

Best of Last Week – Gravitational waves leaving a mark, a new way to compute and sunscreen chemicals entering the body

May 13 2019, by Bob Yirka

It was another good week for physics, as a team of researchers working at the University of Chicago [violated Bell's inequality with remotely connected superconducting qubits](#)—demonstrating that precise quantum

information can be sent along an extended communication path. Also, a team with members from the U.S., Ireland and the Netherlands found evidence that [gravitational waves leave a detectable mark](#), possibly allowing detection even after they have already passed. And Sean McWilliams, an assistant professor at West Virginia University, announced that he had developed [a mathematical method for calculating black hole properties from gravitational wave data](#). He also claimed that his results were as accurate as those provided by simulations.

In technology news, a team with members from Stanford University and the Fujifilm Corporation announced that they had created an [experimental device that generates electricity from the coldness of the universe](#), a possible alternative to solar panels. And a team at Carnegie Mellon University's Human-Computer Interaction Institute announced [a smartwatch that can sense hand activity](#) like typing, washing dishes or petting a dog. Also, a team at New York University suggested [a new way to compute](#) by using a voltage-controlled topological spin switch that requires only electric fields rather than currents to switch between Boolean logic states.

In other news, a team at the University of New South Wales carried out what has been described as [impossible research](#) that produced a 400-year El Niño record, revealing startling changes. They drilled cores from coral and found that El Niño events have been changing in recent decades. Also, the FDA sent out a warning to diabetes patients, reporting that some newer [diabetes drugs](#) have been [linked to 'flesh-eating' genital infections](#). And a team with members from the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology and the Max Planck Institute for Solar System Research discovered [a new water cycle on Mars](#) in which water vapor rises from the lower into the upper Martian atmosphere.

And finally, with summer underway in the [northern hemisphere](#), if you plan to spend time outdoors, you might want to check out a study led by

the FDA's Dr. David Strauss—he and his group found that [sunscreen chemicals enter the bloodstream at potentially unsafe levels.](#)

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