



## New Scientist - Health

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## **'Junk' DNA gets credit for making us who we are**

We are finally pinning down how much differences in non-coding DNA, which doesn't produce proteins, shape our individual traits and disease risks

## **Why teenagers find learning a drag**

The brain molecules behind a learning deficit that sets in during puberty have been identified in mice – and blocked

## **Briefing: Should miaow-miaow be banned?**

A slew of recent deaths linked to mephedrone have led to vociferous calls for a ban in the UK. What is – and isn't – known about this "legal high"?

## **Personalised cancer trial promises better drugs faster**

Testing several drugs at once and allowing doctors to adapt treatments to patients' responses should make trials more efficient

## **Payout offered to 9/11 dust plume victims**

New York City has offered to compensate people who breathed in gas and debris when the World Trade Center collapsed

## **Anti-vaccine autism campaigners lose court battle**

US parents who say that vaccines triggered autism in their children now face yet another setback

## **Amputees could get a helping hand in the virtual world**

The rubber hand illusion is even more powerful in virtual environments, where people adopt virtual appendages as their own without physical stimuli

## **Parasite lost: Exterminating Africa's horror worms**

The guinea worm grows to a metre long in its victim's body before punching its way out – but hopefully not for much longer

## **Levitate cancer cells for rapid 3D tissue**

Iron-rich cells that grow into balls when "levitated" by magnets could provide a new way to study cancer in the lab – and produce replacement tissue for grafts

## **Brain chemical is reward for psychopathic traits**

Overvaluing the pleasure of getting what they want may cause psychopaths to pursue these rewards at any cost

## **Human arm transmits broadband**

Sending signals across skin could make it much easier to monitor a person's vital signs round the clock outside hospital

## **England has failed with dangerous, disturbed offenders**

That's the message of a review of a pioneering programme run over the past decade in two jails and two secure mental hospitals

## **Your partner has herpes - now the good news**

The genes that allow herpes virus to evade our immune system have been identified and deleted to form a new vaccine

## **Mom and dad, stop stifling me - it's damaging my brain**

Overprotective parents don't just limit their children's freedom – they may also slow brain growth in an area linked to mental illness

## **Turning tables on prostate cancer's drug resistance**

Prostate cancer drugs trigger the release of a molecule that makes tumours grow – the discovery could lead to a way to keep the cancer at bay

## **Obesity: Food kills, flab protects**

Disease and obesity go hand in hand, but an increase in body fat may actually be part of our body's attempts to protect itself from the effects of unhealthy eating

## **Beyond torture: the future of interrogation**

Coercive techniques like waterboarding can inflict as much psychological harm as crude physical torture. But do they work?

## **Sleep wrong and you'll feel the bad fat**

Too much or too little sleep piles on pounds – and it's the worst kind of fat

## **Adding oxygen to booze speeds sobriety**

It sounds like a drinker's dream, but could end up being their downfall if it encourages heavy drinkers to consume even more

## **Journal editor: Tobacco-funded studies are bad for us**

Several journals will no longer publish research supported by the tobacco industry. **Ginny Barbour**, the chief editor of one of them, explains why

## **Bugging bugs: Learning to speak microbe**

Far from being silent loners, bacteria are little chatterboxes – when they're not snooping on us. Perhaps we should brush up our conversational skills

## **Organic pesticide doubles up as worm killer**

The protein could drag hundreds of millions of people out of poverty, if cash can be found for human trials

## **The brain scanner that feels your pain**

A new technique for determining pain intensity has reignited debate over whether it can be measured objectively

## **Mind-controlled prosthetics without brain surgery**

Intricate, three-dimensional hand motions have been "read" from the brain using nothing but scalp electrodes

## **Brain scans now catch chemicals too**

A way to visualise chemicals washing through the brain could vastly extend the power of fMRI, a workhorse of neuroscience



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