

Best of Last Week – New state of water, solar plane crosses Pacific and OTC medicine found to cause cognitive problems

April 25 2016, by Bob Yirka

ORNL researchers discovered that water in beryl displays some unique and unexpected characteristics. Credit: Jeff Scovil

(ScienceX)—It was another good week for physics as a team at the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory announced that

[a new state of water molecule was discovered](#). The new tunneling state was found to exist under extreme confinement and notably was not a solid, liquid or gas. A team at the University of Utah demonstrated [the Inverse spin Hall effect: A new way to get electricity from magnetism](#)—they changed magnetic "spin current" into electric current, possibly paving the way for use in electronic devices. And a team with members from Spain, France and Egypt demonstrated [hydrogen atoms on graphene yielded a magnetic moment](#)—offering a new and better way to give graphene magnetic properties.

In news from space, a team of astronomers, led by Suman Satyal with the University of Texas, found that [an Earth-like planet may exist in a nearby star system](#). The system associated with the star Gliese 832 is just 16 light years away. A team of researchers working with Hubble announced that they had witnessed [a star 'inflating' a giant bubble](#) and used images of it to mark the 26th anniversary of the space telescope's placement into orbit. And a team with NASA announced that [the space probe Kepler was recovered and returned to the K2 mission](#)—it is now back on the job, they reported.

In other news, [a solar-powered plane completed its journey across the Pacific Ocean](#), making headlines around the globe. The plane, called The Solar Impulse 2, is on a mission to fly all the way around the world solely via solar power—the \$100 million project started back in 2002. Also, a team of researchers at UCLA announced that they had found that [fructose alters hundreds of brain genes, which can lead to a wide range of diseases](#), including Alzheimer's disease and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. And an international team of researchers announced that they had discovered [a new reef system at the mouth of the Amazon River](#).

And finally, if you are one of the millions of people that take over-the-counter medicines such as nighttime cold remedies, you might want to

read a report by a team of researchers at the Indiana University School of Medicine—they found [brain scans linking physical changes to cognitive risks of a widely used class of drugs](#), and recommend adults avoid taking them.

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