

# **Best of Last Week – Cassini crashes into Saturn, a skin patch to treat obesity and reversing damage from marijuana use**

September 18 2017, by Bob Yirka

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This illustration shows Cassini above Saturn's northern hemisphere prior to one of its 22 Grand Finale dives. Credit: NASA/JPL-Caltech

(ScienceX)—It was a very good week for space science as a team of [Mars research subjects emerged a Mars-like habitat at a remote Hawaii](#)

[volcano after eight months of isolation](#)—the NASA backed project was meant to mimic life on the red planet for the participants. Also, a team from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, conducted [a new supernova analysis that reframes the dark energy debate](#). They suggest the expansion of the universe might be an illusion. An international team used Hubble to [capture a blistering pitch-black planet](#)—WASP-12b. Also, a team with members from the University of Sheffield and Queen's University Belfast reported that they had observed [the largest solar flare in 12 years](#) and the eighth largest in recorded history. And NASA's Cassini spacecraft made headlines as [it made a fiery, final dive](#) and disintegrated in Saturn's atmosphere.

In other news, a team with members from Germany and the European Synchrotron conducted a study and found that [nanoparticles from tattoos circulate inside the body](#)—some of which wind up in lymph nodes. It is still not known if they cause health problems. And a team at the Georgia Institute of Technology reported on how they had developed a system in which [an artificial intelligence, using less than two minutes of videogame footage, recreated a game engine](#), perhaps signaling a way to speed up the process of creating new games. Also, a team led by a group at McMaster University reported that they had found evidence showing [antidepressants to be associated with a significant elevated risk of death](#) by causing organ failure. And a team with members from Columbia University Medical Center and the University of North Carolina announced that they had developed [a microneedle skin patch that delivers a fat-shrinking drug locally and can be used to treat obesity and diabetes](#)—by turning white fat into brown fat.

And finally, if you are among the many who smoked a lot of marijuana in your youth and worry about what impact it might now be having on you, a team at Western University could alleviate your fears. They found a way [to reverse the negative effects of adolescent marijuana use](#) by administering drugs that activated a neurotransmitter called GABA in

the prefrontal cortex region of the brain.

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