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A Brand New Dance

Insanity is the belief that you can keep repeating your behaviour and somehow get different results.

Zig Ziglar

The essence of existence is change. From virus to man, mutation is a constant part of the biological continuum. Fields of endeavor, like biological systems, are also driven by change. Evolution, from the organizational perspective, is a response to a challenge; a confrontation from which we either emerge or disappear forever. To be unprepared for change is to be unprepared for life.

It is next to impossible to gauge when the challenge will occur and what form the changes will take. Even the most inventive person cannot create on demand. Sage insights occur at odd moments. Kekule recognized the structure of benzene in a dream. Einstein may have spent his sleepless nights gaining insights on the patterns of time. Archimedes understood how to identify the adulterated crown while taking a bath, and Darwin's thoughts evolved while reading a book on another subject entirely. Whether sparked by environment, time of day or some other factor, creativity occurs, for the most part, in its own sweet time.

Nuclear medicine has never lacked for new ideas, but it is now challenged with the need to broaden the base of clinical applications. A new field is emerging: the in vivo study of intracellular physiology. We have procedures to measure intracellular pH, detect intracellular hypoxia, identify changes in receptor expression and to quantitate metabolism. The task is to simplify the techniques to evaluate these important parameters. And then? And then the dance begins again.

We may not be familiar with the latest steps as the music begins, but we better have our dancing shoes on and be ready to fake it for a while unless we are prepared to sit this one out.

H. William Strauss, Editor
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