



## New Scientist - Drugs and Alcohol

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## **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"?

## **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

## **Drug laws are painful for cancer patients**

Overzealous regulation of opioids is having a painful knock-on effect on eastern Europeans with cancer

## **Smoking may pose 'third-hand' cancer hazard**

Traces of cigarette smoke that accumulate on carpets and furniture could turn carcinogenic when they react with air

## **Ale is good, make no bones about it**

Beer is rich in silicon, an element that protects against osteoporosis, but not all brews are equal

## **It's lack of balance that makes skunk cannabis do harm**

Street cannabis has been made stronger by breeding out a compound that seems to have antipsychotic powers, argue **Amanda Feilding** and **Paul Morrison**

## **Zebrafish make good 'guinea pigs' for human drugs**

Zebrafish behaviour is a good indicator for how a drug will change chemistry in the human brain

## **Alcohol during pregnancy chemically alters fetal DNA**

If the discovery in mice proves true in humans, this could explain the permanent physical and behavioural damage caused by fetal alcohol syndrome

## **Tobacco company drove European policy, claims report**

Formerly secret documents suggest British American Tobacco recruited companies to lobby the European Commission on proposed policy, say UK scientists

## **Could popping a pill stop you hitting the bottle?**

Convention says you shouldn't treat alcohol addiction with drugs – but alcoholism's "Prozac moment" is on the way

## **Quitting cigarettes increases diabetes risk**

For smokers under pressure to give up in 2010, it will seem like the ultimate excuse – but instead former smokers should gently increase exercise

## **The electronic fink that will squeal if you drink**

Misbehave while under the influence in the US, and you could be forced to wear a device that measures your alcohol level – but can it be trusted?

## **US could ban caffeine-alcohol drinks within months**

The US Food and Drug Administration has asked manufacturers of drinks that combine alcohol and caffeine to provide scientific evidence they are safe

## **Cocaine and pepper spray - a lethal mix?**

A mouse experiment suggests deaths in US police custody may have been the result of an interaction between capsaicin and psychostimulant drugs

## **Alcohol and sports sponsorship don't mix**

Psychologists claim that alcohol sponsorship tarnishes the image of sport and harms athletes' health

## **David Nutt: Governments should get real on drugs**

**David Nutt** was sacked from his role as chairman of the UK's official advisory body on drugs for his outspoken views. He explains why governments should not ignore scientific evidence

## **Drug chief sacking could stifle 'polydrug' research**

If protests continue over the sacking of the UK's chief scientific advisor on recreational drugs, vital research on the problems of multiple drug use would be shelved

## **Old drugs reveal surprising new tricks**

Comparing the behaviour of different drug molecules may help prevent harmful side effects of new drugs and point to new uses for old ones

## **WHO launches worldwide war on booze**

Alcohol abuse is the fifth leading cause of premature death in the world today. Now the World Health Organization is trying to stamp it out

## **Bashed your head? You needed a stiff drink**

Alcohol in the blood makes people more likely to survive head injuries than those without – which could make it an emergency treatment

## **Durians and booze: worse than a stinking hangover**

There may be something in the Asian folk belief that consuming durians and alcohol together is a bad idea

## **E-nose knows a smoker**

Commercially available electronic noses can be modified to help doctors quickly sniff out non-smokers

## **Online booze guide helps students cut down alcohol**

Web-based advice programme persuades heavy-drinking students to lay off the sauce

## **Climate change depresses beer drinkers**

The quality of hops is falling because of rising temperatures



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