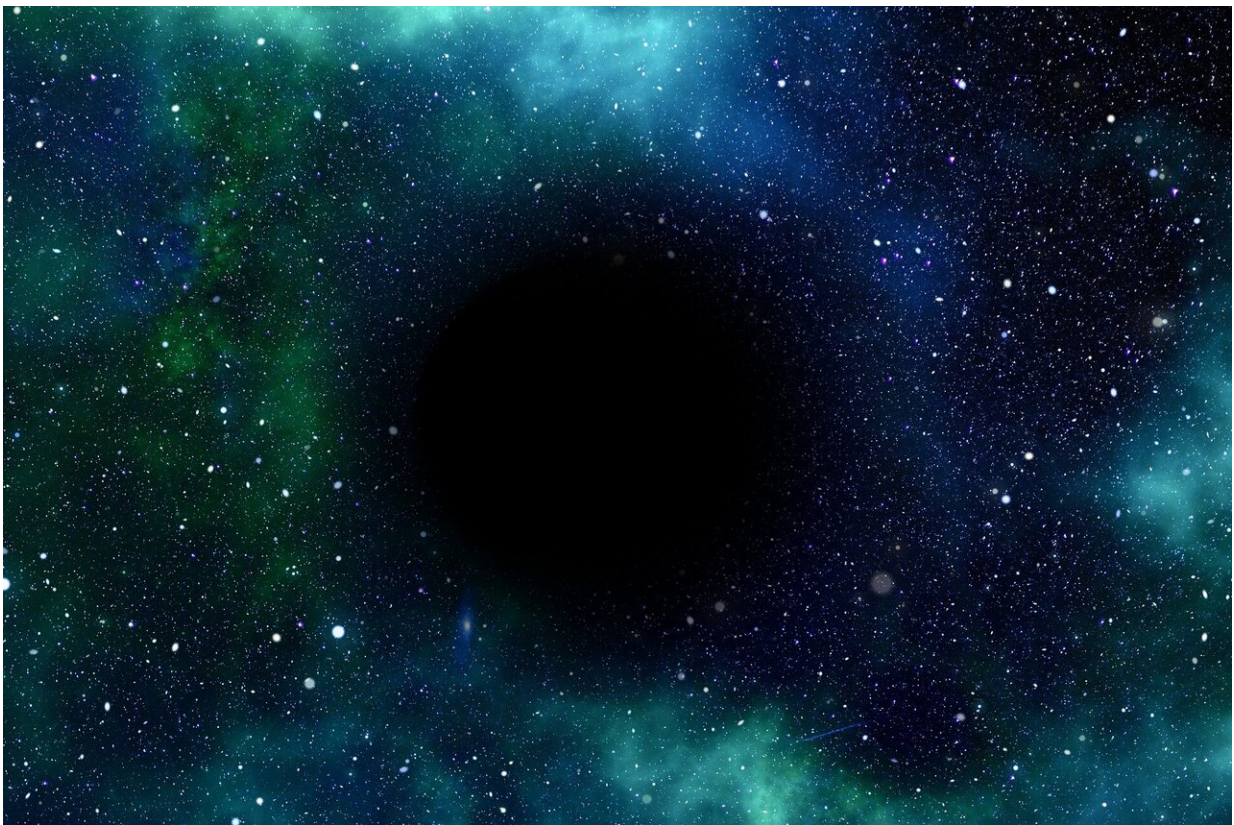


# Best of Last Week: Our black hole is getting hungrier, electricity from the night sky and why we gain weight as we age

September 16 2019, by Bob Yirka

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Credit: CC0 Public Domain

It was a good week for physics as an international team of researchers found evidence of [towering balloon-like structures near the center of the](#)

[Milky Way](#)—they suggest the hourglass-shaped structures likely resulted from an energetic burst near the black hole that resides at the center of our galaxy. In related news, a team led by UCLA's Galactic Center Group announced that [the black hole at the center of our galaxy appears to be getting hungrier](#)—it has been eating more dust and interstellar gas. Also, a team with members affiliated with several institutions in the U.S. reported that they had detected [the ringing of a newborn black hole for the first time](#)—proving another of Einstein's theories right.

And it was a good week for biology news, as well, as a team at Columbia University Irving Medical Center found that [bone, not adrenaline, drives the fight or flight response](#)—the skeleton floods the bloodstream with the bone-derived hormone osteocalcin before other reactions take place. And a team at Yale found that [a high-fat, high-carbohydrate diets affect your brain, not just your physical appearance](#).

It has also been a good week for technology development as a team at the University of San Francisco showed that [it might be possible to use Spotify data to predict which songs will be hits](#)—they found that hit songs share many similarities. And a team at MIT unveiled a system based on reusable ink—it produces [objects that change colors like a chameleon](#). Also, a team at the University of California, Los Angeles, created a device that [generates light from the cold night sky](#)—the thermoelectric device takes advantage of radiative cooling to produce electricity for powering a [light source](#). And a team at the University of Cambridge announced that they had developed [a new augmented reality head-mounted display with an unrivaled viewing experience](#)—and no nausea or eyestrain.

And finally, if you are one of the millions of [older adults](#) wondering why it seems so much harder to keep from packing on the pounds as you age, you might want to check out a study conducted by a team at Karolinska Institutet—they found the reason and [showed why people gain weight as](#)

[they get older.](#)

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Citation: Best of Last Week: Our black hole is getting hungrier, electricity from the night sky and why we gain weight as we age (2019, September 16) retrieved 16 July 2025 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2019-09-week-black-hole-hungrier-electricity.html>

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