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## Particle Accelerator, Korean Stem Cells, San Diego Meeting, and New Nobels

Basil Bakir

**Particle Accelerator Near Completion** The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), located on the Franco-Swiss border just northwest of Geneva, Switzerland, has almost completed building the newest addition to its facilities: the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), an \$8.4 billion collaboration between scientists in 34 countries that, when completed, will be the world's largest particle accelerator. The accelerator, capable of colliding electrons with 14 TeV of energy, is hoped to discover in the debris of the crushed electron the Higgs Boson, a particle that particle



Gerhardt Ertl

physicists think endows all other particles with their mass.

**Accused South Korean Stem Cell Scientist may be Working Again** South Korean scientist Woo Suk Hwang, who in 2004 was found to have fabricated data that said he had managed to create embryonic stem cells, may be working again in Thailand, according to reports published by Nature in September. The magazine said that a South Korean fertility expert claimed that Hwang and his colleagues had gone to Thailand to continue their work in the hope they could have more latitude in the country's more relaxed regulatory atmosphere. Hwang, who lost his license to work with human eggs, is on trial in South Korea for fraud and ethics violations.

**Nobel's Awarded** The 2007 Nobel Prizes were announced in early October and will be awarded at a ceremony in Sweden in December. The winners in **medicine**—Mario Capecchi, Martin Evans, and Oliver Smithies—created a novel technique that allows researchers to genetically engineer mice with specifically disabled genes. In **physics**, Albert Grunberg and Albert Fert shared the prize for their discovery of giant magnetoresistance (GMR), a phenomenon that has enabled downsizing of modern electronics by allowing very small changes in magnetic field strength to add up to a much larger cumulative result. In **chemistry**, Gerhardt Ertl won for his description of chemical processes on various surfaces.