



## Los Angeles S&T Newsletter #68 – November 2015

Published on Friday December 11, 2015

View online : <https://www.france-science.org/Los-Angeles-S-T-Newsletter-68.html>

This past month has brought us a slew of new developments in the world of science and technology, and November will surely bring even more! This, in addition to the many scientific events happening in November, are reason enough to be thankful this Thanksgiving.

**ASCB 2015** - The American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) will be holding its annual meeting, ASCB2015, at the San Diego Convention Center from Saturday, December 12, to Wednesday, December 16. The theme of the 2015 ASCB meeting concerns cellular connections at the intracellular, tissue, organism and macrocosmic levels. The scientists and professionals attending the meeting will discuss topics related to this theme to help rectify problems in medicine and ecosystems. In addition to symposia on the groundbreaking research being done in cellular biology, the convention will also provide professional development opportunities to interested students.

Additionally, we would also like to inform you about the “Cell Biology in France” that can be found at ASCB2015 meeting. In addition to providing information about the French presence in cellular biology, they will also be giving out USB drives preloaded with post-doctoral deals, group leadership offers, funding opportunities, and information on research centers in the field (including maps showing where each is located). You can also have a chance to be one of two lucky winners that get to bring home a gift made in France by participating in our daily raffle. We would also like to mention that this stand was made possible by The Thematic Multi-Organization Institute (ITMO) (Cell Biology, Development and Evolution Division), La Société de Biologie Cellulaire de France (SBCF), and your very own Office for Science and Technology of the French Consulate in LA. We hope to see you there!

To learn more about ASCB2015, please visit: [www.ascb.org/2015meeting/](http://www.ascb.org/2015meeting/)

**Science watch** - Feel as though you've run out of OS&T content lately? Not to fear, the Office for Science and Technology has you covered! Visit [france-science.org](http://france-science.org), where you can find new OS&T articles and our archives.

**FABS 2015** - We at the Office for Science and Technology of the French Consulate in LA are impatiently looking forward to the French American Biotechnology Symposium (FABS) 2015, which will be taking place December 2, 2015 at the Hôtel-Dieu in Toulouse. We have been organizing the FABS workshops since 2008, which have all focused on biotechnology research developments in the US and France. We have teamed up with the Gérontopôle of Toulouse, the Cancer-Bio-Santé (Cancer-Bio-Health) competitiveness cluster, Invest in Toulouse (Toulouse's economic development agency), and the So\*Toulouse Convention Bureau to organize the latest FABS.

The theme of the 2015-2016 FABS is the exploration of medicinal and non-medicinal care for various stages of Alzheimer's disease. More specifically, the symposium will be drawing attention to preventative rather than curative forms of care. People afflicted by this disease are typically elderly and/or suffering from behavioral disorders. Therefore, this year's FABS will concern nursing home care, care structures, and at-home care measures to address this problem. There will also be discussions on how technological, architectural and multidomain interventions can potentially be integrated into living spaces to allow dependent, older patients to have relatively independent lifestyles. FABS 2015 will be attracting a wide variety of professionals, ranging from doctors and healthcare administrators to manufacturers. For more information, please visit [our article about FABS \(in French\)](#). Information about the event in English can be found on our [detailed presentation of the event](#) and on the [FABS 2015 Programme](#).

### **Café des Sciences at the Alliance Française of Los Angeles: Talk by Marie-Francoise Chesselet -**

The Alliance Française of Los Angeles has been organizing “Cafés des Sciences” for several years, however, the format is evolving. This upcoming year, a series of dual lectures will be presented to the public: the first seminar in STEM and the second conference in Humanities. The next upcoming LA Café des Sciences talk will be taking place at the Alliance Française on Wednesday, December 9 at 7:00pm. Professor Marie-Francoise Chesselet, MD, PhD, of UCLA will be delivering her presentation “Les Mouvements Involontaires & Maladies Neurodegeneratives: Maladie de Parkinson et Maladie de Huntington” (“Involuntary Movements and Neurodegenerative Diseases: Parkinsons Disease and Huntington Disease”). She will be providing explanations about the origins of these debilitating diseases and discussing the challenges faced in efforts being made to discover treatments. The presentation will be followed by a discussion and then a reception. We hope to see you there! More information about the event can be found below:

Location: Alliance Française of Los Angeles, 10390 Santa Monica Blvd, Los Angeles, CA 90025

Parking is available in the building for \$3.00

**Café Scientifique: Alliance Française of Denver** - We also invite our readers in Denver to attend the upcoming Café Scientifique talk taking place on Tuesday, November 10 from 6pm to 8pm. Dr. Pak-Lee Chau, PhD of the Institut Pasteur will be presenting “Institut Pasteur: Exploring the Molecular Mechanism of General Anaesthetics,” in both English and French. Dr. Chau will discuss the wide gaps of knowledge researchers have about anesthetics, despite their long-time usage. He will also talk about the efforts being made at the Institut Pasteur to unravel this mystery. More information about the event can be found [[here - > http://www.afdenver.org/event/cafe-scientifique-institut-pasteur/](http://www.afdenver.org/event/cafe-scientifique-institut-pasteur/)].

