

# Editorial

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*S Ramasubramanian, Editor*

Very few scientific investigations can parallel the impact on humanity as the discovery of the route of malaria by Ronald Ross, the scientist featured in this issue. His pioneering work, done mainly in India towards the end of the nineteenth century, helped control the scourge of malaria. Shobhona Sharma chronicles the trials and the ultimate triumph of Ross achieved under trying circumstances. A little known fact is that the astute experimentalist had also proposed a time tested mathematical model of epidemiology.

Cost effective methods of generating clean energy, if and when feasible, hold immense potential to alter our way of life. Shukla highlights various routes to directly harness electricity from sunlight, using organic and inorganic solar cells.

The article by Chaturvedi, Simon and Mukunda gives a historic perspective of the concepts of space, time and relativity. Beginning with the ideas of Galileo and Newton, and culminating in special and general theories of relativity, notions from not only physics but also geometry play a subtle role.

Sindhu Radhakrishna describes significant phenomena that affected the evolution of primates in the evolutionary mosaic, while Jasbir Chahal gives a heuristic account of area of simple geometric objects highlighting the role of Pythagoras' theorem.

Mathematical models have the uncanny feature of illuminating the essential structural similarity between problems arising from diverse disciplines. One such versatile model is the prey-predator model proposed initially in the context of population dynamics. Monika Sharma and Praveen Kumar illustrate how chemical oscillations in reactions can be explained in terms of this model, also known as the Lotka-Volterra model.



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