

Best of Last Week – Biggest dinosaur ever, rewriting human evolution and brain damage caused by playing video games

August 14 2017, by Bob Yirka



Reconstruction of Patagotitan mayorum. Credit: Jorge Gonzalez

It was a big week for biological history as a team with members from several institutions in Argentina and one in the U.S. reported on their new study that investigated [the biggest dinosaur ever: Patagotitan mayorum](#). When alive, the creature would have stood six meters at the shoulder, measured 37 meters long, and weighed approximately 69 metric tons. Also, a team at the University of Utah came up with a new way to analyze DNA sequences to learn more about early human populations; in the process, they found themselves [rewriting the human evolution story](#). And a combined team of researchers from the University of Chicago and Beijing Museum of Natural History reported that they had discovered [the first winged mammals from the Jurassic](#)

[period](#) in China. Also, an international team found that [the modern domestic dog has a single geographic origin](#) in what is now modern Germany, and that it got its start approximately 15,000 years ago.

It was also a big week for technology as an international team of researchers announced that they achieved [the first data transmission through a terahertz multiplexer](#), possibly paving the way for the next generation of ultra-high bandwidth networks. Also, a small team with members from the U.S. and China demonstrated [graphene electronic tattoos that can be applied to the skin with water](#). They are similar to traditional temporary tattoos, but can function as wearable electronic devices. And Elon Musk announced that [the maiden Falcon Heavy rocket is to launch in November](#), while also acknowledging the high risk involved. The rocket will have a main center engine and two side boosters, all three of which have been designed to return to predesignated spots, allowing for reuse.

In other news, a team of Japanese scientists created [ice cream that doesn't melt](#) by adding an extract found in strawberries. And a team at Ohio State University announced [a breakthrough device that heals organs with a single touch](#) by generating any cell type of interest for treatment within the patient's own body.

And finally, if you like to play action-based video games, you might be interested in a study conducted by a team led by Greg West of the University of Montreal. They found that [playing action video games can actually harm your brain](#)—doing so regularly, they discovered, can lead to less grey matter in the hippocampus.

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