**COP21** - The twenty-first Conference of the Parties (COP21, for short) will be taking place in Le Bourget, France, from November 30 to December 11, 2015. COP21 is a conference on climate change organized by the United Nations. In fact, the UN expects to see a new international agreement concerning climate change by the end of this conference. In particular, the UN hopes that such an agreement would help curtail the effects of global warming (Specifically, to keep global warming under 2°C). For more information about COP21 can be found on their [website](#).

### **Freddie Papazyan, Science and Technology Intern**

Viviane Chansavang, Deputy Attaché for Science and Technology

Fabien Agenes, Attaché for Science and Technology

*To read the full version of the September 2015 newsletter, please scroll down. You can also [register here](#) to receive emails about events organized by the OST LA.*

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## **SCIENCES IN THE US**

### **LOCAL NEWS**

#### **October 8, 2015: Overnight hackathon shows the promise of virtual reality as a health care tool**

They didn't sleep. But they did dream big.

During an overnight event held at the USC Institute for Creative Technologies, teams of biomedical engineers, computer scientists, physical therapists and even toy designers took part in “Hacking Virtual Medicine,” a design, development and coding marathon that challenged participants to create virtual reality health care solutions for patients and providers.

To access the full article:

<http://news.usc.edu/87102/overnight-hackathon-shows-the-promise-of-virtual-reality-as-a-health-care-tool/>

#### **October 5, 2015: Treating 5 percent of hepatitis C patients with new drugs would reduce cost and**

## **infections, study shows**

The cost-benefits analysis by researchers from the USC Schaeffer Center for Health Policy and Economics and other institutions compares three treatment options to the current approach, or “baseline” scenario, which treats patients in the most advanced stages of the disease when they may need a costly liver transplant.

To access the full article:

<http://news.usc.edu/86927/treating-5-percent-of-hepatitis-c-patients-with-new-drugs-would-reduce-cost-study-shows/>

## **October 15, 2015: Scientists produce clearest-ever images of enzyme that plays key roles in aging, cancer**

Telomerase plays a significant role in aging and most cancers, but until recently many aspects of the enzyme’s structure could not be clearly seen.

Now, scientists from UCLA and UC Berkeley have produced images of telomerase in much higher resolution than ever before, giving them major new insights about the enzyme. Their findings, published online today by the journal Science, could ultimately lead to new directions for treating cancer and preventing premature aging.

To access the full article:

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/scientists-produce-clearest-ever-images-of-enzyme-that-plays-key-roles-in-aging-cancer>

## **October 07, 2015: Smaller silver nanoparticles more likely to be absorbed by aquatic life, UCLA study finds**

More than 2,000 consumer products today contain nanoparticles — particles so small that they are measured in billionths of a meter. (A billionth of a meter is about one ten-thousandth the thickness of a human hair.)

To access the full article:

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/smaller-silver-nanoparticles-more-likely-to-be-absorbed-by-aquatic-life-ucla-study-finds>

## **October 15, 2015: Researchers identify a new culprit behind fibrosis**

An international team of researchers has identified a new molecule involved in skin fibrosis, a life-threatening disease characterized by the inflammation and hardening of skin tissue. The new study is the first to investigate the role of this molecule in skin fibrosis and paves the way toward new and improved therapies for the disease.

To access the full article:

[http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/researchers\\_identify\\_a\\_new\\_culprit\\_behind\\_fibrosis](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/researchers_identify_a_new_culprit_behind_fibrosis)

## **October 14, 2015: Deadly Bacteria Stiff-Arm the Immune System**

The most severe Group A Streptococcus (strep) infections are often the work of one particularly nefarious strain known as M1T1, named in part for the type of tentacle-like M protein projecting from the bacterium’s surface. While many previous studies proposed ways M1 might contribute to strep virulence, researchers at University of California, San Diego School of Medicine and Skaggs School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences have uncovered a new explanation that may trump all others: M1’s ability to hold off antimicrobial peptides — natural antibiotics that comprise one of the immune system’s front lines of defense.

