

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# Whenever I'm Feeling Down, I Publish Another *Nature* Article



By Manfred Novak

*HARVARD* - The ivory tower can be so stressful sometimes. What with all the lecturing and being famous, what's a mathematician to do? Whenever I reach a low point like this, when it feels like the weight of the world is on my shoulders, I do what any other self-respecting academic would do — I publish another article in *Nature*.

Now, I know what you're thinking. It certainly does *sound* eccentric to just fire off a *Nature* paper

whenever you're feeling low, but how much more eccentric is it than say, riding your bicycle, or taking a trip to the zoo, or publishing an article in *Science*? Take it from me, my friend, that the best way to cheer yourself up whenever you are feeling down is to write an amazing *Nature* article.

Now don't get me wrong — there are so many other things that I enjoy *besides* writing *Nature* articles. I read. I watch television. I like popsicles. Deep down, I know that it's

the simple things in life — like making snow angels or watching the squirrels gather nuts — that make my life worth living. But God only knows there is no pleasure on Earth like caressing my face with the pages of my latest *Nature* paper.

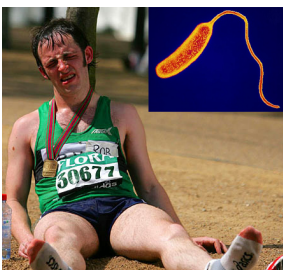
My graduate students have asked me whether it is possible to publish in *Nature* too frequently, citing fallacious rumors that publishing in *Nature* has adverse health effects. The bottom line is that you should publish in *Nature* just as frequently as you need to. For some people, this might be once a decade. For others, it might be five times a year. No frequency of *Nature* publications is better or worse than any other. Publishing in *Nature* is a very private, personal decision that only you can make for yourself.

Speaking of *Nature* articles, did I mention that I just wrote one the other day? There I was, with a hole inside of me that I thought could never be filled. But then the idea came to me: I could write a *Nature* article! All I did was whip up a few ODE's, vary a few parameters, and *viola!* Almost immediately, a transcendental state of euphoria washed over me, and I knew what destiny had in store. Manfred Novak...*Nature!* Suddenly I knew that I was the Man — a *Nature* man — and that *this* freight train was going to keep on rolling.



## HEALTH AND MEDICINE

## Obscure Diseases Lament Lack of Charity Runs



*BOSTON, MA* - After April's Boston Marathon, several highly underrated medical conditions came together to protest a lack of charity athletic fund-raisers, specifically long distance Pro-Am events in the 5-25K range, designed to promote public awareness of, and fund research to cure them.

"What's the matter people? You don't think curing me is a good cause?" remarked cholera, as it infected several Bangladeshi children. "I've hardly gotten any publicity since Maggie caulked the wagon and then died of me in Oregon Trail. But I sure as hell am still a formidable public health menace, especially in areas of the developing world with little or no access to clean drinking water."

"Why do stupid AIDS and breast cancer get all the good runs?" lamented lung cancer, as it continued to blacken the lower left bronchial lobe of a Saugus area man. "Although I have been unfairly stigmatized as being the patient's fault due to the now well-established causal connection between cigarette smoking and me, I still cause more deaths amongst American women than breast cancer and AIDS combined! I may not be

as sexy as Big Disease, but I'm sure as hell relevant when it comes to slowly destroying your respiratory system."

"It's not as if I'm dying to have people eradicate me," explained amoebic dysentery, "I mean look at what happened to smallpox. But just for once, I'd like to get a little respect when it comes to how virulent and dangerous I am as a pathogen. Maybe I'm crazy, but I think 'Run For The Runs' could be a successful marketing slogan."

Other diseases have offered other constructive ideas to elevate their status as medically attractive causes. Narcolepsy is promoting a nap contest, arthritis has sponsored a circumcision tournament, and TB has suggested a wheeze-off. ED has even organized a competition where chronically smiling 50-60 year old men throw footballs through a tire swing.

"Just as the Tibetans are using the Beijing Olympics as a convenient political platform," added Syphilis, "the Boston Marathon is our starting point for a public dialogue on how to address 21st century medical priorities through philanthropically motivated amateur athletic events. You may get me or Herpes if you fuck around, but when it comes to ensuring our continued medical relevance, I can assure you, we're not fucking around any more."

