

Best of Last Week—How the universe became filled with light, challenging evolutionary theories and winter heart attacks

September 4 2017, by Bob Yirka



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(ScienceX)—It was a good week for space research as a team at UCLA proposed [new theories of black holes from the very early universe](#) and the role they might have played in producing the heavy elements. Also, a team at the University of Iowa proposed [a theory regarding how the universe became filled with light](#)—black holes flinging matter through cloudy surroundings allowed light to escape. A team with the Breakthrough Listen project (listening for radio emissions that signal life from somewhere else in the cosmos) reported that they had received [signals from a distant galaxy sending out 15 high-energy radio bursts](#). And officials with NASA announced [the largest asteroid in a century](#) passed by Earth—named Florence, it measured 4.4 kilometers across and came within 4.4 million miles of striking our planet.

In other news, a team of researchers from Thailand and the U.S. reported that [antidepressants have been found in fish brains in the Great Lakes region](#)—the human medicines are reportedly building up in the brains of several fish types. And an international team found that ancient [fossil footprints challenge established theories of human evolution](#)—they were found in Crete, were approximately 5.7 million years old and were shaped much like modern human footprints. Also, a team with members from Aalto University and the University of Helsinki found that [magnetic stimulation of the brain improved awareness of subjects' own cognitive abilities](#)—it actually improved a volunteer's ability to evaluate how well they did on a tactile test. And a trio of researchers from the U.K. and the U.S. offered evidence that [apes' abilities have been misunderstood by decades of poor science](#)—mainly due to researchers preconceived notions of human superiority. Also, a team at Stanford University reported that [insect eyes inspired their new solar cell design](#)—they used micro-lenses like compound eyes in insects.

And finally, if you are one of the millions around the world worried you might be felled by a heart attack, you might want to see your doctor for testing during the winter, because a team in Sweden conducting [a](#)

[16-year study found evidence suggesting that air temperature is an external trigger for heart attack](#)—more people have heart attacks, they found, when the temperature dips below freezing.

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Citation: Best of Last Week—How the universe became filled with light, challenging evolutionary theories and winter heart attacks (2017, September 4) retrieved 14 July 2025 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2017-09-weekhow-universe-evolutionary-theories-winter.html>

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