To access the full article:

[http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/deadly\\_bacteria\\_stiff\\_arm\\_the\\_immune\\_system](http://ucsdnews.ucsd.edu/pressrelease/deadly_bacteria_stiff_arm_the_immune_system)

## **October 8, 2015: Agriculture’s Environmental Footprint**

Researchers who work in life-cycle assessment (LCA) rely heavily on databases to quantify the environmental impacts of products and services. In industries that change rapidly, such as the electronics and high-tech sectors, LCA datasets are updated frequently to ensure the most accurate analyses. However, datasets for agriculture — which is perceived as changing slowly — tend to be updated infrequently.

To access the full article:

<http://www.news.ucsb.edu/2015/016027/agriculture-s-environmental-footprint>

### **October 5, 2015: A Brain Trust**

Two years ago, the federal government launched the BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative, a large-scale partnership between public and private research institutions designed to catalyze discovery and innovation in neuroengineering. Rising to the challenge, UC Santa Barbara has established a campuswide program to foster such collaborative brain research.

To access the full article:

<http://www.news.ucsb.edu/2015/015918/brain-trust>

### **October 1, 2015: Brain Networking**

The human brain does not come with an operating manual. However, a group of scientists from UC Santa Barbara and the University of Pennsylvania have developed a way to convert structural brain imaging techniques into “wiring diagrams” of connections between brain regions.

To access the full article:

<http://www.news.ucsb.edu/2015/015948/brain-networking>

### **October 12, 2015: Cleaning Water One Stroke at a Time**

A material created by University of California, Riverside engineers is the key component of a swimsuit that won an international design competition for its ability to clean water as a person swims.

To access the full article:

<http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/32330>

### **October 15, 2015: How Auditory Disorders May Be Linked to Brain Development**

Why does the brain act like play dough? It can be shaped easily early in development but with age it becomes harder to mold functionally, though achievable through life experiences. What is it about that early time period, that window during development that allows the brain to act that way?

To access the full article:

<http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/32433>

### **October 06, 2015: Long-Term Contraception in a Single Shot**

Caltech biologists have developed a nonsurgical method to deliver long-term contraception to both male and female animals with a single shot. The technique—so far used only in mice—holds promise as an alternative to spaying and neutering feral animals.

To access the full article:

<http://www.caltech.edu/news/long-term-contraception-single-shot-48199>

### **October 01, 2015: New Polymer Creates Safer Fuels**

Before embarking on a transcontinental journey, jet airplanes fill up with tens of thousands of gallons of fuel. In the event of a crash, such large quantities of fuel increase the severity of an explosion upon impact. Researchers at Caltech and JPL have discovered a polymeric fuel additive that can reduce the intensity of postimpact explosions that occur during accidents and terrorist acts. Furthermore, preliminary results show

that the additive can provide this benefit without adversely affecting fuel performance.

To access the full article:

<http://www.caltech.edu/news/new-polymer-creates-safer-fuels-48134>

## NATIONAL NEWS

### October 2015: Biology of Addiction: Drugs and Alcohol Can Hijack Your Brain

People with addiction lose control over their actions. They crave and seek out drugs, alcohol, or other substances no matter what the cost—even at the risk of damaging friendships, hurting family, or losing jobs. What is it about addiction that makes people behave in such destructive ways? And why is it so hard to quit?

To access the full article:

<https://newsinhealth.nih.gov/issue/oct2015/feature1>

### October 7, 2015: NIH Grantees Win 2015 Nobel Prize in Chemistry

The 2015 Nobel Prize in chemistry has been awarded to National Institutes of Health grantees Paul Modrich, Ph.D., of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Duke University School of Medicine, Durham, N.C.; and Aziz Sançar, M.D., Ph.D., of the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, N.C., for having mapped, at a molecular level, how cells repair damaged DNA and safeguard the genetic information. They share the award with Tomas Lindahl, Ph.D., of the Francis Crick Institute and Clare Hall Laboratory, Hertfordshire, United Kingdom.

To access the full article:

<http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-grantees-win-2015-nobel-prize-chemistry>

### October 1, 2015: NIH invests \$85 million for BRAIN Initiative research

The National Institutes of Health announced its second wave of grants to support the goals of the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative, bringing the NIH investment to \$85 million in fiscal year 2015.

