

Best of Last Week—Golden mystery solved, drug resistant nightmare bacteria and fast talking doesn't offer more info

January 23 2017, by Bob Yirka

Unlocking the secrets of gold. Credit: Massey University

(ScienceX)—It was a good week for physics as an international team of researchers reported that [a golden mystery was solved](#)—the group was finally able to bridge the gap between theory and experiments regarding

quantum properties of gold. Also, a trio of researchers from France and Mexico proposed that [violations of energy conservation in the early universe may explain dark energy](#), and by extension, the cosmological constant problem. And a team at the University of Cambridge reported that they had found [a way to cause graphene's sleeping superconductivity to awaken](#)—by coupling it with praseodymium cerium copper oxide.

In space news, an international team of researchers found that we live in [a universe of two trillion galaxies](#)—10 times as many as prior estimates have suggested. Also, a team at San Francisco State University reported on [their search for signs of life on the Wolf 1061 exoplanet](#), a planetary system 14 light years away. And two international teams of researchers separately gave lessons on [how cosmic plumes offer geometry lessons to astronomers](#) as part of a tale of two pulsars' tails.

In other news, a combined team of researchers from Monash University in Australia and the University of Colorado described evidence suggesting that [humans, not climate change, wiped out Australian megafauna](#). Also, a trio of researchers with Université de Montréal and Oxford University offered evidence showing that [the first humans arrived in North America 10,000 years earlier than believed](#) as part of their analysis of artifacts found in Bluefish Caves in the Yukon, Canada. Also, a team at Harvard and the Broad Institute reported on their study of [a drug-resistant 'nightmare bacteria' that showed a worrisome ability to diversify and spread](#)—carbapenem resistant Enterobacteriaceae, they report, has been found in four hospitals in the U.S. and has genetic traits that make it resistant to antibiotics.

And finally, if you are a fast talker, you might find the results of a study conducted by a team at Brown University interesting—they found that [whether our speech is fast or slow, we deliver information at the same speed](#). Saying more due to speaking faster, they learned, is not the same as conveying more information.

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