

these provisional models are of limited utility. Despite our best efforts, we have been unable to construct a model that both fits the density and conforms with all the geometrical restraints that we expect of an acceptable model. One interpretation is that the density we see does not represent a single discrete conformation, but arises from a combination of conformational states. Such discrete disorder is well known in protein structures and has in many cases been resolved and modeled (Smith, Hendrickson, Honzatko & Sheriff, 1986), but not at the limited resolution (2.8 Å) of the diffraction data in this case. Either higher resolution data or data from an inhibited complex will be required to pinpoint the exact conformation of this critical loop. We are currently pursuing strategies along both of these lines.

In light of the evidence that the active preparation of the HIV-1 RNase H is not only enzymatically, but also structurally, distinct from inactive preparations, it may be advisable to make use of active material (Evans *et al.*, 1991) in future structural studies of enzyme-inhibitor complexes.

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Executive Secretary

It is with deep regret that the death of J. N. King is announced. Jim joined the Union as the first Executive Secretary in 1969 and gave loyal

service until his untimely death on April 12. He had known about his illness for about fifteen months but had continued working with remarkable fortitude almost until the end. A full obituary will appear in *Acta Crystallographica*, Section A, in due course.