To access the full article:

<http://www.nih.gov/news-events/news-releases/nih-invests-85-million-brain-initiative-research>

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## SCIENCES IN FRANCE

### October 09, 2015: Designing better catalysts more rapidly

The rapid design of catalysts is a key step towards widely accessible electric vehicles, more efficient depollution catalysts, cleaner factories... Researchers have developed a simple and faster method to improve the efficiency of a family of catalysts. These compounds, indispensable to the industry, facilitate chemical reactions. This breakthrough is the result of a collaboration between theoretical chemists of ENS Lyon, CNRS, Université Claude Bernard Lyon 1 (France), Leiden University (The Netherlands), and experimental chemists of Ruhr-Universität Bochum and Technische Universität München (Germany). Their findings are published in Science on October 9, 2015.

To access the full article:

<http://www2.cnrs.fr/en/2633.htm>

### October 12 2015: Ovarian cancer: A promising approach for treating the most aggressive forms using targeted therapy

Thanks to work done at Institute Curie by a team led by Fatima Mechta-Grigoriou, Inserm Research Director, it is now possible to identify, among women with aggressive ovarian cancer, those who could benefit from a promising targeted therapy.

To access the full article:

<http://english.inserm.fr/press-area/ovarian-cancer-a-promising-approach-for-treating-the-most-aggressive-forms-using-targeted-therapy>

### **October 08 2015: Rapid diagnosis of Ebola: the eZYSCREEN® test proves itself in the field**

Announced at the end of 2014 during the final phase of research and development, the rapid diagnostic test for Ebola virus disease developed by the French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA), with support from the Inserm Jean Mérieux P4 high-level biological containment laboratory (Lyon), has been assessed in the field, including in Guinea, over a period of several months. This assessment now allows the test to be CE marked, leading to its authorization for use as a diagnostic tool. The eZYSCREEN® test will thus help to enhance the available means of control, particularly by detecting residual sporadic cases among symptomatic patients, or by post-mortem identification.

To access the full article:

<http://english.inserm.fr/press-area/rapid-diagnosis-of-ebola-the-ezyscreen-r-test-proves-itself-in-the-field>

### **October 22 2015: A first step in personalizing stroke management**

The team led by Didier Leys and Régis Bordet (UMR-S 1171, Lille 2 University, Inserm, Lille University Hospital) has identified a biomarker that makes it possible to predict the risk of hemorrhagic complications from thrombolytic treatment following a Cerebrovascular Accident (CVA or stroke). This new marker could guide medical decision-making in difficult cases, particularly in severely affected patients, and thus help to prevent the risk of hemorrhage from thrombolysis.

To access the full article:

<http://english.inserm.fr/press-area/a-first-step-in-personalising-stroke-management>

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## **MORE INFORMATION**

### **NEXT MONTH'S EVENTS**

#### **USC**

#### **"Dialysis Access in the Elderly"**

November 12, 2015 – 12:00 pm

Location: University Park Campus, Davis School of Gerontology 224

Featured Speaker: Karen, Woo, M.D., Associate Professor of Surgery, Geffen School of Medicine, UCLA

More Information: <https://www.usc.edu/calendar/event/917344>

#### **UCLA**

#### **Well-being is a Skill**

November 12, 2015 – 4:00 pm to 5:15 pm

Location: Neuroscience Research Bldg. - Auditorium - Room 132

Featured Speaker: Richard J Davidson, PhD

More Information: <http://happenings.ucla.edu/lectures/event/177433>

#### **BRI Neuroscience Poster Session and Lecture**

November 17, 2015 – 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Location: Ackerman Union Venue - Grand Ballroom (2400)

Featured Speaker: See website below for more details

More Information: <http://happenings.ucla.edu/lectures/event/141781>

## UCSD

### **Magnetic Nanowires: Revolutionizing Hard Drives, RAM, and Cancer Treatment**

November 16, 2015 – 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Location: Center for Memory and Recording Research, Jack Keil Wolf Auditorium

More

Information:

<https://calendar.ucsd.edu/DisplayEventDetail.asp?iEventID=178985&iSubCatID=36&iRoomID=>

### **Biomedical Ethics Seminar: Emerging Ethical Challenges for Experimental Social Science**

November 17, 2015 – 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm

Location: Leichtag Family Foundation Biomedical Research Building Room 4103

Featured Speaker: Scott Desposato, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of California San Diego.

