

December 2007

Volume 12 · Numbers 23/24

pp. 995–1086

**Cover Story**

The keynote review in this issue of *Drug Discovery Today*, by Esther Schmid and Dennis Smith, discusses how, despite very significant investment into research into treatments for disease, in some areas, at least, relatively little, or no, progress has been made. They discuss that this lack of progress is not just in neglected “third world” diseases, but many of the major diseases of the developed world are also poorly served. The article investigates the reasons underlying unmet medical need and how addressing these is a critical societal obligation.

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