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Parents, with help from their doctor, select the gender of their baby using a technique called MicroSort, which separates X-bearing (female-determining) and Y-bearing (male-determining) sperm. The success rate is about 92 percent for females and 69 percent for males.



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Researchers at Massachusetts General Hospital reveal in July that they have successfully regenerated the central nervous system of lab rats with severed spinal cords. Applications for human paralysis treatment are very encouraging.

The jawbones of two kangaroo-sized dinosaurs are discovered in Madagascar in October. Dated to the early Triassic period, 230 million years ago, the bones could be the oldest dinosaur fossils ever found.



Reuters/Scott Olson/Archive Photos



A new board game, Infection, hits stores in July. Fun and educational, players race around the board catching diseases, described in detail, and trying to be cured.

In October, Sea Launch Company, a multi-national consortium, launches the first commercial satellite into space from a floating platform in the Pacific Ocean. Boeing is a major partner in the venture, along with companies in Russia, Ukraine and Norway.



Boeing Media



Reuters/IC/Archive Photos

Researchers report they have successfully altered the learning and memory behavior of mice by inserting a gene into their brains. This genetic-engineering breakthrough may be helpful in treating human learning disorders and Alzheimer's disease.



Reuters/Alto Gonzalez/Archive Photos

In October, biologists isolate one of the enzymes that sets Alzheimer's disease in motion. This scientific discovery will lead to new treatments and, possibly, a cure. Over 4 million Americans, including former President Ronald Reagan, are living with the disease.

## Flash

In June, scientists announce the creation of two new elements. The nucleus of new, super-heavy element 118 decays into element 116 within a millisecond.

Scientists studying Albert Einstein's preserved brain report it has unique characteristics. The region governing mathematical ability and spatial reasoning is significantly larger than normal.



AP/Wide World Photos

To mark the 30th anniversary of the first moon landing, astronaut Neil Armstrong's lunar footprint is featured on a 1999 postage stamp.

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