

ROBERT ELLIOT POLLACK[printable](#)*Updated August 26, 2009*

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Curriculum Vitae:

Born Brooklyn, New York, September 2, 1940.
 Married Amy Steinberg, December 21, 1961.
 Daughter, Marya.

Education

2000-2001 *Chavruta* partnership Study, Yeshivat Chovevei Torah.
 1998-1999 Sabbatical year in the First Year Program, Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, Dept. of Psychiatry, Columbia University.
 1996-1998 Jewish Theological Seminary, Chavruta Study Group on Theology, Prof. Neil Gillman.
 1969-1970 Weizmann Institute, Rehovot, Israel, with Prof. Ernest Winocour. NIH Special Fellowship.
 1966-1968 New York University Medical Center, Pathology Department, N.Y. NIH Postdoctoral fellowship with Prof. Howard Green.
 1963, summer Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory, Embryology.
 1961-1966 Brandeis University, Biology Department, NIH Predoctoral Training Fellowship, Ph.D. Thesis: "Studies on the Specificity of Transfer RNA."
 1957-1961 Columbia College, Columbia University, N. Y., B.A., major in Physics. New York State Regents Scholarship.

Honors

2008 Gershom Mendes Seixas Award, Columbia-Barnard Hillel
 2005 Bonhoeffer Lecture, Humboldt University, Berlin.
 2002 *Torah u'Madda* Lecture, Yeshiva University.
 2001 Mendel Lecture, St. Peter's College.
 2000 Distinguished Lecturer in the Humanities, Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.
 1999 Schoff Memorial Lectures, Columbia University.
 1999 Gittelson-Meyerowitz Distinguished Service Award, Sutton place Synagogue.
 1995 Lionel Trilling Award, For *Signs of Life: The Language and Meanings of DNA*.
 1994 Fellow, American Association for the Advancement of Science.
 1993 Fellow, John Simon Guggenheim Foundation.
 1989 Alexander Hamilton Medal, Columbia University.
 1987 William Brockman Memorial Lecture, U. Michigan
 1986 Who's Who in America; American Men and Women of Science.
 1986 American Association For Higher Education, Commendation.
 1974 National Institutes of Health Research Career Development Award.

Academic Appointments**Current:**

Since 2009 Earth Institute Professor
 Since 1978 Professor, Columbia University, Department of Biological Sciences.
 Since 2002 Adjunct Professor of Science and Religion, Union Theological Seminary.
 Since 2000 Adjunct Professor, Columbia University, Departments of Religion, EEEB.
 Since 1999 Lecturer, Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, Department of Psychiatry, College of Physicians and Surgeons, Columbia University.
 Since 1994 Adjunct Professor, Columbia University, Center for Environmental Research and Conservation.

Past:

2005-2006 Fellow, Heyman Center for the Humanities.
 1998-1999 Affiliate Scholar, Center for Psychoanalytic Training and Research, Department of Psychiatry, Columbia University.
 1993-1994 Visiting Scholar, Dartmouth College, Department of Anthropology.

1975-1978 Professor, SUNY Stony Brook Medical School, department of Microbiology.
1970-1974 Senior Scientist, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory.
1968-1970 Instructor; Asst. Prof., NYU Medical Center, Pathology Department.

Selected Public Speaking

2006-2009 American Museum of Natural History; Stevens Institute of Technology; The Riverside Church, NYC; New York Theological Seminary; All Souls Church, NYC; Columbia College Dean's Day; Calhoun School, NY; Communion and Liberation, NYU; The Century Association, NY; Yeshiva University Kollel, NY; Skirball Institute, NY; Church World Service Disaster Ministry Forum, Princeton Theological Seminary; Jewish Theological Seminary, Adenauer Forum; Congregation Ramath Orah, NYC; Metanexus, Philadelphia; Center for Religious Inquiry, NYC; Philoctetes Society, NYC; Church of the Ascension, New York, First Presbyterian Church, NY; First Presbyterian Church, Greenwich, CT; WNYC-FM; American Museum of Natural History, NYC.

Associations

American Association for the Advancement of Science, Fellow

Corporate Boards

1999-2007 Tapestry Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (Nasdaq: TPPH), a pharmaceuticals firm. Director.
1995-2005 Nutrition 21 Inc. (Nasdaq: NXXI), a nutrient supplements firm. Director.

