

# **Best of Last Week – Challenging Darwinism, new way to remove CO2 from the air, COVID-19 damaging the heart**

February 7 2022, by Bob Yirka

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University of Delaware researchers have broken new ground that could bring more environmentally friendly fuel cells closer to commercialization. Credit: Graphic illustration by Jeffrey C. Chase

It was another good week for biological research, as a team at the University of California, Riverside found that [human gut bacteria have](#)

[sex to share vitamin B12](#)—one cell forms a tube connecting to another cell, allowing DNA to pass from one to the other. Also, a combined team of researchers from Israel and Ghana uncovered [the first evidence of long-term directionality in origination of human mutation](#), challenging neo-Darwinism—non-random mutations that go against established evolutionary theory. And researchers working on The Dog Aging Project, found that [aging in dogs is far too complicated to allow for conversion to human years](#).

In technology news, a team of researchers at the University of Delaware developed [game-changing technology that can be used to remove 99% of the carbon dioxide in the air](#). It is based on hydroxide exchange membrane fuel cells. Also, a team at MIT developed a technique for [creating 3D objects that change their appearance from different viewpoints](#) in much the same way as current 2D applications. And a team at the Australian National University [broke their own record by achieving 22.6% solar cell efficiency](#). Also, a team with members from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Tsinghua University and Fudan University gained [new insights about the toxicity of smoke produced by home stoves and power plants](#); most notably, there are significant chemical differences between them.

In other news, a team of researchers at the Technical University of Munich uncovered [the cause of inflammatory bowel disease](#) by isolating the mechanism that serves as a trigger setting off an inflammatory response. And a team at the University of Massachusetts Amherst engineered [a new material that can absorb and release enormous amounts of energy](#). It is a rubber-like solid that they describe as releasing energy in ways similar to a stretched rubber band.

And finally, a team at the University of Bristol's Heart Institute found that [the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein binds to the heart's vascular cells, potentially contributing to severe microvascular damage](#).

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