

Best of Last Week – Digitally unwrapping a mummy, tweeting using only thoughts, Omicron infection impact on Delta

January 3 2022, by Bob Yirka



The pharaoh's mummy, showing his shrunken skull and skeleton within the bandages. Credit: S. Saleem and Z. Nuwass

It was a good week for human history as a team of researchers affiliated

with multiple institutions in the U.S., the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, France and the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Germany found that [early humans raised their energy budget by increasing the rate of energy acquisition, not energy-saving adaptation](#)—they increased energy intake efficiencies rather than relying on bipedalism and the use of tools to decrease energy expenditures. Also, an international team of researchers [found and excavated the remains of a young man killed approximately 3,600 years ago by a tsunami created by the eruption of Thera](#)—the first remains ever found from the massive disaster. And a team of Egyptian researchers [digitally "unwrapped" the mummy of the pharaoh Amenhotep I for the first time in 3,000 years.](#)

In technology news, a 62-year-old amyotrophic lateral sclerosis patient in Australia [became the first person to post a message on social media using only his thoughts.](#) Using the Twitter account of the CEO of the company that made the Stentrode Brain Computer Interface, he wrote simply, "Hello World." Also, officials with the Danish energy company Ørsted [achieved first power on the world's largest offshore windfarm,](#) located off the coast of England. And authorities in the U.S. asked telecom operators AT&T and Verizon [to delay the rollout of their 5G systems to allow for studying its interference with airplanes.](#)

In other news, an international team of researchers [identified antibodies that can neutralize the omicron variant of COVID-19,](#) possibly paving the way to a specifically designed vaccine. Also, a combined team from Deutsches Elektronen Synchrotron and the University of Cologne proposed what they described as ["nano-chocolates"—a new way to store hydrogen.](#) And a team with members from several institutions in the U.S. and one in China conducted [high-resolution lab experiments that showed how cells "eat" material around them.](#)

And finally, a team affiliated with a host of institutions in South Africa found evidence suggesting that [people infected with the omicron variant](#)

may be less susceptible to the delta variant.

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