, then, the difficulties involved in writing a succinct scientific biography (p. 46).

## News

“1,000 Genomes” initiative / ERC Starting Grants statistics / Synthetic biology / Recently awarded / Novartis foundation closed / Two new mouse models for virus-caused human diseases / Recently awarded / *Research Letter from...* (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 06-12

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