

# CONTENTS

7 FEBRUARY 2020 • VOLUME 367 • ISSUE 6478



622

## NEWS

### IN BRIEF

606 News at a glance

### IN DEPTH

#### 610 Will novel virus go pandemic or be contained?

Modelers are trying to forecast how the coronavirus will move, but they need better data *By K. Kupferschmidt and J. Cohen*

#### 611 Combo of two HIV vaccines fails its big test

South African trial halted early because of “futility” *By J. Cohen*

#### 612 Climate change spurs global speedup of ocean currents

Rising winds boost flows in tropics and Southern Ocean *By P. Voosen*  
SCIENCE ADVANCES RESEARCH ARTICLE  
BY S. HU ET AL. 10.1126/SCIADV.AAX7727

#### 613 Prominent spider biologist spun a web of questionable data

Two retractions spark scrutiny of dozens of papers *By E. Pennisi*

#### 614 Prosecutor details China probe that snared chemist

Department of Justice initiative aims to counter “corrupting” influence of foreign money on scientists *By J. Mervis*

#### 616 CRISPR takes on cancer

Gene edits appear safe in first three patients  
*By J. Couzin-Frankel*  
RESEARCH ARTICLE BY E. A. STADTMAUER  
ET AL. 10.1126/SCIENCE.ABA7365; PERSPECTIVE  
BY J. R. HAMILTON AND J. A. DOUDNA  
10.1126/SCIENCE.ABA9844

#### 617 Underground oil fires liberate carbon-free fuel

Company ignites heavy oil fields to make green hydrogen while leaving carbon trapped  
*By E. Hand*

### FEATURES

#### 618 Rekindling the flame

After decades of decline, the U.S. government’s fusion lab seeks a rebirth  
*By A. Cho*

## INSIGHTS

### PERSPECTIVES

#### 622 No hasty solutions for African swine fever

African swine fever vaccines could pose risk of causing disease and spreading the virus further *By D. Gavier-Widén et al.*

#### 624 Porous crystals as membranes

Microporous crystalline membranes are designed for gas separation and potential scale-up *By M. A. Carreon*  
REPORT p. 667

#### 626 Discovering the limits of ecological resilience

Bumble bee declines reveal species pushed to the edge of their environmental tolerances  
*By J. Bridle and A. van Rensburg*  
REPORT p. 685

#### 627 Room-temperature magnetoelastic coupling

Magnetic fields alter the ferroelectric properties of a paramagnetic ytterbium-zinc complex *By Y. Zhou and S.-T. Han*  
REPORT p. 671

#### 628 In the heat of the night

An ancestral receptor plays a key role in host detection by malaria-carrying mosquitoes *By C. R. Lazzari*  
REPORT p. 681

### POLICY FORUM

#### 630 Using sewage for surveillance of antimicrobial resistance

A global system would exploit metagenomic sequencing  
*By Frank M. Aarestrup and M. E. J. Woolhouse*

## BOOKS ET AL.

**633 Death dollhouses and the birth of forensics**

A wealthy patron's vision and macabre models helped forge the field of forensic medicine *By A. Adam*

**634 Hidden figures**

Missing population data hinder good accounting and fair resource distribution *By W. P. O'Hare*

## LETTERS

**635 Marine heat waves threaten kelp forests**

*By N. Arafeh-Dalmau et al.*

**635 Marine restoration projects are undervalued**

*By T. A. C. Gordon et al.*

**636 U.S. action lowers barriers to invasive species**

*By D. Simberloff et al.*

## RESEARCH

## IN BRIEF

**637** From *Science* and other journals

## REVIEW

**640 Medicine**

The biology, function, and biomedical applications of exosomes *R. Kalluri and V. S. LeBleu*  
REVIEW SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:  
DX.DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.AAU6977

## RESEARCH ARTICLES

**641 Plant science**

Enhanced sustainable green revolution yield via nitrogen-responsive chromatin modulation in rice *K. Wu et al.*  
RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:  
DX.DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.AAZ2046

**642 Immunology**

Butyrophilin 2A1 is essential for phosphoantigen reactivity by  $\gamma\delta$  T cells *M. Rigau et al.*  
RESEARCH ARTICLE SUMMARY; FOR FULL TEXT:  
DX.DOI.ORG/10.1126/SCIENCE.AAY5516

**643 Signal transduction**

Mechanism of homodimeric cytokine receptor activation and dysregulation by oncogenic mutations *S. Wilmes et al.*



628 &amp; 681

**652 Signal transduction**

An AMPK–caspase-6 axis controls liver damage in nonalcoholic steatohepatitis *P. Zhao et al.*

## REPORTS

**661 Electrochemistry**

CO<sub>2</sub> electrolysis to multicarbon products at activities greater than 1 A cm<sup>-2</sup> *F. P. García de Arquer et al.*

**667 Catalysis**

Na<sup>+</sup>-gated water-conducting nanochannels for boosting CO<sub>2</sub> conversion to liquid fuels *H. Li et al.*

PERSPECTIVE p. 624

**671 Multiferroics**

Room temperature magnetoelectric coupling in a molecular ferroelectric ytterbium(III) complex *J. Long et al.*

PERSPECTIVE p. 627

**676 Organic chemistry**

Total synthesis of the complex taxane diterpene canatxpropellane *F. Schneider et al.*

**681 Mosquito biology**

Mosquito heat seeking is driven by an ancestral cooling receptor *C. Greppi et al.*  
PERSPECTIVE p. 628

**685 Pollinator decline**

Climate change contributes to widespread declines among bumble bees across continents *P. Soroye et al.*  
PERSPECTIVE p. 626

**688 Neuroscience**

Microglia mediate forgetting via complement-dependent synaptic elimination *C. Wang et al.*

**694 Phase separation**

Valence and patterning of aromatic residues determine the phase behavior of prion-like domains *E. W. Martin et al.*

**700 Structural biology**

Structure of an active human histone pre-mRNA 3'-end processing machinery *Y. Sun et al.*

## DEPARTMENTS

**605 Editorial**

For science, Brexit isn't done yet *By James Wilsdon*

**710 Working Life**

Just for fun *By Bill D. Roebuck*

## ON THE COVER



Rice paddy terraces in Guangxi, China. The nitrogen fertilizers used in green revolution rice cultivation increase the number of flowering branches per plant, in turn enhancing grain yield. Researchers have

now discovered the gene that promotes this branching response to nitrogen. Future breeding efforts will use natural gene variants to increase grain yield and reduce fertilizer need, thus boosting agricultural sustainability. See page 641. *Photo: Chris Stenger/Minden Pictures*

Science Staff .....	602
New Products.....	704
Science Careers .....	705

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