

Best of Last Week – trapping light forever, turning paleontology on its head and a promising anti-aging drug

November 16 2015, by Bob Yirka



constructing an experiment that closed the three major loopholes necessary for such a proof. Also, researchers at the University of Rochester found [a new derivation of pi that links quantum physics and pure math](#) while calculating energy levels for a hydrogen atom, and were completely surprised at what they found.

In news from space, a team at the University of Warwick measured [5400 mph winds hurtling around an exoplanet](#)—planet HD 189733b, that is—marking the first time a weather system on a planet outside of Earth's solar system has been mapped. A team working with NASA's Fermi Gamma-ray Space Telescope mission [found hints of gamma-ray cycle in an active galaxy](#)—providing new insights into the physical processes that occur near a black hole. And an international team of astronomers announced that they had discovered [the oldest stars ever seen in our galaxy](#).

In other news, a team of researchers from the U.S. and Germany conducted lab experiments that showed that [dispersants did not help oil degrade in the BP Deepwater Horizon spill](#)—and in some instances, actually made things worse. Also, some good news from researchers with the University of Leicester—they announced that [the world's-first blood cancer drug trial revealed life-changing results](#). The drug, called, ONO/GS-4059, has been undergoing trials on human patients with chronic lymphocytic leukemia and other blood cancers. An international team of researchers used [520-million-year-old arthropod brains to turn paleontology on its head](#)—by proving that brains can, and do in fact, fossilize.

And finally, if you have been hoping that scientists would discover a way to prevent aging in your lifetime, hope may be on the horizon as a team of researchers with the Salk Institute discovered that [an experimental drug targeting Alzheimer's disease showed anti-aging effects](#)—when mice were given the drug, called J147, they showed improvements in

memory, cognition and blood vessel structure in the brain.

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