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The Biochemical Society, London © 1993

Volume 290, part 1
15 February 1993

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- **Cover illustration:** Sequential changes with time of the intracellular calcium concentration of individual murine peritoneal macrophages exposed to α_2 -macroglobulin-methylamine. Asynchronous, sustained and transitory oscillations are observed. For more details see the paper by Misra et al. in part 3 of this volume. Illustration reproduced by permission of Professor S. V. Pizzo.

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● **General policy** The *Biochemical Journal* publishes papers in English in all fields of biochemistry, provided that they make a sufficient contribution to biochemical knowledge. Papers may include new results obtained experimentally, descriptions of new experimental methods of biochemical importance, or new interpretations of existing results. Theoretical contributions will be considered equally with papers dealing with experimental work. All work presented should have as its aim the development of biochemical concepts rather than the mere recording of facts. Preliminary, confirmatory or inconclusive work will not be published. The *Biochemical Journal* will not publish material that has been wholly or largely published elsewhere, even as a preliminary communication or in unrefereed symposium proceedings; equally, fragmentation of research into the "least publishable unit" is discouraged.

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