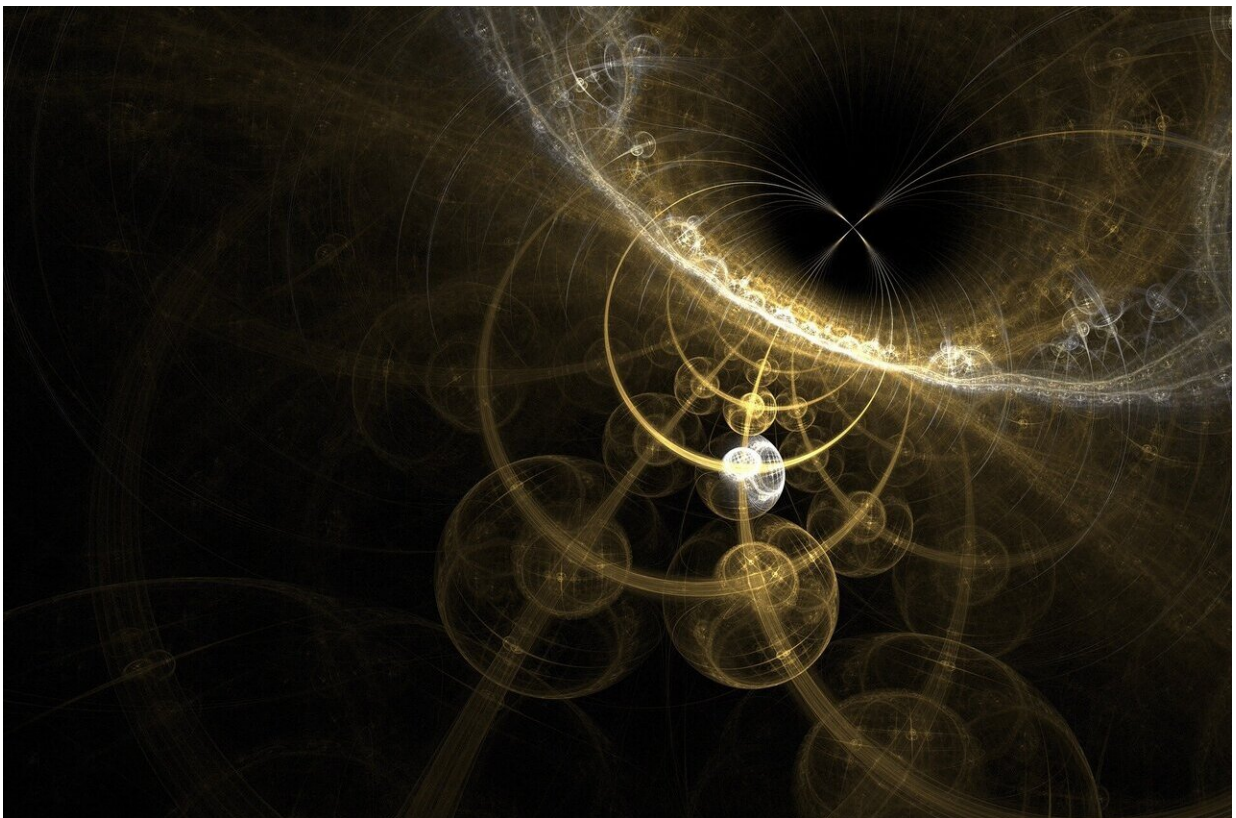


Best of Last Week – Revisiting cold fusion, a better drug to treat breast cancer and a health benefit of eating red meat

June 3 2019, by Bob Yirka



Credit: CC0 Public Domain

It was another good week for physics as a pair of researchers at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics, Alice Di Tucci and Jean-Luc

Lehners, found that [stabilizing the no-boundary proposal shed light on the universe's quantum origins](#), supporting the idea that the universe appeared out of nothing and that time did not exist until the universe began. Also, a team with members from the University of British Columbia, MIT, the University of Maryland, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Google announced that they were launching a joint project aimed at [reopening the cold case of cold fusion](#). And a team led by Lan Gao of the U.S. Department of Energy's Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory and Edison Liang of Rice University [created a stable, strongly magnetized plasma jet in their laboratory](#)—one that was also coherent.

In space news, an international collaboration of astronomers announced that [the "forbidden" planet had been found in the "Neptunian desert."](#) Exoplanet NGTS-4b orbits in a region close to its star, where Neptune-sized planets are not usually found. Also, a team at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center posted a document describing [three ways to travel at \(nearly\) the speed of light](#). And another team at the same site reported that [the James Webb Space Telescope has emerged successfully from final thermal vacuum testing](#), crossing another milestone on its way to a 2021 launch.

In other news, Earth scientists Gavin Hayes and Diego Melgar found [a telling early moment that indicates a coming megquake](#). Data from a GPS monitor shows the peak rate of acceleration of ground displacement. Also, a team led by Sara Hurvitz with the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston created [a new breast cancer drug that boosts survival rates by 30 percent](#). And a team at Oxford University outlined their efforts to [recreate human-like thinking in machines](#).

And finally, if you are a [red-meat](#) eater who has been wondering about its impact on your health, there is some good news: a team with members from Curtin University and the Australian National University has found

that [eating red meat as part of a healthy diet could be linked to a reduced risk of multiple sclerosis.](#)

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