Administrative Appointments

Current

Since 1999 Director, Columbia University Center for the Study of Science and Religion.
Since 2001 Jewish Campus Life Fund of Columbia University, Board member.
2003-2009 Congregation Ramath Orah, Board.
Since 2006 Senator, University Senate.

Past

2003-2009 Congregation Ramath Orah, Board.
1997-2001 Jewish Campus Life Fund of Columbia University, President.
1996-1999 Board of Overseers, List College, Jewish Theological Seminary of America.
1996-1998 Board of Trustees, Solomon Schechter High School of New York.
1989-1994 Board of Trustees, Brandeis University.
1990-1995 Board of Trustees, The New York Foundation.
1982-1989 Columbia College, Columbia University, Dean.

Advisory Boards

Current

Since 2007 Friends of Israel Science and Technology Schools.
Since 2006 Faculty Advisory Board, Columbia Science Review.
Since 2003 International Advisory Board, John Templeton Foundation.
Since 2000 Science Advisory Board, New York Hall of Science.
Since 1999 Chair, Katzki award committee, American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee.

Past

2004-2009 National Council of Churches, Human Genetics Policy Development Committee.
1999 Advisory Board, Fred Friendly Seminars.
1998 Advisory Board, Program in Religion and Ecology, Center for the Study of World Religions, Harvard University.
2000-2002 Advisory Board, John Templeton Foundation.
2000-2002 Advisory Board, California Newsreel, program on Race.
1998 Senior consultant, Dialog Between Religion and Science, American Association for the Advancement of Science.
1996-2002 Advisory Board, Center for the History of Recent Science, George Washington University, Washington DC.
1996-1997 Commission on Israel-Diaspora Relations, Israel Democracy Institute, Jerusalem.
1995-2001 World Economic Forum, Geneva; Fellow and participant.
1995-1997 MacArthur/ACLS Liberal Arts Colleges Program, Consultant.

Editorial Boards

Current

Since 2002 Editorial board, FASEB Journal.
Since 2002 Senior Editor, Columbia University Press Series on Science and Religion.
Since 1998 Editorial Board, Earthscape (EPIC).
Since 1989 Editorial Board, "Environmental Management and Health."

Past

1997-1999 Editorial Board, 21stC, Columbia University.

Teaching

Current

Since 2009 Interdepartmental Core Seminar G4321, "Human Identity"
Since 2008 Biology C3500/F3500, Independent Research.
Since 2006 Frontiers of Science, Core Curriculum, Columbia College
Since 2005 Short course on science and religion for clergy, "DNA, Evolution, and the Soul," UTS

Past

2004-2008 Graduate Seminar for MA and M.Div students, "DNA, Evolution, and the Soul," Union Theological Seminary.
1994-2005 Biology EEEB W2001, an entry-level majors course in molecular biology and genetics from an evolutionary perspective.
1989-2005 Biology BIOL 4065, a graduate-level seminar on the molecular biology of disease.
2003-2005 Religion V2820 "Science and Religion, East and West." An introductory course for the major in Science and Religion.
1989-2001 Biology BIOL3500, Independent Research (Director).
1997-1998 Lehrhaus, on Scientific and Jewish Texts, with Prof. Neil Gillman, Jewish Theological Seminary.
1996-1998 Inter-school Faculty Seminar on Human diversity.
1979-1998 Biology 1002, a course on the theory and practice of biology, for non-scientists.

Publications

[I](#) **Research Articles in peer-reviewed journals**
[II](#) **Essays and Reviews**
[III](#) **Books**

Other Media

[IV](#) **Unpublished essays, talks, and interviews**
[V](#) **References to work of R. Pollack**

[Publications](#)

I Research Articles in peer-reviewed journals

1. Pollack, R., 1966.
[Changes in Leucine-specific sRNA after infection of E. coli by phages T2 and T4. *J. Gen. Physiol.* 49: 1139-1145.](#)
2. Pollack, R., H. Green, H., and G. Todaro, 1968.
[Growth control in cultured cells: Selection of sublines with increased sensitivity to contact inhibition and decreased tumor-producing ability. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 60: 126-133.](#)
3. Pollack, R., and M. Burger, 1969.
[Surface-Specific characteristics of a contact-inhibited cell line containing the SV40 viral genome. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 62: 1074-1076.](#)
4. Pollack, R., and G. Teebor, 1969.
[Relationship of contact inhibition to tumor transplantability, morphology and growth rate. *Cancer Res.* 29: 1770-1772.](#)

