

Best of Last Week: Collision that made life on Earth possible, flying car prototype and muscle memory not really so lost

January 28 2019, by Bob Yirka



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It was a good week for space science as an international team of researchers reported on their efforts to [reveal the black hole at the heart of the galaxy](#) using an array of telescopes—they found that emissions

from Sagittarius A* originate from a smaller region of space than thought. Also, a team at Rice University found evidence that suggested [the planetary collision that formed the moon made life possible on Earth](#). Their high-pressure, high-temperature experiments showed it was likely that Earth's essential elements came from another planet. And a team with members from the Weizmann Institute of Science and Cinvestav described [testing Hawking radiation in laboratory black hole analogues](#)—using light pulses in nonlinear fiber optics. Also, an international team [used split images of quasars to produce a new estimate of the Hubble constant](#)—hoping to determine a definitive number to describe how fast the universe is expanding.

It was also a good week for technology as a group at the UCLA Samueli School of Engineering used [nanotechnology to weld a previously unweldable aluminum alloy](#)—possibly opening the door for its use in major manufacturing applications. Also, a combined team of researchers from Imperial College and University College London announced that they had developed [a machine learning method to identify fake honey](#)—the hope is that it can be used to reduce counterfeiting. And [a Boeing flying car prototype completed its first test flight](#).

In other news, a combined team of researchers from the University of Vermont and the University of Adelaide found that [on Facebook and Twitter, your privacy is at risk—even if you don't have an account](#). And a team led by geneticists at University College London conducted [a genetic study that provided novel insights into the evolution of skin color](#).

And finally, if you, like millions of others, have lost [muscle mass](#) due to inactivity, it might be easier to regain it than you've been thinking—researchers at the University of Michigan made a discovery that [may end the "use it or lose it" dogma](#). They reported that nuclei gained during training persist even when muscle cells shrink due to

disuse or start to break down.

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Citation: Best of Last Week: Collision that made life on Earth possible, flying car prototype and muscle memory not really so lost (2019, January 28) retrieved 9 July 2025 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2019-01-week-collision-life-earth-car.html>

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