**GFP: Lighting Up Life**

GFP and other fluorescent proteins have revolutionized biology because they allow scientists to look at the inner workings of living cells. The story of the discovery and development of GFP provides a very nice example of the importance of basic research on non-traditional organisms and of how scientific progress is often made: through accidental discoveries, the willingness to ignore previous assumptions and take chances, and the combined efforts of many people.

**Mechanosensory Transduction and its Modification in *C. elegans***

Although biologists have known the molecules that allow us to see and smell, they have been much less successful discovering the molecules that sense mechanical signals. Using the nematode Caenorhabditis elegans, we have identified channel proteins that sense gentle touch and additional mechanisms that change the sensitivity of these mechanosensory channels. These changes allow the animals to respond differentially to touch under various environmental conditions and to change the priority of sensory signals.