5. Wang, R.J., R. Pollack, T. Kusano and H. Green, 1970.
[Human-mouse hybrid cell lines and susceptibility to poliovirus. I. Conversion from polio sensitivity to polio resistance accompanying loss of human gene-dependent polio receptors. *J. Virol.* 5: 677-681.](#)
6. Kusano, T., R. J. Wang, R. Pollack and H. Green, 1970.
[Human-mouse hybrid cell lines and susceptibility to polio virus. II. Polio sensitivity and the chromosome constitution of the hybrids. *J. Virol.* 5: 682-685.](#)
7. Pollack, R., 1970.
[Cellular and viral contributions to maintenance of the SV40 transformed state. *In Vitro* 6: 58-65.](#)
8. Pollack, R., Wolman, S. and Vogel, A., 1970.
[Reversion of virus-transformed lines: Hyperploidy accompanies retention of viral genes. *Nature* 228: 938, 967-970.](#)
9. Pollack, R., Salas, J., Wang, R., Kusano, T., and Green, H., 1971.
[Human-mouse hybrid cell lines and susceptibility to species-specific viruses. *J. Cell. Physiol.* 77: 117-120.](#)
10. Green, H., Wang, R., Basilico, C., Pollack, R., Kusano, T. and Salas, J., 1971.
[Mammalian somatic cell hybrids and their susceptibility to viral infection. *Fed. Proc.* 30: 930-934.](#)
- 10a. Pollack, R., and Sambrook, J., 1971.
[Comments and suggestions on laboratory technique. Cold Spring Harbor Lab. internal memo, June 28.](#)
11. Pollack, R., and Goldman, R., 1973.
[Synthesis of infective polio virus in BSC-1 monkey cells enucleated with cytochalasin B. *Science* 179: 915-916.](#)
12. Goldman, R., Pollack R., and Hopkins, N.H., 1973.
[Preservation of normal behavior by enucleated cells in culture. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 70: 750-754.](#)
13. Pollack, R., and Vogel, A., 1973.
[Isolation and characterization of revertant cell lines. II. Growth control of a polyploid revertant line derived from SV40-transformed 3T3 mouse cells. *J. Cell. Physiol.* 82: 93-100.](#)
14. Vogel, A., Risser, R., and Pollack, R., 1973.
[Isolation and characterization of revertant cell lines. III. Isolation of density-revertants of SV40-transformed 3T3 cells using colchicine. *J. Cell Physiol.* 82: 181-188.](#)
15. Vogel, A. and Pollack, R., 1973.
[Isolation and characterization of revertant cell lines. IV. Direct selection of serum-revertant sublines of SV40-transformed 3T3 mouse cells. *J. Cell Physiol.* 82: 189-198.](#)
16. Pollack, R., 1973.
The Culture of Mammalian Cells. Chapter 2, pp. 74-172, in *The Molecular Biology of Tumor Viruses* (ed. J. Tooze). Cold Spring Harbor Press: Cold Spring Harbor, New York.
17. Goldman, R., Berg, G., Bushnell, A., Chang, C., Dickerman, L., Hopkins, H., Miller, M., Pollack, R., and Wang, R., 1973.
[Fibrillar systems in cell motility. *Ciba Foundation Symposium* 14: 83-107.](#)
18. Oey, J., Vogel, A. and Pollack, R., 1974.
[Intracellular cyclic AMP concentration responds specifically to growth regulation by serum. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 71: 694-698.](#)
19. Risser, R. and Pollack, R., 1974.
[A non-selective analysis of SV40 transformation of mouse 3T3 cells. *Virology* 59: 477-489.](#)
20. Pollack, R., Goldman, R.D., Conlon, S., and Chang, C., 1974.
[Properties of enucleated cells. II. Characteristic overlapping of transformed cells is reestablished by enucleates. *Cell* 3: 51-54.](#)
21. Vogel, A. and Pollack, R., 1974.

