

Best of Last Week—James Webb first assignment, 3D printing opaque resin, pulling drinking water from desert air

May 30 2022, by Bob Yirka

A prototype device for capturing water from the air using the new film. Credit: University of Texas at Austin

It was a good week for space science as [the team at NASA working with the James Webb Telescope announced its initial assignment for its first](#)

[year of studies](#)—two hot exoplanets classified as "super-Earths." Also, a team at NASA's Center for Near Earth Object Studies announced that [the largest asteroid to approach Earth in 2022 will fly past our planet this week](#). The 1,800 meter long object is expected to come no closer than 10 times the distance to the moon. And a team with members from several institutions in the U.S. found evidence suggesting that [the reason Mars dried out was because of the loss of some other unknown ingredient in its atmosphere besides carbon dioxide](#).

In technology news, a team at Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne developed [a way to 3D print objects in opaque resin](#), an advance that could lead to breakthroughs in developing applications in the biomedical industry, such as making artificial arteries. And a team of engineers at Northwestern University [designed and built the smallest-ever remote-controlled walking robot](#) that resembled a tiny, adorable peekytoe crab. Also, a group at the Amazon Quantum Solutions Lab [developed physics-inspired graph neural networks for use in solving combinatorial optimization problems](#). Also, a combined team from the University of Bari and the University of Parma explored [the ways older adults react while interacting with humanoid robots](#), finding that most seniors display both negative and positive emotions during interactions.

In other news, a team at the University of Glasgow, working with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, found that [one in eight people who were hospitalized with COVID-19 between May 2020 and March 2021 were later diagnosed with heart inflammation](#). Also, a team at The University of Texas at Austin, designed and developed [a low-cost gel film that could pull drinking water from desert air](#). And finally, a team at the University of Missouri School of Medicine found that a drug already approved by the FDA for lowering blood sugar levels in people with type 2 diabetes [also reduces blood vessel dysfunction related to aging](#).

Citation: Best of Last Week—James Webb first assignment, 3D printing opaque resin, pulling drinking water from desert air (2022, May 30) retrieved 3 July 2024 from <https://sciencex.com/news/2022-05-week-james-webb-assignment-3d-opaque.html>

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