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TRACKING TRENDS & PERFORMANCE IN BASIC RESEARCH

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2008 : November 2008 - New Hot Papers : Lawrence Steinman

## NEW HOT PAPERS - 2008

November 2008



Lawrence Steinman talks with *ScienceWatch.com* and answers a few questions about this month's New Hot Paper in the field of Multidisciplinary.



**Article Title: Protective and therapeutic role for alpha B-crystallin in autoimmune demyelination**

Authors: Ousman, SS, et al.

Journal: NATURE

Volume: 448

Issue: 7152

Page: 474-U7

Year: JUL 26 2007

\* Stanford Univ, Dept Neurol & Neurol Sci, Sch Med, Stanford, CA 94305 USA.

(addresses have been truncated)

### SW: Why do you think your paper is highly cited?

It describes a shift in the paradigm for autoimmune diseases.

### SW: Would you summarize the significance of your paper in layman's terms?

We show that a guardian protein is attacked and that this attenuates the healing of an organ like the brain, when under autoimmune attack. The same protein can be administered to attenuate the autoimmune attack and thus attenuate the "attack against the guardian."

### SW: How did you become involved in this research, and were there any problems along the way?

I have been interested in the study of protective molecules induced in an organ under attack. Our laboratory is dedicated to understanding the pathogenesis of autoimmune diseases, particularly multiple sclerosis.

### SW: Where do you see your research leading in the future?

We see it leading to the discovery of new drugs for **multiple sclerosis**, **rheumatoid arthritis**, and even atherosclerosis.

**Lawrence Steinman**  
**Professor of Neurology and Neurological Sciences**  
**Stanford University**  
**School of Medicine**  
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Keywords: autoimmune diseases, pathogenesis, alpha B-crystallin, autoimmune demyelination, autoimmune attack, guardian protein, protective molecules, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, atherosclerosis.

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