- [Isolation and characterization of revertant cell lines. VI. Susceptibility of revertants to retransformation by Simian Virus 40 and murine sarcoma virus. *J. Virol.* 14: 1404-1410.](#)
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[Plasminogen activator production accompanies loss of anchorage regulation in transformation of primary rat embryo cells by Simian Virus 40. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 71: 4792-2796.](#)
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24. Vogel, A. and Pollack, R., 1974.
[Methods for obtaining revertants of transformed cells. *Methods in Cell Biology.* 8: 75-92. \(ed. D.Prescott\), New York: Academic Press.](#)
25. Goldman, R. and Pollack, R., 1974.
[Uses of enucleated cells. *Methods in Cell Biology.* 8: 123-143 \(ed. D. Prescott\). New York: Academic Press.](#)
26. Vogel, A., Oey, J., and Pollack, R., 1974.
[Two classes of revertants isolated from SV40-transformed 3T3 mouse cells. *Control of Proliferation in Animal Cells.* \(ed. B. Clarkson and R. Baserga\), 125-138. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Press, New York.](#)
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[Biological analysis of clones of SV40-infected mouse 3T3 cells. *Control of Proliferation in Animal Cells.* \(ed. B. Clarkson and R. Baserga\), 139-150. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Press, New York.](#)
28. Sambrook, J. and Pollack, R., 1974.
Basic methodology for cell culture-cell transformation. *Methods in Enzymology* 32 part B, Chapter 55, 583-592. New York: Academic Press.
29. Pollack, R., and Risser, R., 1974.
[The different stable patterns of growth control induced by SV40 infection of normal cells. *Mechanisms of Virus Disease* \(ed. W. Robinson and C. Fox\), 261-270. San Francisco: Benjamin.](#)
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[The distribution of actin in non-muscle cells: The use of actin antibody in the localization of actin within the microfilament bundles of Mouse 3T3 cells. *Exptl. Cell Res.* 90: 333.](#)
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[Isolation and characterization of revertant cell lines VII. DNA synthesis and mitotic rate of serum-sensitive revertants in non-permissive growth conditions. *J.Cell Physiol.* 85: 151-162.](#)
32. Risser, R., Rifkin, D., and Pollack, R., 1975.
[The stable classes of transformed cells induced by SV40 infection of established 3T3 cells and primary rat embryonic cells. *Cold Spring Harbor Symposium on Quantitative Biology* 39: 317-324.](#)
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[DNA content in normal, transformed and revertant mouse cell lines. *Mammalian Cells: Probes and Problems. Los Alamos Life Sciences Symp. I:* 76-89. Oak Ridge, Tenn: USERDA.](#)

