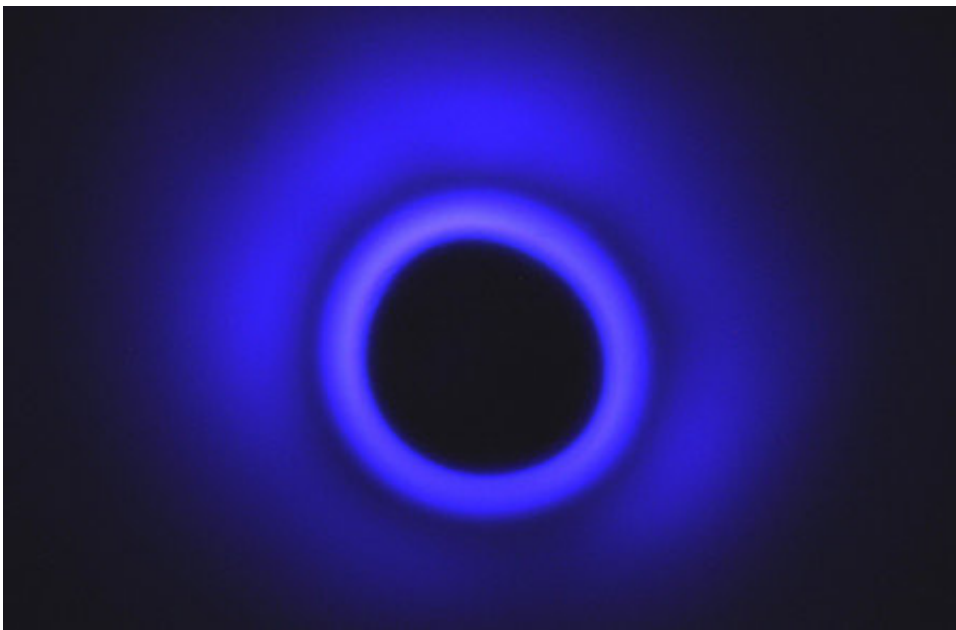


Best of Last Week—A new type of cosmic explosion, creating plasma in a defined shape and dogs helping people live longer

November 20 2017, by Bob Yirka



A torus of plasma, viewed from above. The ring is created by a jet of water striking a crystal plate. Credit: Mory Gharib/Caltech

(ScienceX)—It was a big week for astronomy and astrophysics as an international of researchers working in Mexico used [a high-altitude observatory to shed light on the origin of excess anti-matter](#)—they captured the first wide-angle view of gamma rays from two stars that were rapidly spinning. Also, a team with members from Germany, the U.K. and the U.S. announced that they believe [gravitational waves from](#)

[merging supermassive black holes will be spotted within 10 years.](#)

An international team of astronomers discovered [a new type of cosmic explosion](#). Called PS1-10adi—it was 10 times bigger than normal cosmic explosions. Also, a team with members from several institutions in the U.S. announced that [experiments with heavy nitrogen molecules revealed a planetary-scale tug-of-war](#) between the Earth, life and the upper atmosphere.

In technology news, a team of engineers created [a stable plasma ring in open air](#) showing that it was possible to create plasma with a clearly defined shape. And a team at Texas A&M University took [the next step toward fusion energy](#) by developing a material that may be suitable for use in fusion reactors. Also, a team of researchers with several members from the University of Oslo in Norway and one with Monash University in Australia found that [it may be fructan, not gluten, that upsets people's stomachs](#). And a combined team from the University of Michigan and Jiangnan University announced that they had created [a Kevlar-based artificial cartilage that mimics the magic of the real thing](#)—possibly paving the way for its use in human joint injuries. And a team with members from several institutions in the U.S. [described a new mirror that reflects light differently than conventional mirrors](#), which might prove useful for information processing and other light-based applications.

And finally, if you are like most people and are interested in finding ways to live longer, you might consider adopting a dog if you do not already have one. A team of researchers in Sweden recently found that [dog ownership can be linked to lower mortality](#). Having a dog, they found, lowers the risk of death due to cardiovascular disease.

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