



We will never know precisely how life began billions of years ago; we can only collect evidence to design plausible scenarios. A review of the current favourites. (p. 14-19)



Computer scientists have created your ideal bench colleague: the first machine to independently discover new knowledge. A report and some reflections on robot 'Adam'. (p. 28)



While the WHO raised the pandemic alert level to Phase 6, *Lab Times* interviewed the Global Head of Novartis's vaccines research, Rino Rappuoli, about influenza A/H1N1. (p. 46)



Culturing cells can be tedious and laborious. The proper equipment, however, alleviates the burden and robot cell cultivators are already on the way. (p. 53)

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