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[Production of plasminogen activator and colonial growth in semi-solid medium are in vitro correlates of tumorigenicity in the immune-deficient nude mouse. *Proteases and Biological Control*, \(ed. E. Reich, D. Rifkin, and E. Shaw\), 885-899. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Press.](#)
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[Identification of biological molecules in situ at high resolution via the fluorescence excited by a scanning electron beam. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 73: 317-321.](#)
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[Modification of mammalian cell shape: redistribution of intracellular actin by SV40 virus, proteases, cytochalasin B and dimethylsulfoxide. *Cell Motility* \(eds. J. Rosenbaum, T. Pollard and R. Goldman\) 389-401. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Press.](#)
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[Production of plasminogen activator by established cell lines of mouse origin. *J. Cell Biology* 73: 47-55.](#)
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[Defective organization of actin in cultured skin fibroblasts from patients with inherited adenocarcinoma. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 74: 3019-3022.](#)
48. Scordilis, S.P., Anderson, J.L., Pollack, R., and Adelstein, R.S., 1977.
[Characterization of the myosin phosphorylating system in normal murine astrocytes and derivative SV40 wild-type and A-mutant transformants. *J. Cell Biol.* 74: 940-949.](#)
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[The characterization of SV40 transformed cell lines derived from mouse teratocarcinoma: growth properties and differentiated characteristics. *J. Cell Physiol.* 93: 269-276.](#)
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[Viral and cellular contributions to expression of the transformed state. *Neoplastic Transformation* \(ed. H. Koprowski\), 169-179. Berlin, Dahlem Konferenzen.](#)
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[2-Amino-Isobutyric acid and 3-O-methyl-D-glucose transport in 3T3, SV40-transformed 3T3 and revertant cell lines. *J. Cell Physiol.* 95: 203-212.](#)
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[Isolation and characterization of rat cells containing one copy of the SV40 genome. *Cell* 13: 19-32.](#)
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[Cell shape and motion. NIAID Task Force Report \(NIH\) 79-1835, 5: 116-143.](#)
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[Correlation of in vitro growth properties and tumorigenicity of Syrian hamster cell lines. *Cancer Research* 39: 1504-1510.](#)
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[Tumorigenicity of revertants from an SV40-transformed line. *J. Supramol. Struct.* 11: 539-546.](#)
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Transformation by polyoma and SV40. *The Molecular Biology of Tumor Viruses*, B, 2nd Edition, (ed. J. Tooze), 205-296. Cold Spring Harbor: Cold Spring Harbor Press.
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[Phenotype of polyoma-induced hamster tumor cell lines. *J. Virology* 35: 252-255.](#)
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[SV40 and cellular gene expression in the maintenance of the tumorigenic syndrome. *Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology* 44: 681-688.](#)
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[Early mutants of polyoma virus \(dl18 and dl23\) with altered transformation properties: Is polyoma virus middle T antigen a transforming gene product? *Cold Spring Harbor Symposia on Quantitative Biology* 44: 271-283.](#)
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[Establishment and transformation diminish the ability of fibroblasts to contract a native collagen gel. *J. Cell Biology* 87: 304-308.](#)
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[Cytoskeletal F-actin patterns quantitated with Fluorescein Isothiocyanate phalloidin in normal and transformed cells. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 77: 6624-6628.](#)
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[F-actin patterns quantitated with F1-phalloidin in skin fibroblasts of individuals genetically predisposed to colon cancer. *International Cell Biology* 1980-1981 \(ed. H. Schweiger\) 331-335. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.](#)
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[Hormones, anchorage and oncogenic cell growth. *Proceedings of 1980 International Symposium on Cancer* 1, 504-514. \(ed. J. Burchenal\). New York: Grune and Stratton.](#)
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[Non-lytic Simian Virus-40 specific 100K phosphoprotein is associated with anchorage independent growth in Simian Virus 40-transformed and revertant mouse cell lines. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 1: 994-1006.](#)
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[Effects of Calcium and Hormones on the Cytoskeleton and Cell Proliferation. *Cold Spring Harbor Conferences on Cell Proliferation* 9: 243-258.](#)
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[Precursor mouse cells show strain-specific covariation in the amount of 54-Kilodalton phosphoprotein and in susceptibility to transformation by Simian Virus 40. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 80: 5670-5674.](#)
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[A functional SV40 origin of replication is required for the generation of 100K super T antigen in transformed mouse cells. *J. Virology* 48: 492-502.](#)
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[Do variant SV40 sequences have a role in the maintenance of the oncogenic transformed phenotype? *Genes and Proteins in Oncogenesis* \(ed. H. Vogel and I.B. Weinstein\) 295-303. New York: Academic Press.](#)
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[94K and 100K SV40 T-antigens are associated with the nuclear matrix in transformed and revertant mouse cells. *J. Virology* 46: 575-583.](#)
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DNase sensitivity of integrated SV40 DNA. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 4: 559-566.

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[Reduced Insulin Endocytosis in Serum-Transformed Fibroblasts demonstrated by flow Cytometry. *Cytometry* 5: 275-280.](#)
86. Chen, S., Blanck, G., and Pollack, R., 1984.
[Reacquisition of a functional early region by a mouse transformant containing only defective SV40 DNA. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 4: 666-670.](#)
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[Loss of actin cytoskeletal organization accompanies the benign to malignant tumor transition in cultured human colonic epithelial cells. *Cancer Research* 44: 3050-3060.](#)
88. Nicolson, N., Chen, S., and Pollack, R., 1984.
[SV40 Transformation of Swiss 3T3 cells can cause a stable reduction in the calcium requirement for growth. *J. Cell Biology* 99: 2314-2321.](#)
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[Two integrated partial repeats of SV40 together code for a super-T antigen. *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 5: 742-750.](#)
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