More

Information:

<https://calendar.ucsd.edu/DisplayEventDetail.asp?iEventID=178960&iSubCatID=33&iRoomID=>

## Caltech

### **Ellen Rothenberg - Choosing the T-Cell Profession: Higher Education for Stem Cells**

November 18, 2015 – 8:00 pm

Beckman Auditorium

Featured Speaker: Ellen Rothenberg, Albert Billings Ruddock Professor of Biology at Caltech

More

Information:

<http://www.caltech.edu/content/ellen-rothenberg-choosing-t-cell-profession-higher-education-stem-cells>

## University of Arizona

### **'Kinase-catalyzed Labeling: Chemical Approaches to Mapping Cell Signaling Pathways'**

November 19, 2015 – 4:00pm

Location: Koffler Building, Room 218, Main Campus

Featured Speaker: Mary Kay Pflum, Associate Professor of Chemistry at Wayne State University

More

Information:

<http://uanews.org/calendar/60868-lecture-kinasecatalyzed-labeling-chemical-approaches-mapping-cell-signaling-pathways>

### **Lecture - 'Dementia: A Global Challenge'**

November 20, 2015 – 8:00am

Location: UA College of Medicine - Tucson, Room 5403, AHSC

Featured Speaker: Duk L. Na

More Information: <http://uanews.org/calendar/61283-lecture-dementia-global-challenge>

### **Lecture - 'What is Relativity? An Intuitive Introduction to Einstein's Ideas and Why They Matter'**

November 16, 2015 – 7:30pm

Location: Steward Observatory, Room N210, Main Campus

Featured Speaker: Jeffrey Bennett, University of Colorado

More

Information:

<http://uanews.org/calendar/61094-lecture-what-relativity-intuitive-introduction-einsteins-ideas-and-why-they-matter>

## UCR

### **Randall Lewis Seminar: "Dealing with Prolonged Drought & Water Scarcity"**

November 4, 2015 – 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

Location: CE-CERT Center

Featured Speaker: Ariel Dinar, Professor of Environmental Economics and Policy, UCR

More Information: [http://events.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?comp\\_id=43480:20151104173000](http://events.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?comp_id=43480:20151104173000)

## **Boyd Deep Canyon Lecture Series**

November 12, 2015 – 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Location: UCR Palm Desert 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive, Palm Desert

Featured Speaker: Steven Nadler

More Information: [http://events.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?comp\\_id=43520:20151112180000](http://events.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?comp_id=43520:20151112180000)

## **UCI**

### **Public Health Seminar Series**

Multiple Dates (see website for more information, below)

Location: Calit2 Auditorium

Featured Speaker: Multiple Speakers (see website for more information, below)

More Information: [http://publichealth.uci.edu/ph/index.php/seminars/upcoming\\_list/9835](http://publichealth.uci.edu/ph/index.php/seminars/upcoming_list/9835)

## **INTERNATIONAL CALLS FOR PROPOSALS – SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Please consult Le Fil de Marianne for further information on international calls and job offers.**

<http://www.france-science.org/Fil-de-Marianne-lettre-d.html>

## **IN FRENCH**

### **Les bulletins électroniques**

Les articles et les rapports produits par les activités de veille scientifique menées par les Missions Scientifiques et Technologiques dans 40 zones géographiques sont accessibles gratuitement via les Bulletins Electroniques. Ils sont édités par l'Agence pour la Diffusion de l'Information Technologique (ADIT), sur une base mensuelle ou hebdomadaire.

### **Le Fil de Marianne**

Le Fil de Marianne est une publication hebdomadaire des bureaux de l'INSERM et du CNRS aux Etats-Unis. Il offre une information détaillée sur les évolutions de la politique de recherche française, les appels d'offres et les manifestations scientifiques en France. L'abonnement est gratuit.

### **La Mission pour la Science et la Technologie du Consulat Général de France à Los Angeles**

Des informations sur le rôle de notre service au sein de la Mission pour la Science et la technologie (MS&T) peuvent être trouvées sur le site du Consulat Général de France à Los Angeles. Le planning des événements à venir ainsi que nos coordonnées et [nos activités](#), sont également disponibles en ligne.

## **IN ENGLISH**

### **The Office for Science and Technology of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles**

Information about the OST LA's missions and activities can be found [here](#).

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**We value your feedback. Please send us your comments and suggestions at**

[deputy-sdv.la@ambascience-usa.org](mailto:deputy-sdv.la@ambascience-usa.org)

Please also subscribe to the following newsletters for more information on the activities of the Consulate General of France in Los Angeles:

## **FRENCH CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

Subscribe to the monthly French arts and culture newsletter to receive information about shows, exhibitions and much more, by sending an email to : [culture@consulfrance-losangeles.org](mailto:culture@consulfrance-losangeles.org)

## **FILM & TV OFFICE**

Subscribe to the monthly French Film and TV newsletter to receive information about projections and events,

by sending an email to : [frenchfilminla@consulfrance-losangeles.org](mailto:frenchfilminla@consulfrance-losangeles.org)