

# **Best of Last Week – The dolphin clitoris, insurers subsidizing ivermectin, blood pressure meds damaging kidneys**

January 17 2022, by Bob Yirka

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Credit: Ziniu Chen, UVA Communications

It was a good week for the biological sciences as a team of researchers at the University of Georgia's Center for Food Safety [discovered a gene in Georgia sewer water that poses a possible global threat](#). The MCR-9

gene has been found to lead to antimicrobial resistance to colistin, one of the major antibiotics used to treat infections. Also, a trio of researchers, Patricia Brennan, Jonathan Cowart and Dara Orbach from Mount Holyoke College, the University of Florida and Texas A&M University, respectively, found that [female dolphins have a working clitoris](#), and it is used most often by females to give each other pleasure. And a combined team from the University of California, Davis, and the Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology found [evidence that challenges evolutionary theory that says DNA mutations are random](#).

In technology news, a team of researchers at the Institute of Computer Science and Random Systems developed [a Raspberry Pi based system that can detect viruses on other devices without using software](#). And a combined team from the Harbin Institute of Technology and the University of Michigan announced that they had developed [a 1,000-cycle lithium-sulfur battery that could quintuple electric vehicle ranges](#). Also, a team with members from the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, TCS Research and Wageningen University, developed [a concurrent transmission strategy to enhance multi-robot cooperation](#)—a possible means for different kinds of robots to communicate with each other. And a team at New York University developed [a new framework that could simplify imitation learning in robotics](#). Called VINN, the system does not require large training datasets.

In other news, a combined team from the University of Michigan and Boston University called on insurers to [stop subsidizing the use of ivermectin to treat COVID-19](#) by supporting doctors who continue to prescribe it to patients despite a lack of evidence that it works as intended. And [an international team of researchers reassessed the age of Omo I](#), believed to be the oldest fossils in eastern Africa representing human ancestors, to more than 230,000 years ago.

And finally, a team at the University of Virginia School of Medicine reports that [long-term use of blood pressure drugs \(such as ace inhibitors\) may cause kidney damage.](#)

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