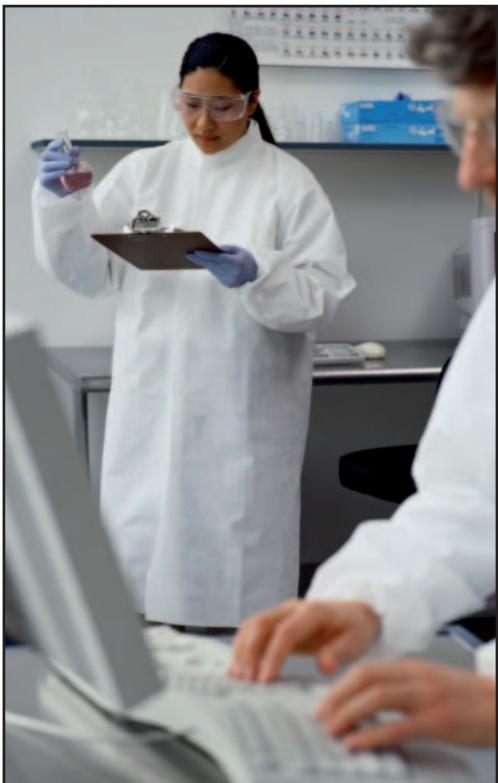


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her: their inability to separate her poisonous roots and berries from her useful leaves and stems, like the pokeweed her grandfather enjoys. The author chose 1950s Appalachia as a backdrop of intolerance to magnify Icy's difficulties and to draw on the irony of a people—isolated and often shunned by others—who find it difficult to accept one of their own who is different. The notion of acceptance vacillates between poignant and preachy, especially toward the end of the book when Icy, her grandmother, and Miss Emily finally find a place of belonging in one of the local church congregations. Nonetheless, *Icy Sparks* would have been a much less interesting book if set just a few decades later, owing to advances in scientific understanding and public awareness of Tourette Syndrome, and in its chosen setting, casts an informed, yet moving perspective on a still largely mysterious disease.

Author Gwyn Hyman Rubio has also written *The Woodman's Daughter*. doi:10.1124/mi.6.5.10



Dayle Houston is a graduate student in the laboratory of Ken Harden at the Department of Pharmacology, University of North Carolina—Chapel Hill.

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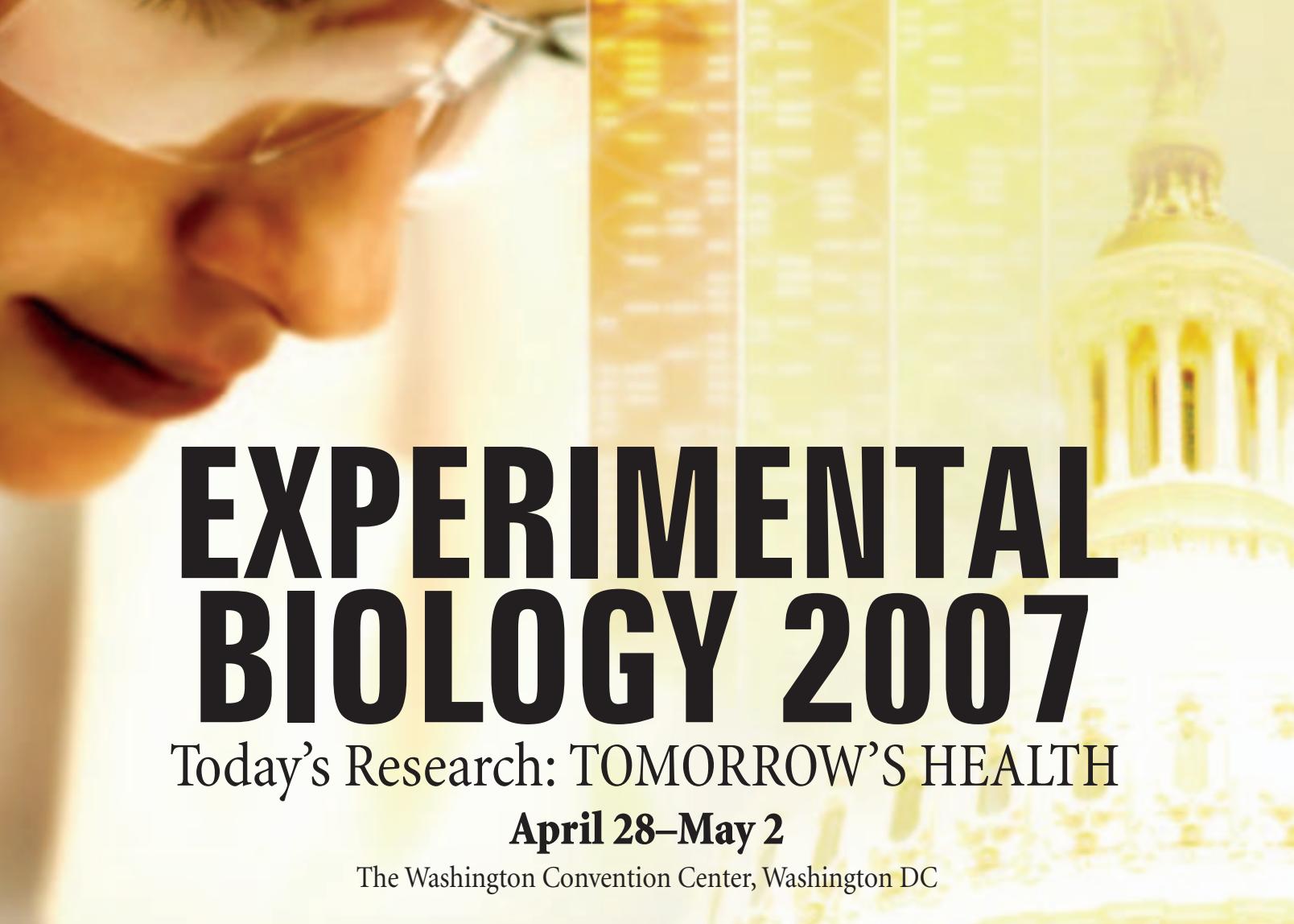
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