

Editorial

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A friend of mine recently showed me this wonderful quote of the great computer scientist, Donald E Knuth of Stanford University: “I decry the current tendency to seek patents on algorithms. There are better ways to earn a living than to prevent other people from making use of one’s contributions to computer science.”, (cf. *The Art of Computer Programming*, Volume 3).



In this issue of *Resonance*, we salute a great scientist, the double Nobel laureate, Marie Curie who held similar views on intellectual property. When Pierre Curie suggested to his wife and collaborator the possibility of patenting their process of extraction of radium (see the Article-in-a-Box by M S S Murthy, and the paper by Marie Curie herself in the Classics Section), Marie Curie is reported to have said, “It is impossible. It would be contrary to the scientific spirit”. An intimate biography of Marie Curie by her second daughter Eve Curie, is vividly reviewed by C S Yogananda.

This issue has something for everyone – buckyballs (Amritanshu Sinha) and the chemistry of colours (Jayanthi Chandrasekaran) to whet our appetite for chemistry. Ishwar Prakash laments the loss of endemic biodiversity in the Thar Desert. Advocating ‘Numeracy for Everyone’, A P Gore and S A Paranjpe introduce a broad sweep of the application of statistical inference in epidemiology, clinical investigations and drug screening, in this, the fifth part of a series.

One has heard of booms and busts of securities traded on the stock market, but to learn about the booms and busts of chaotic attractors, turn to the piece by N Ananthakrishnan and Tuhin Sahai. For determinists we have N K Srinivasan’s overview of modeling and computer simulation of deterministic systems. And for probabilists, a ‘lightning introduction to quantum probability’ by K R Parthasarathy.

The editors of *Resonance* often discuss effective ways to motivate young readers to make career choices in science. Our latest ploy is to get eminent Indian scientists to write early and succinct autobiographies under a new section heading called ‘Personal Reflections’. That the distinguished astrophysicist Jayant V Narlikar should do the honours is quite befitting.

