

*Building genes in the laboratory  
wasn't always the cakewalk it is today.*

In 1974, it took NRC chemist Saran Narang over three months to synthesize this short bacterial gene (shown against the protein that accompanies it in the cell), a job that he could now do in less than a day. Back then, Narang was still a long way from building the much longer gene for one of therapeutic medicine's most important proteins — human insulin. Read about this scientific odyssey in the next issue of *Science Dimension*, 1983 No. 6.

